

Curator's Report February 2013

One virtue of this very dry summer is the comparative lack of insect pests. Aphids, white fly, passion vine hoppers and wasps are relatively few in number. So plants that can tolerate this heat are looking healthier than usual for this time of year.

Olearias have been flowering well and *O. avicinifolia* is covered in buds.

Metrosideros parkinsonii, planted by Mayor Hartley when Fernglen opened in 1988, had its best floral display ever this summer. Orchid *Earina autumnalis*, tucked in Barry Brickels' pottery "Madonna", is flowering nicely. Plants at Ben's Ridge and beside the bottom entrance are mostly coping well despite the dry conditions.

On Christmas Day (of all days) the automatic light switch which governs the outside lighting played up, making quite a grating sound. Despite the time of year a call to Actionline remedied the noise problem, although Steve had to do an adjustment after his holidays.

Nicki Malone has requested use of the building 9am-3pm on 21 March for a gathering of Auckland's Parks Officers. She wants to know how much it will cost. Bryan Gould of Horttraining has made a tentative booking for four weeks this year for his arborists course but I have yet to have confirmation that it is up and running. Parnell Garden Club has booked an afternoon visit on 21 May.

On Sunday 10 March, Fernglen hosts the Summer Walk programme. It starts at 3pm. And Jill is organising another Sunday music sing-along which will take place towards the end of this month.

Keith Salmon of Le Roys Bush Reserve Committee is presenting a submission to Kaipatiki Board tomorrow urging its support in opposing an amendment to the Resource Management Act which threatens protection around bush reserves such as Fernglen, Kauri Park etc. For further information see

<https://sites.google.com/site/protectingurbanbush/contact-information>

Malcolm Fisher