



Autumn 2007



**In this Trust Board 75th Jubilee year, Waitangi's garden has again gathered laurels. Thousands of hours of professional care are invested annually in the Treaty Grounds estate, resulting in the New Zealand Garden Trust's reaffirming our position as a Founding Garden of National Significance.**

PICTURED: Head gardener Jenny Lloyd

### How our garden grows!

The first annual reassessment has brought even more compliments from Garden Trust inspector, Gordon Collier, who says the Treaty Grounds' gardens have never looked better. "The garden is always such a pleasure to visit. The planting reflects the place's historical origins, and it is more than likely the garden was not as well maintained in 1840 as it is now."

Chief Executive Jeanette Richardson says the accolade reflects the attention to detail and the personal commitment of many long-serving staff. "It is the sense of family and personal pride in the estate that makes the difference. Many of the staff at the Treaty Grounds grew up in the area – some even on the estate itself. They have links to the land that give them a unique feeling for its care, and that shows."

Jeanette Richardson says the English gardens surrounding the Treaty House are a visible link to the British partner in the Treaty. "As we celebrate 75 years of Lord and Lady Bledisloe establishing the independent Waitangi National Trust to preserve and develop their great gift,

Mr Collier's comment is very appropriate. Growth and renewal are obvious themes at the estate, as visitors see our preservation work and building development continuing, but it is the natural beauty of the gardens and grounds, enhanced by our estate team, that turns our brightest face to the public."

Head gardener Jenny Lloyd, who has tended the gardens for 16 years, says the creativity and care of recent times has borne fruit. "Years ago, the gardeners were trained in 'amenity planting' and it was done like a hospital or measured-out town square. They would pull out all the plants, the truck would arrive from the nursery with the plants coming into flower, and they would plant the whole thing." Today, she says, the balance of formal and informal planting is an enjoyable and joyful sight for nearly a quarter of a million visitors who walk the tracks and enjoy the gardens every year.

Gordon Collier concludes: "The present day garden could be summed up in a few words - colourful, neat and tidy as befits its place in New Zealand history."

### Bledisloe applauds Board achievements

The head of the family that gifted the Treaty Grounds to the country has put on record his admiration for the Waitangi National Trust Board.

Christopher, the third Viscount Bledisloe, is the grandson of Lord Bledisloe, who bought and donated the estate of over 506-hectares to New Zealanders in 1932. As Waitangi National Trust Board marks its 75th jubilee, he has thanked the Board for its stewardship, in holding fast to the vision of Lord and Lady Bledisloe.

"Our whole family is truly delighted that my grandfather's vision in acquiring Waitangi for New Zealand has proved such an outstanding success. We are very grateful to those who have looked after Waitangi so well and who continue to work to enhance it. Thank you for what you've done, and best wishes on going on doing it. May Waitangi continue to flourish for the next 75 years!"

Waitangi National Trust Chair, Jeremy Williams, says "Lord and Lady Bledisloe



wanted the estate to be held independently in trust, for the leisure and benefit of all New Zealanders. It is very gratifying to be congratulated for the way we uphold that vision, by the family who were responsible for it. We look forward to building an exciting future that continues the work we were entrusted with by Lord Bledisloe."

### ASB Community Trust in partnership

One of the largest ASB Community Trust grants ever was announced in February – a \$7m lump sum to the Waitangi National Trust Board in recognition of the Board's achievements to date and its plans for the future.

Announcing the grant for the new visitor centre and the redevelopment of the existing centre at Waitangi, ASB Community Trust CEO Jennifer Gill said the grant ranked as

one of the top 15 given by ASB Community Trust to date. "We are delighted to make this significant grant available to the Waitangi National Trust which successfully administers the Waitangi historic estate for the benefit of all New Zealanders. The new visitors' centre will increase community participation and promote educational opportunities for the increasing number of students who come through Waitangi on various learning programmes.

"The Waitangi National Trust is celebrating 75 years, and it is our hope that this financial assistance will help it meet the demands of the next 75. We believe the planned building programme will enable it to face the future with confidence and cater for the growing number of people searching for knowledge of New Zealand's founding history."



## Building on-target despite weather bomb



ABOVE: Board members Jeremy Williams and Eila Searles on-site in the new Boardroom. TOP: Mayor Yvonne Sharp braves the storm for Waitangi, while contractor Kevin Hooper enjoys the return of sunny weather as he works on renewing the roof of the John Scott-designed original Visitors Centre wing.

Northland is still cleaning up after the weather bomb that dropped over 400mm of rain in 36 hours in the last week of March, but it had little effect on the main Treaty Grounds.

Estate manager Duncan Robertson says the main impact was erosion of the rail tracks used to launch the waka Ngatokimatawhaorua. “They were temporarily roped off, but there was little inconvenience to visitors. Our ongoing, rigorous maintenance of walkways, drainage and landscaping paid dividends, handling even this 1-in-150 year deluge.” The Haruru Falls track however did suffer some damage, but it is expected to be operational for spring.

Water was kept at bay from the Visitors Centre by staff and management taking turns at sweeping water away as drains fought to cope with the deluge. Construction of the new board room and meetings facilities was largely unaffected. The new facilities are on track for completion by the middle of the year, says project manager Larry Jacobson. “This will complete the enclosure of the existing Visitor Centre courtyard, connecting the new wing, opened last year by Dame Silvia Cartwright, with the 1970s John Scott-designed section. The replacement of the roof of the existing Visitor Centre had thankfully been mostly completed before the downpour.”

“It’s been a tricky task,” says Larry, “given that the centre has remained open to visitors seven days a week. Builders have had to time their tea breaks to the performance schedules of Nga Puawai O Waitangi, whose shows have been very popular over the summer. The old tile roof had come to the end of its useful life and needed replacement to ensure weather tightness. At the same time the structure of the roof has been improved.”

Work on this stage of the continuing expansion programme had commenced after Waitangi Day and fine weather through most of February enabled the critical structural work to be completed in good time. As we go to print, roofing is almost complete, the walls are going up and the courtyard is about to be surfaced.

“We’re hopeful the Trust Board will be able to hold its July meeting in the new room,” says Chair Jeremy Williams. “The architects have skilfully accommodated the decks within the surrounding bush with minimal intrusion, and large windows and a high ceiling will give a sense of spaciousness. Our ability to host delegations and meetings here, rather than in hired premises, will result in ongoing economies, while the Board will share the modern environment that the recent new wing has provided for staff and management.”

## Archive work progresses

The Treaty Grounds has a commitment to its museum role, and with the assistance of a Lottery Grant, has been undertaking a 12 month project to digitise the collection data. The Vernon Collection Management System was installed in April and basic data on the collection has been entered. This computer database will greatly help the management of the collections and research work.

Researchers have recently been interested in one of the wonderful objects in the Trust’s collection, a square piano by John Broadwood, London. This was a wedding present to Elizabeth (nee Puckey) and Gilbert Mair senior, who married in Sydney on 15 September 1827 and bought it back with them to the Bay of Islands on the *Herald*. It is said to be the earliest piano to arrive in New Zealand. It was bequeathed to the Trust in 1962 by Mrs. E. B Harrington, Whangarei, a grand daughter of Elizabeth and Gilbert Mair.



Waitangi Day and Festival 2007



## The Orange & the blue

Some compared it to Dr Who's Tardis. The Treaty 2U bus drove onto the Treaty Grounds for the Waitangi festival and its interior expanded into a bright, modern exhibition room. By night it closed like a flower. Among its visitors was one of those responsible for the bus, historian Dr Claudia Orange, whose publications on the Treaty are keenly-sought in the Visitor Centre shop. Dr Orange expressed delight that the bus could be timed this year to be an attraction at the celebrations.

A popular display was the computer terminal which allowed visitors to make Treaty-related decisions as if they were the Prime Minister. It then informed the "Prime Minister" whether he or she would remain in office, based on likely reaction to the decisions.

When the bus left, it took onboard a little blue visitor. Staff tidying up after Waitangi Day, had rescued a little blue penguin that was being attacked by gulls. Estate manager Duncan Robertson contacted the Native Bird Recovery Centre in Whangarei who were keen to help. As Treaty 2U bus staff were heading south, they volunteered to deliver the little penguin to the Centre.

Duncan says the Waitangi Estate is a haven for all types of birds, especially kereru, tui and kiwi. He says this incident reinforces that dogs must not be brought onto the estate, an issue which has sometimes been difficult to get across to locals enjoying the leisure spaces such as the walking tracks and sports field which are free of charge.



Te Papa team leader Jay Houpapa with Claudia Orange, and in front of Treaty 2U bus (l to r) kaumatua Ihaia Biddle, Jeanette Richardson, Gaylene Harris, Andy Larsen (all from Waitangi) and bus project manager Kit O'Connor. RIGHT: a seal of approval.



## Under the boardwalk, in the wars



It was sheer coincidence that the week leading up to the big deluge was one of the busiest for school visitations. These including a Falls walk for Kerikeri High School students, guided by educator Pam Collins (pictured far left).

The same day, Westlake Boys High teacher Simon Smith toured the grounds with his senior history class. The guiding and education staff always enjoy the challenge of well-tuned enquiring minds, says guiding coordinator Wil Napier, who found himself with more than the usual barrage of questions – all of which were answered in depth.

"His knowledge obviously is extensive, commented Simon Smith, "and he gave us the Ngapuhi perspective of the Treaty, which is new to the boys. We do New Zealand history as a year-long course which covers 1800 to 1900. For part of their internal assessment the boys will be looking at a northern war in terms of a Maori leader – Kawiti could be one, or perhaps Hone Heke, but we give them a choice of campaigns.

"Many of our boys haven't been here – in fact 17 of this group of 23. Learning about the waka is not part of their syllabus, so that was also all new. We learned that it does 26 knots: I'm a yachtie and I would have thought 12 knots would have been fast, but that's astronomical!"

## Board pays tribute

The Board has announced the retirement of long-standing member John Klaricich, who was appointed in 1990, representing Maori in the North Auckland peninsula. Chair Jeremy Williams says John Klaricich has been an inspirational and valued member of the Waitangi National Trust Board. "John's knowledge of tikanga, the depth of his local connections, and his thoughtful approach to governance issues, have always been appreciated by the Board. His departure leaves us strengthened by his contribution, and John is keen for us to build now on the relationships and local networks he has helped foster during his term."

Under the rules set out by Lord and Lady Bledisloe, when they gifted the estate and formed the Trust Board 75 years ago, seats are taken up by a broad yet specific range of prominent New Zealanders, ensuring that historical continuity and preservation sit side-by-side with business development and forward planning.

John Klaricich, his wife Lila and daughter Raewyn (Chick) farm a property in the Far North. His father's background is Dalmatian and his mother's is Ngati Wharara hapu of Ngapuhi. Among his many civic responsibilities, extending through local and national organisations, he is a life member of the Historic Places Trust, an honour that was bestowed on him in a ceremony at the Treaty Grounds in 2005.

Nominations were called across the region for a successor to John Klaricich, with a deadline of 7th May.

