

# *Fernglen Native Plant Gardens*



*Spring Newsletter 2014*

*Invitation to an Open day  
Fernglen Gardens  
Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2014  
1pm-4pm*

- 1. Curator Report**
- 2. A Visit to Parry Kauri Park Warkworth**
- 3. A Look at remarkable botanical artist Audrey Eagle**
- 4. History: Andrew Sinclair early botanist**
- 5. Book Review: Paradise Saved by Dave Butler, Tony Lindsay  
Jane Hunt**
- 6. A scented native in the garden**
- 7. Winter Planting for Fernglen**

## 1. Curators Report- Malcolm Fisher

**Maintenance:** The council bait stations are proving successful in ongoing rat eradication. Wasps have been an issue wintering in the apex of the education centre, some work needs to be done to plug gaps to prevent insects entering the roof of the building.

Winter dampness resulted in a quick build up of algae on hard surfaces such as the wooden deck and paved paths through the old rockery. Water blasting has overcome the problem but some loose mortar between the pavers will need some attention. In the flat valley upstream from Parataniwha glade a large infestation of club moss has been dealt with

A council contractor has installed handrail beside the steep section of track descending from kauri ridge to the Parataniwha glade.

**Planting:** It is pleasing to see two self sown King ferns below the glow worm area on canal track. The plants at the bottom entrance are doing well and the gaps have been filled with some surplus species including *Pittosporum cornifolium*.

### Visitors:

A tutor from Massey University has collected fern samples for study purposes and will be back with students in October to be shown around by Nev. The outgoing Grand Master of the Hash House Harriers -committee member Barry, has held another meeting at Fernglen. The Friends of Botanic Garden will visit Fernglen on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Development:** Planning is underway for the council to employ a project manager for ongoing development of Fernglen.

### Flowering:

*Celmisia incana* in flower brightens the planter box beside the Alpine House. Also flowering are *Olearia cheesemanii*, *Pimelea oreophila*, *P longifolia*, *Pittosporum pimeleoides* and *Carmichaelia williamsii*. The top of the kawaka is laden with seed and *Nestegis apetala* and *Alseuosmia* have been sporting fruit. Look for the full blossom of *Pomaderris kumarahou* and *Meterosideros carminea* to confirm that spring is upon us



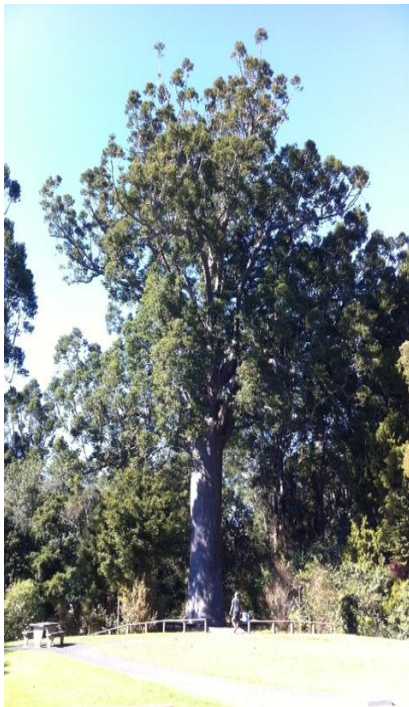
*Meterosideros carminea* Carmine rata  
Photographer Phil Bindle NZNPCN



*Pomaderris kumarahou* Gumdigger soap DOC

## 2. A Visit to Parry Kauri Park, Warkworth

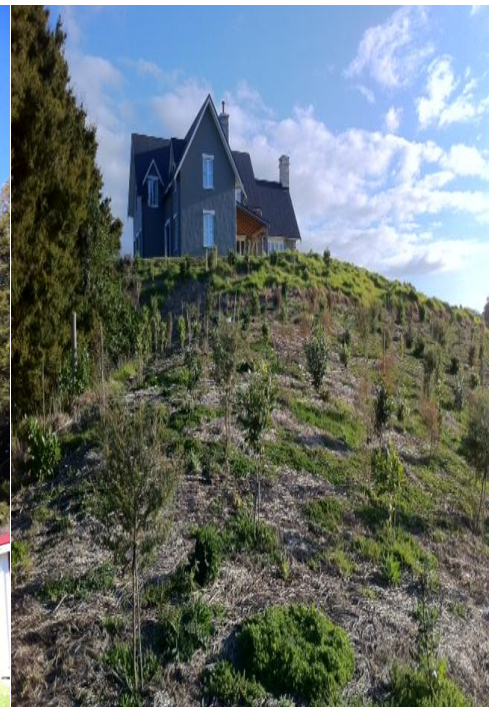
Do not be tempted to speed back to Auckland from the Winterless North. Take time to explore the absolute gem just south of Warkworth known as the Parry Kauri Park. This remnant of the kauri forest that once covered most of Northland is home to two of our most ancient and healthy kauri trees- the “McKinney kauri” and the “Simpson kauri.” The 8.5 hectares of regenerating bush also includes some very old rimu, kahikatea, taraire, totara, and puriri. An all-weather boardwalk has been constructed to enable easy access across the reserve. This provides a gentle 25minute walk. The boardwalk is maintained by the Kauri Bushman’s Association. Named after Harry Parry, a generous benefactor who ensured that the area was retained in public ownership, the driveway entrance is on Tudor Collins Drive. This commemorates the famous pioneering Northland photographer. A comprehensive photographic record of the kauri industry can be seen at the Matakohe Kauri Museum. Tudor Collins enthusiasm and fundraising ability helped to ensure the viability of the Parry Kauri Park.



The McKinney kauri



The Simpson kauri



New kauri planting



### 3. A look at the remarkable botanical artist Audrey Earle

Born in Timaru in 1925 Audrey Earle returned to England with her parents as an eight year old. During the war she trained as an engineering draughtsperson, and post war she attended the Banbury Art School. She and her husband immigrated to New Zealand in 1949. In 1954 she became a founding member of the Waikato Forest and Bird Society.

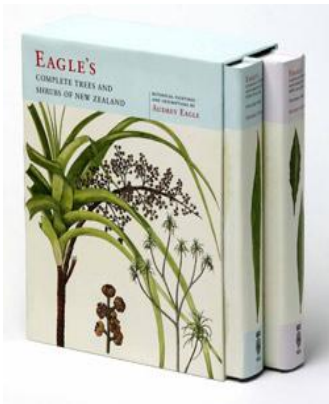
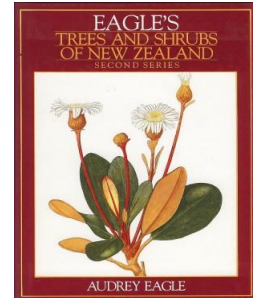
Her love of bushwalking and painting took her all over New Zealand and the sub- Antarctic islands. Her first book,

“Eagle’s Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand”, which

included 228 coloured botanical illustrations, was published in 1975. This was followed in 1982 by a second book “Eagle’s Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand - Second Series” comprised of 405 paintings of native woody stemmed flora. As a budding botanist I received this book when it was

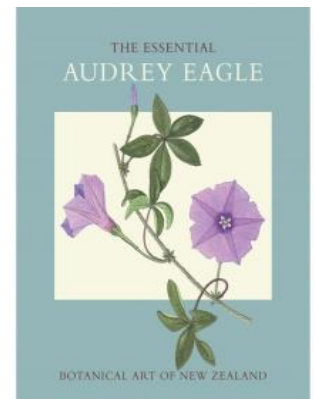
published and the mesmerising clarity of Eagle’s paintings made plant identification simple.

“Eagle’s Complete Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand”, a two-volume book compiling the fruits of her life’s quest, was published by Te Papa Press in 2007, and contains 806 painstakingly hand-painted plates. The book earned her the 2007 Montana Medal for Non-Fiction and the Booksellers Choice award for that year. The Montana Awards judges described the monumental work as a “magnificent tribute to Mrs Eagle’s vision, perseverance and consummate skill as a botanical artist”.



A new edition in 2013 offers exquisite botanical artworks – in a compact, portable format. The selected plants are depicted at life-size, and include detailed enlargements showing twigs, fruit, nuts, and flowers in technically superb detail. A fresh introduction brings new insights into the author’s life’s work, and comprehensive notes make this an invaluable beginner’s guide to New Zealand’s unique flora.

Audrey has been fortunate to have painted many rare and endangered species including the now extinct native mistletoe *Trilepidea adamsii*. Conservation work, through her long service with the former Nature Conservation Council, life membership and executive roles with Forest and Bird, and these stunning artistic publications, have rightly earned her accolades. Last year she was conferred an honorary Doctor of Science from Otago University in her home town. She has also been recipient of the Loder Cup, the Allan Mere award by the New Zealand Botanical Society, and a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit



## 4. A Look back in history: Early Botanist Andrew Sinclair

Brian P. J. Molloy. 'Sinclair, Andrew',  
from the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography.  
Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand.



Born in the Scottish town of Paisley in 1794, Andrew Sinclair, like so many early botanists, studied medicine, a course that included botany. He studied in Glasgow, Paris, then Edinburgh, graduating in 1818. By 1822 he was appointed assistant surgeon to the Royal Navy. This enabled him to travel and botanise. The first ten years were on a ship stationed mainly between the Cape of Good Hope and the Mediterranean. He sent many zoological and botanical specimens back to the British Museum. Between 1835 and 1839 he was surgeon on a survey ship that enabled him to send specimens from California, Mexico, Central America and Brazil to both the British Museum and Kew Gardens. As surgeon on convict ships to Australia from 1841-1843, Sinclair botanised in Australia. He visited the Bay of Islands at the same time as the Ross Antarctic expedition in 1841. This gave him the opportunity to join with Joseph Hooker, the Ross party surgeon, as well as William Colenso on exploratory trips of Northland. A collection of shells and insects collected at this time by Sinclair was duly catalogued at the British Museum. Sinclair took his discharge from the navy in Sydney in 1842, after another convict ship mission to Tasmania. There he met Robert Fitzroy on his way to New Zealand as the governor elect. Offered a free passage to Auckland by his new friend he arrived in New Zealand in December 1843. Fitzroy offered Sinclair the position of colonial secretary in January 1844, in an effort to maintain neutrality amongst the political factions in New Zealand. During his time as colonial secretary from 1844-1856, under the successive governor's Fitzroy, Grey, Wynyard, and Gore Browne, Sinclair continued to botanise. He sent specimens to Hooker at Kew Gardens and contributed to Hooker's "Journal of Botany". He also helped to found the Auckland museum and St Andrews Presbyterian church. He retired to Scotland in 1856, joined the Linnean Society, and met regularly with Darwin, Huxley, and Hooker. He returned to New Zealand in 1859 to collect material in the South Island and on Stewart Island for a supplement to Hooker's Handbook of the New Zealand flora. He was drowned on 26 March 1861 endeavouring to cross the flooded Rangitata River. Joseph Hooker paid tribute in his book... "The late Dr Andrew Sinclair ...a man of great attainments, in many ways, certainly ranks second to Mr Colenso. He has made most interesting discoveries especially on the East Coast, and has sent excellent specimens. His loss has been a very great one whether as a botanist or as an enthusiastic and liberal patron of science." Sixteen New Zealand plants were named in Sinclair's honour, including an orchid, sedges, herbs, shrubs and trees, notably the puka (*Meryta sinclairii*). An alpine plant *Haastia sinclarii* commemorated his friendship with Julius Von Haast.



*Meryta sinclairii* Photographer:  
John Smith-Dodsworth  
NZNPCN

## 5. Book Review: “Paradise Saved” by Dave Butler, Tony Lindsay & Janet Hunt



This publication details the story of New Zealand’s wildlife sanctuaries all 130 of them and how they are turning back the tide of extinction.

Starting with an introduction entitled “The Original Paradise,” the authors describe a land clothed in forests, the fauna dominated by birds, reptiles and insects, the only mammals being bats and seals. This was a unique world completely unprepared for the arrival of people and the other species that would accompany them.

The first chapter documents the 700 years from man’s first arrival, the waves of destruction that would send some species to extinction, and others to the very brink. Here the book takes a positive direction, rather than describing the sad and continuous trail of loss, the bulk of the publication

is a detailed analysis of the 130 sanctuaries found throughout New Zealand. Above all this is the story of thousands of volunteers that have answered the call. In partnership with scientists these volunteers are providing safe havens for dwindling populations.

Fascinating chapter headings provide an insight into the scope of this book from “Lifeboats and Nurseries-Island Sanctuaries” , “Fenced Sanctuaries”, “Community Sanctuaries”, Kiwi Sanctuaries” to Issues All Sanctuaries Face”.

Beautifully presented with superb photography and accurate information on how to locate or volunteer for sanctuaries, the detailed research makes a very easy read. This book should receive significant awards for non- fiction. It is a splendid follow-on to Janet Hunt’s well received “Wetlands of New Zealand”.



Their future is in our hands  
Tawharanui



Tiritirimatangi



## 6. A Scented Native in the Garden

Nev recommends the *Pittosporum pimeleoides* as a native plant suitable for the smaller garden. He has one of his original plantings at his bach at Mangawhai, growing happily under a canopy of manuka. It is a compact shrub approximately 1 metre high and 1 metre wide. In July- August it is covered with fragrant flowers, pale yellow with a central crimson streak. The musky perfume is particularly noticeable wafting through the garden at night. It thrives on the south side of a house as an understudy plant. Often hard to obtain it is currently available at Oratia Nursery, and Joy Plants Pukekohe.



*Pittosporum pimeleoides* Thanks to [John van den Hoeven](#) photographer

## 7. Winter planting at Fernglen

*Aciphylla dieffenbachii*

*Coprosma tenuifolia*

*Corokia macrocarpa*,

*Disphyma australe*,

*Elingamita johnsonii*

*Hebe barkeri*

*Linum monogynum*

*Metrosideros perforata*

*Pittosporum anomalum*

*Pittosporum kirkii*

*Pittosporum obcordatum*

*Pittosporum turneri*



*Aciphylla dieffenbachii* Photographer Peter de Lange  
NZNPCN



*Corokia macrocarpa* Photographer John  
Sawyer- NZNPCN



*Linum monogynum* Photographer John  
Barkla -NZNPCN



*Hebe barkeri* Photographer: Peter de Lange,  
NZNPCN