Green Shoots

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Duck Creek Olive Grove

Our first event of the year was to Warkworth where a group of enthusiastic members enjoyed visiting Duck Creek Olive Grove owned by Sally and Derek Holland. The couple are no strangers to growing olives, as some years back they built the Glenora Estate on Waiheke Island. Eighteen months ago they purchased Duck Creek Olive Grove, where they saw the potential to improve the health of the 600 existing olive trees. Derek guided us around their beautiful property, explaining how hands-on they both are. They tend to the grove themselves; picking, pruning, mulching and mowing. Marketing the oil is also a passion, with Sally sourcing earthy looking packaging. They currently supply corporate clients with gift boxes, including local wine, as well as selling through their website. Alongside the olive grove they are passionate gardeners. Sally designed and had built a stunning walled garden. They are extending the edible garden with the aim of becoming self-sufficient in fruit and vegetables. We sampled figs and apples, bought olive oil and delighted in Derek and Sally’s passion for the land.

Sally’s walled garden.

Walled garden.

Driveway winding through the Olive Grove.

Members listening intently to Derek’s vision for the property.

Photos Val Puxty
Brick Bay Sculpture Trail

Whilst in Warkworth we took in the Brick Bay Sculpture Trail, ending the day by enjoying a lovely lunch in the Glass House building. Brick Bay Farm has been landscaped over time to include lakes, tree plantings and a vineyard. With a passion for sculpture and for supporting New Zealand artists, the owners have created a natural environment where the visitor can experience the beauty of art in the most perfect surroundings.

Gregor Kregar
‘Fragmented Interactions’
Photos Val Puxty

Jeff Thompson ‘Dinghy’

On the 4th of April we visited the Unitec Arboretum, where Penny Cliffin kindly took the time to guide us around the site pointing out significant trees.

Recently every tree and shrub around the campus – over 200 different species – has been catalogued and more than 100 trees labeled with relevant information.

Penny said the trees around the campus are not only a record of the natural environment, they also provide evidence of the human history of the area. “The four distinct land uses of Unitec’s Mt Albert campus through the years can be experienced through the plantings of each era, from the early Māori settlers and the European farming communities through to the psychiatric hospital and the land’s use as an educational institution,” she says. “The layers of history come alive through the knowledge of the different types of trees and shrubs present on campus – a kind of outdoor museum of trees.”
Ashford Lodge, Clevedon

On a particularly lovely morning in autumn we visited Ashford Lodge and met the owner Sherin Walker. Sherin walked us over her beautifully landscaped property where great sweeps of mature Liquidambar styraciflua grace the hillsides and ponds. At that time of year the colour is just breathtaking. She explained about the effort that had gone into creating the park-like grounds, the trial and error with planting, how the weather and tides can flood the low lands and completely immerse the trees under water and how they miraculously bounce back.

Artist, James Wright did a great deal of work on the property from building the rockwork around the ponds to creating many of the sculptures displayed. We made a donation to help save bears in China – a campaign Sherin is particularly passionate about.

Bear Rescue in China

Peace by Piece is Animals Asia’s new landmark campaign to help rescue and rehabilitate over 130 moon bears in Nanning, China. These bears have been kept in horrendous conditions – many trapped in tiny cages from birth - and farmed for their bile. Animals Asia is taking over custody and care of the bears, leasing the land and facilities. This will be the largest rescue of its kind in the world.

Your support is needed.
www.animalasia.org

Remember to regularly check out our website www.gdsnz.org.nz
Sculptor James Wright

After enjoying Sherin Walker’s beautiful property we followed up with lunch at the Clevedon Co-op Store in the Village and a visit to James Wright’s gallery, ‘Art Industry’, next door. James is a big character, extremely creative and passionate about his art. Being involved with many projects has given him a great understanding; he was very interesting and clearly loves his work. “Creativity is a journey of exploration and discovery. The beginning of a sculpture may be the type of medium, a vision sketch or just playing. Using the elements to exploit and reveal the essence of the material. My pieces gain an organic sensuality, creating a presence in our environment of Aotearoa. As an Artist I endeavour to create objects that are elegant, yet simple in form and that have a sense of belonging and presence.” James Wright. The gallery expresses shape, colour and warmth, as revealed in the work of many artists, making it a ‘must visit’ destination.

Members appreciating the work in the gallery. Photos Val Puxty

GDSNZ Members

Congratulations on this wonderful milestone Michael! Life Member Michael Jones caught up with a stunning new arrival in the family earlier this year - his Great Grandson, Felix Jones. The photo shows a rare line-up of four generations of male Joneses - Michael on the right, Simon left and Sean with Felix.

Congratulations Gil Hanly 80 years young
A shot of Gil in action! Photo by Gaby Slade at the Melbourne Garden DesignFest 2013

Michael Jones, Bev McConnell and Deb Hardy
Some of the National Committee enjoyed catching up with our wonderful patron, Bev McConnell over lunch on a rainy Friday afternoon towards the end of June.

We’re on facebook too
Events Calendar

30th July 2014.
Xanthe White. Gardening World Cup in Japan. Photographer, Sophie Leuschke, went along and she will provide the illustrations.

20th August 2014.
Next year’s Auckland Garden DesignFest kick-off.

9th September 2014.
Dick Turner. Past editor of California’s Pacific Horticulture magazine. His topic will be: Art and Architecture in the Garden: when flowers are not enough.

22nd October 2014.
Ian Henderson will talk to us about his recent trip to China.

15th & 16th November 2014.
Melbourne Garden DesignFest. We’re still hoping to secure seats on the bus tour (town and country options this year) for whoever wants to come along. More details soon.

29th November 2014.
Christmas Party. You will be treated to a guided walk to see some of the recent landscaping in Takapuna’s Hurstmere Rd followed by a pleasant walk along the waterfront to Sue Lyons’ home at 33 Kitchener Rd where we will celebrate another great year with a festive Picnic Box dinner, topped off with complimentary bubbles.

Next year – we will re-visit the Taupo long weekend idea – late February has been penciled in.

AGM

We held our AGM on the 18th of June, a great night with a fabulous speaker - our first Fellow of the Society, Trish Bartlelet, who showcased some of her amazing work.

Congratulations Jane McGuffie – our newest Accredited Member.

This newsletter is proudly written by the Auckland Events Committee

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Penny Cliffin presenting Jane with her Accreditation Certificate at the AGM.

Photo Deb Hardy