



Pukeiti NEWSLETTER

Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Inc.

PLANT LIST AND ORDER FORM
WORKING BEE DATES & OTHER MEMBER ACTIVITIES
inside

www.pukeiti.org.nz



R. decorum January flowering seedling—from Yunnan.

The *essence* remains... as the changes at Pukeiti continue

Construction work dominates and appears to be the focus of the garden - especially at the entrance. The steel framework of additions to the Gatehouse, which on completion will be known as the Rainforest Pavilion, the earthworks surrounding it and the raw foundations of the old Lodge which has been removed reflect the desire of the TRC to ensure Pukeiti's international standing. Already the construction of the Vireya House is all but complete and the planting of this is well advanced. The extension to The Lookout over the waterwheel is a great addition. Planting has also been completed in the Misty Knoll; azaleas, red dominating, lining the wall of the first of the crater-like gardens, and scented rhododendrons, mainly *Maddenia*, in the second, which is accessed through a tunnel from the first. The Misty Knoll,

generously funded by the Lysart Trust, will be, when the plants are fully grown, a major attraction at Pukeiti.

Once past all the activity at the entrance and around the lawn, the rest of the garden is as beautiful and serene as ever. This time of the year the hydrangeas brighten the walkways – *Hydrangea macrophylla*, with its mop-top and lace-cap forms, mainly blue, purple or white because of the acid soil, dominates. But here and there other species, e.g. *H. aspersa* var. *villosa*, *H. arborescens* and forms of *H. paniculata* stand out. In particular one form of the latter species, 'Kyushu', which was imported by the Trust a number of years ago, is spectacular.

Access around Pukeiti has been made easier by the formation of the rolled sand pathways



Hydrangeas

continues



The Rainforest Pavillion under construction (the Gatehouse upgraded) from the Misty Knoll.

which was the first project undertaken by the TRC. These are enhanced by good signage and information boards, and recently have been extended to the Keiller Garden which is rapidly fulfilling its early promise. It has been good to see it being used by picnicking families. The pathways allow the Pukeiti buggy to transport visitors, mainly the less able, through the major garden areas. Rhododendrons and other significant plants throughout the garden have been labelled so that those that catch the eye or are particularly attractive to visitors can be easily identified.

The many changes already under-taken, and those in progress, have certainly created more interest. A few years ago under the Trust's management 10,000 paying visitors a year was the average tally. Last year over 35,000 visited the garden,

including over 800 school pupils from schools throughout Taranaki who completed curricular activities which were planned and taught by TRC staff.

Trust members, through the partnership agreement with the TRC, will continue to play an important role at Pukeiti. In addition to assisting with the funding of projects, undertaking research, helping with garden planning, working bees and guiding of visitors, members play an important role in ensuring the conservation of the forest and the collection of rhododendrons in particular. The Rhododendron Journal will continue to promote Pukeiti and publicize the influence it has in the growing, nationwide, of this great group of plants, in conjunction with the New Zealand Rhododendron Association.

The Lodge has always been the centre of member's activities and the new building will continue to be home for the Trust. Representatives of the Trust are working with the TRC to ensure that the new Lodge is suitable not only for its present purposes, but that it is flexible enough to cater for any varied additional future activities. It will contain a board room, a members lounge, a kitchen, a reception area and a multi-purpose room opening onto a terrace for meetings, luncheons etc. There will be an attached accommodation unit available to members. The new Lodge will be reminiscent of the old and the stone wall in which the flag poles are fitted will remain. It will be set in a garden. It is planned to have costing finalised in time for the project to be included in the TRC's 2017-18 Annual Plan. The Trust will contribute to its cost.

Lynn Bublitz



The proposed new Lodge.



Initial planting in The Vireya House



R. 'Watermelon Crush'

From the Members' Committee,

Welcome to 2017 and another year of activities for our members. This newsletter includes the Members' Plant List and the 2017 Calendar of Events for Pukeiti Members.

For most of this year we will again be without facilities to use at Pukeiti but that does not mean that there are not still many reasons to visit Pukeiti and to stay involved with the garden. As Lynn has already said, much exciting development has and is still taking place in the garden, especially at its entrance.

WORKING BEES

The gardeners still appreciate any help we can give them and hence we continue to timetable working bees into the calendar. The first of these is scheduled for **Saturday 25 February** followed by further ones on **March 22**, **April 29** and **May 24**. We hope many of you will be able to attend at least some of these days. Working bees start at **9:00am** from the Staff Quarters but late-comers are always welcome.

MEMBERS' BBQ

Saturday 25 February BBQ and social get together at Tupare. Local members should have already received their invitations to this event.

If the weather is wet, we will hold it just down the road at 12A Tamati Place. We encourage all members attending to bring a non-member with them.

PLANT SALE DAY

Thursday March 23rd: Plant Sale orders close and we will try to dispatch the out of town orders during the following week. You are again advised to get you orders in quickly to maximise your chances of getting the plants you order.

COLLECTION OF ORDERS

Friday March 31: Plant order collection day for those picking up their plants. Plants will be available for picking up from 12A Tamati Place, Merrilands between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm. If this does not suit you, alternative arrangements can be made by ringing Heather on 06 757 2460 or e-mailing h.robson@xtra.co.nz.



Hydrangeas - a summer feature at Pukeiti

AUTUMN MEMBERS' DAY

Saturday April 01 is our Autumn Member's Day which, after the success of the AGM last year, we are going to hold at Hollard Gardens. It will, though, be a different day. We will again be putting on a bus to get members down to Kaponga but this time we will go via Pukeiti and Graham Smith will give us one of his wonderful guided tours. We will get to see the developments that have occurred since many of you may have last been for a walk around the gardens and Lynn will update us on the plans for the Member's Lodge. It will be so much easier to picture them actually standing on site and I think most of you will be very happy with what is planned.

Back on the bus, we will then head to Hollard Gardens. On arrival, some of you may wish to take a short wander around the garden whilst others may just want to relax with a drink in the Hollard Centre whilst the pot luck lunch is heated to be served shortly afterwards.

After lunch and cleaning up the bus will return to New Plymouth.

We are organising a large bus and we hope to fill it so please keep this date free and join us for the day.

PROGRAMME DETAILS

9:00am

Having parked your car in the TSB Stadium carpark, board the bus for Pukeiti.

9:45am

Guided walk around Pukeiti with Graham and Lynn

Transport to Hollard Gardens

Members are invited to take a stroll around Hollard Gardens or just sit back and relax with a drink in the Hollard Centre whilst lunch is prepared.

Please bring finger food for a shared meal. Tea, coffee and a glass of wine or punch will be provided.

12:00 – 1:00pm Lunch

Free time

The bus will return to arrive in New Plymouth by 4:00pm.

As we will be travelling by bus and our food will be in the hold, please ensure that the food is well wrapped and in a container that will not tip over in transit.



Hydrangea 'Preziosa'



Hydrangea arborescens

Please mark these dates on your calendar

Members' Activities

2017

WORKING BEES

- SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25
- WEDNESDAY MARCH 22
- SATURDAY APRIL 29
- WEDNESDAY MAY 24
- WEDNESDAY JULY 26
- SATURDAY AUGUST 26
- WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27
- WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 22
- SATURDAY DECEMBER 09



PROPAGATION WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY JULY 26 – 9:30AM

Meet in Propagation area. Propagating perennial plants.

MEMBERS' COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday February 07 – 9:30 12 A Tamati Place

Tuesday May 02 – 9:30 12 A Tamati Place

Tuesday September 05 – 9:30 12 A Tamati Place

Tuesday November 14 – 9:30 venue to be confirmed.

BOARD MEETINGS

Friday March 31 – 6:00pm at Govett Quilliam Offices

Friday June 23 – 6:00pm at Govett Quilliam Offices

Friday October 06 – 6:00pm at Govett Quilliam Offices

THURSDAY MARCH 23

PLANT SALE ORDERS CLOSE



Pukeiti

Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Inc.



Postal address: PO Box 1066
New Plymouth 4340

Location: 2290 Carrington Rd. RD4

Secretary
Anne Howard Phone 021 0831 5444
Pukeiti@Pukeiti.com

Chairperson
Gordon Bailey Gordon.Bailey@waide.govt.nz

www.pukeiti.org.nz
is worth a look!

MEETINGS

AUTUMN MEMBERS' DAY

SATURDAY APRIL 01

Pukeiti and then Hollard Gardens for the meeting and lunch. Buses leave racecourse carpark at 9am

SPRING MEMBERS' DAY & AGM

SATURDAY OCTOBER 07

Details later in the year

OTHER ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY JUNE 24

MID - WINTER LUNCH

Please book by Wednesday, June 21

Details later in May Newsletter

MONDAY 04 – WEDNESDAY 27
SEPTEMBER

PUKEITI MEMBERS' TOUR
TO XINJIANG, CHINA.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 15

A selection of members' gardens which are not normally part of the festival will be open for members to visit.

FRIDAY 27 – MONDAY 30 OCTOBER

Rhododendron Conference, Manawatu (based in Feilding).

FRIDAY OCTOBER 27 – SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 05

2017 Taranaki Rhododendron Festival – volunteers needed for manning the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Kiosk.

END OF YEAR BBQ SATURDAY DECEMBER 9

Please book with Secretary Anne Howard - Phone 021 0831 5444

TARANAKI REGIONAL COUNCIL

www.trc.govt.nz

Office hours	Mon-Fri 8am - 5pm	Environmental hotline	0800 736 222
Postal address	Private Bag 713, Stratford 4352	Regional gardens	regional.gardens@trc.govt.nz
Location	47 Cloten Road, Stratford 4332	Greg Rine	Phone: (06) 765 7127 Mobile: 027 240 2470
Phone	0800 736 222 (06) 765 7127	Andrew Brooker	Phone: (06) 765 7127 or Phone (06) 752 4141 Mobile 0210 264 4060
Email	info@trc.govt.nz		



Members' Plant List

Welcome to the plant list for 2017. This year's plant list is somewhat limited due to the fact that most of the rhododendrons being cultivated for us will not be ready for sale for another year and Woodleigh Nursery do not have plants available to contribute to our list this year.

The good news is that the Tawa Glen Rhododendrons are larger and will have better root systems than those you have bought in the past. They will be in 2.5L pots. The down side to this is that postage will be more expensive so please read the table opposite carefully as it is different to that of previous years.

Again we have on offer plants that have not been propagated especially for members but rather plants that have been propagated for the TRC Gardens and are surplus to their needs. There are only 2 – 5 of each of these plants available. If the description of the plant has 'ss' at the end, it means it is one of these, and you need to order it quickly. Remember we work on a first come, first served basis so if you really want one of the plants I strongly suggest ordering immediately by return mail.

I continue to keep a record of those plants where demand exceeds supply and, if they are not readily available from garden centres, I'll try to get more of these plants propagated the following year. That way, if you miss out on your wanted plant this year, there will be another opportunity to purchase it in 2 -3 years time. It means that even if you missed out on the plants you wanted last year, there is still a good reason to send in a plant order, because if you miss out again this year your order will activate the repeat propagation of that plant. If you don't order it we will be unaware of the demand for it from our members.

The letter attached to the number will indicate where it has been sourced from:

P = Pukeiti;

T = Tara Glen Nursery;

O = Members' Garden surplus.

We do encourage members ordering plants to collect them in person, if possible. This optimises the condition of the plants you receive and decreases the cost to you. Plants can be collected from 12A Tamati Place, New Plymouth on Friday 31 March or by alternative arrangements made with Heather Robson. For those who can't collect their own order we will again be using Fastway Couriers. They have provided us and you with an excellent service over the past decade but should there be any problem with the delivery product then please tell the courier first before notifying Pukeiti.

All plants are believed to be correctly named and true to description but no guarantees are given in this respect as the descriptions given are based on research and not intimate knowledge of the parent plants. Plants grown from seed may vary considerably from the typical appearance of the species. Size and flowering is a rough guide and can vary according to local conditions.

Please use the guide below to allow enough for the freight on your limited open order cheque. There is no minimum order required..

Postage & Packaging	Plants	Freight	Plants	Freight	Plants	Freight
Short Haul (Taranaki)	1-5	\$12.00	6-10	\$24.00	10-15	\$33.00
Rest of N.I	1-5	\$15.00	6-10	\$30.00	11-15	\$41.00
Mainland S.I.	1-5	\$25.00	6-10	\$50.00	11-15	\$68.00
Rural delivery	<i>An additional charge of \$5.50 for every 5 plants or part thereof ordered, for all areas</i>					

PAYMENT by limited open cheque. Write across the top of the cheque

'Limited to \$.....'

(The dollar amount you put in that space is the maximum amount you have worked out that your order could cost and the maximum amount your cheque can be made out for.)

Make your cheque payable to **Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust** and **sign** and **cross** it in the normal way. Your cheque will then be filled in by us after processing for the actual value of plants supplied and the actual freight it will cost. You will receive a receipt for the exact amount your cheque has been made out for so you can keep track of your actual spending.

Rhododendrons - Species

- 1T *R. elliotii*: 10 to 15 deep crimson or scarlet flowers are held in attractive tight, rounded trusses. Dark shiny green leaves. Hardy. Pukeiti form from late Kingdon Ward collection, N E India. Up to 3m. Early to late November. \$20.00
-
- 2P *R. fastigiatum*: A very hardy dwarf blue from N & C Yunnan (3,200 – 4,900m). Peter Cox describes it as “one of the best and easiest of dwarfs, making a neat, compact bush with excellent glaucous foliage”. In the wild it can be found happily growing in disturbed, exposed habitats where it tolerates full sun. Up to 1m, usually under 60cm. \$15.00
-
- 3P *R. iteophyllum* Brodick form: Now sunk into *R. formosum* it is a distinctive narrow leaved Maddenia, compact habit with pink flushed white flowers, scented. 1.5m. \$20.00
-
- 4P *R. laguncularpum*: The only vireya on our list is a native of Indonesia, which grows into a much branched shrub with small leaves. Small (about 2cm long) orange, bell-shaped flowers hang in trusses of 4-6. Rare (ss). 2m. \$20.00
-
- 5P *R. veitchianum*: The relatively large, white frilly flowers are wonderfully fragrant. The flowers tend to have a greenish hue in bud and open with a pale yellow throat. The plant can be kept bushy and the attractive oval leaves are offset nicely by the red, papery bark on trunk and branches. Being a Maddenia it is not particularly frost hardy but on the positive side it is more thrip resistant. If your area is prone to heavy frosts I would strongly suggest providing some protection especially when young. 1.5m. \$15.00

Rhododendrons – Hybrids

- 6P *R. 'Barbara Jury'*: A vigorous shrub with dark glossy foliage and brown indumentum. The scented soft yellow trumpet-shaped flowers are darker yellow on the outside and also have a darker throat. 5-6 flowers per truss. (ss). 2m November. \$15.00
-
- 7P *R. 'Butterhorn'*: An American Maddenia hybrid with an upright habit, bronze new growth and fine bright yellow trumpet shaped flowers in late spring. 1.8m. November - December. \$15.00
-
- 8T *R. 'Cherry Cheesecake'*: Large pure white flowers with ruffled vivid pink edges and a flair of deep burgundy on the upper lobe. Large deep green leaves on a compact shrub that has a mounding growth habit. A stunning accent plant. Grows best with some afternoon shade. 2-3m. Spring. \$20.00
-
- 9P *R. 'Floral Gift'*: [*'Michael's Pride'* (*burmanicum* x *dalhousiae*) x *polyandrum*.] A Mark Jury hybrid which grows into a compact shrub, especially if pruned after flowering. 'Floral Gift' is delightfully perfumed and the flowers are heavy-textured in creamy white, flushed pink with a green to yellow throat. (ss). 1.8m. \$15.00
-
- 10P *R. 'Frosted Ice'* - *Ayakushmanum* x *aberconwayi* hybrid bred at Pukeiti from open pollinated seed and named by Graham Smith. It has a nice compact habit. The pure white flowers are held in tight trusses above attractive, dark green foliage. 1m. Mid-season. \$15.00
-
- 11P *R. 'Homestead'*: (*griersonianum* x 'Ilam Alarm') A New Zealand (Ilam) hybrid 'Homestead' is a compact grower to 2m. The deep red flowers are held in rounded trusses and are very prolific. (ss). 2m October. \$15.00
-
- 12P *R. 'Kaka'*: (*griersonianum* x 'Ilam Alarm') Another Stead hybrid from same cross as above. Vigorous lax habit to 2m x 3m. Wonderful rounded trusses of 12-14 crimson-red, funnel-shaped flowers. Prefers some shade. (ss) 2m. \$15.00
-
- 13T *R. 'Lemon Lodge'*: Pukeiti bred and registered. Soft lemon-yellow flowers with tiny spots in the throat are held in full trusses against large, light green leaves. 1.5m. October – November. \$20.00
-
- 14P *R. 'Manapouri Sunrise'*: NZ hybrid, compact habit with soft hairy leaves. Floriferous nature with pink and white flowers smothering the plant. October flowering, grows to 1m in ten years.(ss). \$15.00
-
- 15P *R. 'My Pretty One'*: (*R. moupinense* x *R. carneum*) A compact rambling shrub with attractive, mahogany coloured peeling bark. Flowers open-trumpet shaped, apple blossom pink, fading to almost white with lightly flecked flare. (ss). 1m. Early. \$15.00
-
- 16T *R. 'Rubicon'*: Brilliant deep red blooms form a good rounded truss. Compact and slow growing with outstanding textured foliage. One of the best reds and tolerates warmer weather better than many rhododendrons though thrips prone. 1.5m. Mid-season. \$20.00
-
- 17T *R. 'Vandec'*: ('Van Nes Sensation' x *decorum*) hybrid. Large, well-formed trusses of pastel mauve-pink scented flowers. Vigorous grower but has a tidy habit and stays nicely under control. Very frost hardy. 1.5m. October. \$20.00

Trees & Shrubs

- 18P *Cavendishia accuminata*: An attractive shrub from the Andes mountains of Columbia and Ecuador. The new growth on its gracefully pendulous branches is tinged pink to coral red. From late spring through to autumn showy, bright red tubular flowers, with pale green tips are borne in short racemes. Like its close relatives, agapetes, leucothoe & pieris, it likes organically enriched, slightly acidic soils so is an ideal companion plant to rhododendrons. Frost tender. \$12.00
-
- 19P *Clethra monostachya*: a synonym of *Clethra delavayi*. A deciduous shrub or small tree with medium green foliage and attractive autumn colour. The scented flowers are white and produced in terminal, hebe-like racemes that are usually solitary (or triple) and 10 – 20 cm long. Flowers attractive to bees, butterflies and birds. Grows best in mildly acidic soils and when provided with part shade. Late summer flowers. \$12.00
-
- 20P *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Red Start': A delightful lacecap which forms a dense shrub with textured, saucer shaped, mid-green leaves that colours in autumn. The large flowers form on two year old wood in summer. The sterile flowers around the outside of the flower-head have spiralled dark red sepals (a rich purple in acidic soils). The true flowers in the middle are two toned white and red (white and blue). Hardy 1.5m (ss). 2 year old cuttings from Pukeiti. \$12.00
-
- 21P *Illicium lanceolatum* - Lance-leaved anise shrub: A small upright, pyramidal tree with evergreen, leathery narrow leaves that are aromatic when crushed. The small flowers are pale yellow, late spring. The star-shaped seed capsules are not edible like the related *Illicium verum* or true Star Anise. A hardy plant not usually available for sale it prefers a position with some shade. (ss). 2m. \$15.00
-
- 22P *Spiraea japonica* 'Bumalda': A dense, deciduous shrub with sharply toothed small oval leaves. The new foliage in spring is tinted pinkish-purple, matures to bright green in summer and finally turns purplish-bronze in autumn. Tiny pink flowers in flat-topped clusters smother the bush from late spring to mid-summer. The flowers are attractive to butterflies. Typically the bush is 1m tall by 1.5m wide. (ss). \$15.00

Perennials

- 23P *Alchemilla mollis*: Every garden benefits from having the beautiful foliage effect this useful perennial provides. Mounds of velvety soft olive-green scalloped leaves catch and hold droplets of water that resemble mercury as they shimmer in the sun and in summer, sprays of chartreuse flowers sit in a frothy haze above the leaves. Excellent for edging or planted en-masse for groundcover. It is easy-care, growing in sun or shade and tolerates most soils. Cut back after blooming to tidy clumps for rest of the season and divide clumps in spring or early autumn. \$6.00
-
- 25P *Gladiolus fusco-purpureus*: Unusual small gladiolus with hooded buff coloured flowers with deep purple blotch in centre. Easy to grow and flowers January for good picking as stems are up to 1.2m. \$6.00
-
- 26P *Hosta* 'Lime Lights': A medium hosta with chartreuse-green leaves changing to yellow with a white margin. The flowers are pale lavender 35 to 45 cm in height. \$6.00
-
- 27P *Hosta* – This was potted up as *Hosta* 'Buckshaw Blue' but has grown into a mix of large of hostas with lime-green leaves many with creamy variegations. As these will have died down when we pack them we cannot guarantee which variation you will receive so if you are willing to take a chance and just want a hosta to fill a space this could be the plant for you. \$3.00
-
- 28P *Hyacinthoides hispanica* - Spanish bluebells: Similar in many ways to the English bluebell, the flowers of the Spanish bluebell are larger, a lighter blue (a delicate shade of pale blue), and the bells are all around the stem (not just on one side). The flower stalk grows to about 30cm, is sturdier and held upright making it an excellent cut flower. It quickly forms a tidy clump with tight clusters of flower-heads surrounded by wide mid-green leaves. It grows happily in both shade and more open sunny positions. \$6.00
-
- 29P *Iris* 'Holden Clough': The yellow flowers with purple veining have, from a distance, a brown appearance making them an exotic addition to the garden and of interest for floral art. They are held just above the rich green coloured foliage on 70cm stems. Considered a 'water or bog iris' it is not restricted to water conditions. As long as it is kept moist over summer until it becomes established, it can be grown in normal beds but in this situation will appreciate a bit of midday dappled shade. \$6.00
-
- 30P *Iris* – unknown purple iris from the perennial border at Pukeiti. It is an *Iris ensata* or Japanese iris hybrid and in common with this species it has large purple, beardless flowers, typically 8-15 cm across, and sword-shaped linear leaves with a prominent midrib up to 60cm long. \$6.00
-
- 31P *Liriope muscari*: A clump forming evergreen perennial with deep green, glossy, grass-like leaves. Spikes of purple flowers sit amongst the foliage from late spring into summer. A popular landscaping plant as it makes a great ground cover and can also be used for borders and informal edging. Best in partial shade and tolerates dry. 35cm x 40cm. \$6.00
-
- 32P *Omphalodes cappadocica*: We didn't have enough of these in 2014 so we're offering them again this year. A great plant for cool, moist semi-shaded areas. It rapidly forms good tight clumps of bright green, heart shaped leaves and in spring it produces a mass of true blue, forget-me-not flowers in clusters of 15cm -20cm stems. Its foliage is evergreen so it acts as a great ground cover, looks good planted as a drift under trees and it also makes a lovely border plant. \$6.00