

## NATIONAL SHOW 2023

The National Show is being held in New Plymouth on 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> August. It is 5 years since we held the last one, which was at the same venue as this year's show will be.

The show, accommodation, two evening meals, and AGM will all be at the Plymouth International Hotel, 220 Courtenay St, New Plymouth.

Phone 06 7599 128. [www.plymouth.co.nz](http://www.plymouth.co.nz)

We are driving around the mountain to Hawera on Sunday and have 4 wonderful South Taranaki gardens to visit, which you have not seen before.

On Monday morning we will visit beautiful Pukekura Park in the heart of town, and conclude with lunch, once again at the Plymouth.

Please book your own accommodation at the Plymouth, Ph 06 7599 128. Just mention it is for the Camellia Show.

You will not have to register the actual blooms / classes you plan to exhibit, only the fact that you will be entering blooms. Further details will be on the front page of the Show Schedule which is on the Camellia Website.

Benching will be available from 4pm to 8pm Friday night and 7am to 8.30am on Saturday.

There will be no computer generated benching cards recording your details. Instead the cards will be generic, and you will be required to print your details on them, along with the name of your single, and multiple, same variety blooms. For multiple bloom different classes, please record the variety names on the strips of white paper provided, as usual. A mock-up of the benching card is on the front page of the Show Schedule.

The show will be open to the public on Saturday from 12.30pm until 4.30pm.

### RAFFLE

The raffle prizes should have wide appeal for everyone, and make selling tickets easier. Sell them to family, friends, workmates and neighbours, or if you haven't got any of these, buy a couple of books yourself, and treat it as a donation to your favourite society. Raffle ticket sales offset the cost of the show.

The prizes are all grocery vouchers from New World, totalling \$1200.

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize \$600   2<sup>nd</sup> Prize \$300   3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$200   4<sup>th</sup> Prize \$100**

## **Leonie's Garden, 170 Upper Stuart Rd, Eltham. Leonie Hofmans**

I first visited Leonie's garden about eight years ago, during the Garden Festival, and was left gasping with delight at the sheer beauty of it. This large country garden typifies everything good that Taranaki's reputation for superb gardens is built on. Banks of exuberant rhododendrons and azaleas, fragrant wisterias, dripping panicles of Pieris bloom, stunning maples, mounds of luxuriant hostas scattered around the bog areas, swathes of hellebores and choice perennials lining paths and tucked into corners. Everything in super abundance. I wandered aimlessly, dazed and lost in a flower-lover's paradise!

That was in the full flush of late spring bloom, and we will be visiting while most flowers are still a future promise. However, newer areas add structure and a modern, contemporary feel. A definite Oriental atmosphere is created using rocks, gravel, and a red torii gate, while free-form hedges of native Coprosma, contained stone walling, and block plantings of white trunked Betulas are striking features comfortably anchored by the lushly grassed wide paths that sweep down to a stylish summerhouse.

It is astonishing that Leonie has created this garden on her own over the last 30 years, and continues to do all the maintenance herself. Seldom open to the public, it has only been in the Taranaki Garden Festival three times, and has been rated as a Five Star Garden of National Significance by the NZ Gardens Trust. Leonie values her privacy, and asks that you do not take photos or videos.





**Gravetye, 60 Manawapou Rd, Hawera. John and Jenny Pease**

Although this land has been owned by the Pease Family for over 100 years, the present house was built on the highest area only 16 years ago, and the garden laid out soon after. To create different levels on what was a predominately flat section, major contouring was done to create different levels, with all the topsoil removed and then re-distributed.

This is a very formal garden, much of its appeal derived from structure and shape, with mass plantings in various shades of green set off by immaculate lawns. There was no overall plan originally, other than the owner's love of formality, straight lines, and mass planting, and the garden began initially with three long avenues radiating out from the house. When these were completed, the garden was extended to include plantings of roses, iris, and a double long perennial border.



A great deal of trimming is required annually for maintenance, with some hedges undergoing drastic rejuvenation at present. This is usually done by the owners over winter, sometimes with a little help.





### **Sanderson Garden, 1961 South Rd, Manaia. Elaine and John Sanderson**

There is little evidence now of the struggle it has been to establish this lush garden, on a windy site only 1km away from the sea, but when it was started in 1984, the only two trees were an elm and a walnut. It is also in a low rainfall belt, and the sandy soil dries out very quickly. This is remedied by adding copious quantities of organic matter every year, which acts as both feed and mulch, and watering over the dry summer months.

Native plants grow wonderfully well here, and others adapt to the conditions over time. Any plants that do particularly well are divided and used more extensively. Having said that, there is a wide range of plants here, shrubs, roses and perennials, which create a lush and colourful effect, further enhanced by lots of bright ornamentation, especially large pots from Mexico. Visiting historic old ruins in Turkey inspired the columns, and the two 'lady sphinxes' who welcome visitors to the garden are similar to those seen in St Petersburg.

Last year this garden was awarded Five Stars by the NZGT.







**Lucy's Place, Skeet Rd, Auroa, South Taranaki. Charmaine and Leo Brennan**

Named for Lucy, the family's pet Jack Russell terrier, this special garden was a goat paddock 32 years ago, when the existing house was built on the site of a former dwelling. Nothing remains from that garden, except for an old camellia tree that is over 100 years old.

Charmaine says she is not a plant collector, but simply likes variety, and she has certainly gathered many treasures for her garden over the years, while still growing lots from divisions and cuttings.

The creativity of the entire family is clearly evidenced by not only the handsome brickwork extending from the house out into the garden, but also lots of other ornamental features, especially the amazing mosaic work, created by Charmaine and her daughter. See if you can spot the Hoblyns, mythical Scots beings who protect the property from pests and harm.

We are privileged to be able to visit this garden, which has only been opened once before for the Taranaki Garden Festival.



