NZGT Conference - ‘Taranaki – The New Zealand Garden

CONFERENCE GARDENS

Puakeiti ★★★★★

Puakeiti houses a world-class rhododendron collection uniquely nestled in Taranaki rainforest. It was established in 1951 and is now proudly owned and managed by Taranaki Regional Council. In season an explosion of colour is experienced as hundreds of rhododendrons and azaleas flower against the lush backdrop of forested volcanic ranges, mountain streams and birdsong. The Misty Knoll, Treehouse Trails and the Keiller Garden are recently completed garden projects at Puakeiti, all of which embrace the ever-evolving union of natural landscape and thoughtful design concepts, enticing you to explore the mystery of such an exotic environment.

Nikau Grove ★★★★

A peaceful surprise in a gully of lush native rainforest teeming with birdlife. Huge pukatea trees with buttress roots form the bush canopy along a natural creek. Nikau palms set the subtropical theme. Lush exotics create splashes of colour and interest throughout. Boardwalks, ponds, large waterfall and a weta motel also feature.

Te Kainga Marire ★★★★★★

Te Kainga Marire is the only private native garden sanctuary in New Zealand to be rated as a Garden of International Significance. Te Kainga Marire’s (translated ‘peaceful encampment’) point of difference lies in the natural plant associations that evoke a feeling of the real New Zealand. This native plant paradise was developed in 1972 from clay wasteland. Keen outdoor adventurers, the owners wanted a bird friendly garden designed around the ecological groupings they had observed in the wild. New Zealand native grasses, climbers, herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees have been carefully nurtured around rustic fences, a pond, a colonial bush hut and cool fern filled whare. Shy tui now regularly fly into the garden to feed.
Tupare ★★★★★

Tupare is an arts and crafts inspired property first established in 1932 by Sir Russell and Lady Matthews, which features a magical Chapman-Taylor designed house set amongst beautifully landscaped heritage gardens. Reflecting Lady Matthew's legacy are a herbery, domestic glasshouse and cottage lawn borders. Sir Russell Matthews, particularly favoured rhododendron hybrids, camellias, fuchsias, hydrangeas, magnolias and deciduous trees, including the exquisite dove trees Davidia involucrata which bloom during the Garden Spectacular.

The plantings and landscapes at Tupare today remain true to its heritage. Wander through secluded garden rooms, past elegant borders and majestic trees. Discover vistas of the house and cottage, the Waiwhakaiho River and of course, Mt Taranaki.

Cairnhill ★★★

This vibrant, colourful garden is framed by a canopy of deciduous trees. Rhododendrons and viburnums flower in profusion. Collections of hosta and heuchera interplay in the filtered light areas giving a sense of peace and timelessness. Roses and trellised clematis add excitement. A range of different edging plants gives definition to borders, many of which are filled wit amazing iris varieties,

Puketarata ★★★★★

A country garden developed since 1978, folding quietly around its hilltop site with mountain and inland Taranaki views.

Adjacent to the outer ramparts of 400-year-old Puketarata Pa and Kainga Keteonatea, both are of major significance to our area. A love of natives skilfully blended with exotic varieties giving seasonal variety is a particular strength. Generous herbaceous plantings, lawn tennis court, perennial border, orchard, berry house, vegetable garden and parterre, are enhanced by the wider landscape. Diversity of different areas, planting and design give this garden its individual and unique character. The gully below has a QEII Covenant, with natives, exotics and walking tracks.

Mary's Place ★★★★★

This highly detailed town garden is packed with interesting plants and colour, reflecting the lifelong gardening experience of the owner. Archways are draped with climbing roses and clematis. The clever use of found objects, small water features and container plants will give inspiration while all is set off by immaculate presentation and management.
Hollard Gardens ★★★★★

With great views of Mt Taranaki, Hollard Gardens is a 4.5 hectare property located in central Taranaki, close to Egmont National Park. First established in 1927 by plantsman Bernie Hollard, the gardens boast a plant collection of national importance including many rhododendrons and unusual plants. Stroll the hidden paths through the mature and intimate Old Garden, and then by contrast appreciate the openness and diversity of the New Garden. In spring, the rainbow of colour in the Swamp Garden is a must-see as well as Bernie’s Home Garden, where fruit and vegetable growing methods are trialled and demonstrated. The Hollard Centre offers a warm and inviting environment to relax and discover the garden history, enjoy the family photographs and view the slide show of the original gardens. The retro décor and the old-world charm of the centre is where light refreshments are available and we welcome picnickers to share this space with us.

Pukekura Park ★★★★★

Located in the heart of New Plymouth City, this 52 hectare park has an amazing range of both native and exotic plants all displayed in a natural setting with many wonderful views and vistas of the lakes and Mt Taranaki. A must see are the fernery and display houses.