



NZ Garden Trust Emails October 2017

I feel very remorseful I haven't had an email to you all recently. What happens to spring it is always such a busy time, and now this amazing amount of rain which in this part of the world is fantastic! Not so in other areas where it is probably too much. There are areas here in my garden which need roping off as one sinks into mud ankle deep! A far cry from 3 years of drought! Christchurch has recorded the wettest year since 1975. 87% of the monitored wells in Canterbury now have above average levels. Ground water systems will be recharged.

Pauline Murphy met with many of our Dunedin garden members for lunch in August. This was hugely successful, and was just a social get together. The congeniality was wonderful with so many likeminded people spinning ideas. Gardening in the Deep South is in great heart with real warmth towards each other.

Lawrie Metcalf . Born in Christchurch 1927 and died in Christchurch on August 18 2017 aged 89 years

He was a horticulturalist botanist and bestselling author, probably the most responsible for popularising our native plants and gardens. Although not university trained he was a skilled botanist, and felt very strongly we need to be proud of our native flora.

"He was widely recognised as NZ's most authoritative writer on the cultivation of our native plants" wrote Murray Dawson from RNZIH.

In 1955 he was named assistant curator at the Christchurch Botanic gardens. This was an inspired appointment as by

1958 he won the Royal NZ Horticultural Society's top medal for National diploma in Horticulture. His thesis was the Cultivation of NZ Alpine plants.

In 22 years he greatly improved the scientific grounding and educational footing at the Gardens. He lodged 1800 new specimens of wild and cultivated plants at the gardens herbarium which has been named in his honour earlier this year.

I remember my mother so often quoting him and referring to his books which I do now myself



Jenny Oakley sent me this wonderful little story

This is a recent photograph of the Morepork who has been roosting in our garden over winter. On occasions he/she has looked very wet which is understandable. We have had more than our annual rainfall in the 8 months of this year already.

We are close to the coast in South Taranaki in a farming area particularly affected by strong salt laden wind and hence there is very little tree cover. Tui are only just making an appearance after years of possum control and I believe the riparian planting has something to do with this. You can imagine our excitement 5-6 years ago when we realised we had a resident Morepork. We have only ever heard the 'Morepork' call three or four times. More commonly we hear the 'mewing' or 'cree' call which is more like a screech. A couple of years ago I had a photograph and short note in the NZGT newsletter about how I used the NZ Birds Online recording of the Morepork call (on my phone), to encourage our resident Morepork to come out if I was outside looking for him/her. I was telling a young woman about this who happened to be doing some work for DOC and she discouraged me from doing this because the bird would interpret the calls as a threat to his territory and may leave. As a result I have refrained from that little activity and now just use the 'scalding' calls of the other birds to identify the area he/she might be roosting. This year he/she is in a Kauri tree. Last year it was a cabbage tree. Many of you probably have an abundance of native birds in your gardens but it is particularly special for those of us living in areas bereft of native birdlife to see some of them coming back. Perhaps one of the very satisfying results of planting all those trees many years ago when we started a garden from bare exposed farmland.



Bellbirds at Flaxmere

This year there seem to be more than ever. I think they have the most beautiful song of any birds. They are feasting on sophora (Kowhai) flowers and find unusual things to eat such as in the photograph above.

Watch out for the NZGT ad in the New Zealand Gardener magazine

Garden Events

The next few months are prime time in all our gardens and there are so many lovely events to go to. In order time wise

Christmas Country Fete at Waipara this year

www.thefete.co.nz

Art in Garden at Flaxmere www.artinagarden.co.nz

Hurunui Gardens in the Hurunui North Canterbury

www.hurunui-gardens.co.nz

Powerco Garden Spectacular in Taranaki

www.gardenfestnz.co.nz

Nelmac Garden Marlborough

www.gardenmarlborough.co.nz

Auckland Botanic Gardens Nov 8– Feb 28 2018

www.sculptureinthegardens.nz

Flaxmere Garden – 50 years of extremes

Text by Grant Mangin

Photographs by Juliet Nicholas.

Years of record breaking drought, ferocious winds, earing summer temperatures of up to 40 degrees Celsius and freezing winters of down to -15 degrees Celsius are not the ideal conditions to create a 5-star Garden of National Significance.

Despite these extreme conditions, Penny Zino is celebrating fifty years since she and husband John began creating Flaxmere Garden - and the work's not over yet.

Flaxmere Garden 50 years of extremes tells the captivating story of how Penny and John Zino battled the extremes to successfully create their 3.2-hectare garden. The theme of extremes also applies to how the personal circumstances of the Zino family have shaped the development of the garden.

Lavishly illustrated with over 80 pages of full-colour images, *Flaxmere Garden 50 years of extremes* shares Penny's design philosophy, along with her choice of plants and planting combinations, and her valuable insights gained from fifty years spent creating an award-winning garden in a challenging environment.

Flaxmere Garden 50 years of extremes is available to purchase from the website www.flaxmeregarden.co.nz

I need stories from you all to share . Please email any you may have

For the Trustees Penny Zino