



The New Zealand Rhododendron Association Inc.

# Rhodenza

## TARANAKI 2023

### 'Celebrating Rhododendrons'

24-27 October 2023

Plymouth International Hotel, New Plymouth



## Registration Information

Please return the enclosed form with your payment advice to the registrar.

Hosted by



**Pukeiti**  
Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Inc.



**Taranaki**  
Regional Council



Taranaki  
Rhododendron  
& Garden Group

# Accommodation



Rhodenza Taranaki 2023 will be based at Plymouth International Hotel, New Plymouth and all buses will start from there.

## **Plymouth International Hotel**

220 Courtenay Street  
New Plymouth 4312  
Taranaki, New Zealand

Tel: 06 759 9128  
reservations@plymouth.co.nz

## **Booking**

A special rate of \$179 per room has been arranged at Plymouth International Hotel. Please mention Rhodenza Taranaki 2023 when booking.

*A range of other accommodation is available nearby.*

## Invitation

# Rhodenza

## TARANAKI 2023

*The 77th Annual Conference  
of the NZ Rhododendron  
Association.*



## 24-27 October 2023

*Hosted by the Taranaki Regional Council, the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust  
and the Taranaki Rhododendron & Garden Group.*

We invite you to Taranaki to share our wonderful gardens at Rhodenza Taranaki 2023. It is twelve years since NZRA met here so we have new private gardens to show you as well as the old favourites. We will be visiting the very best gardens in the province.

On the first day we travel south to look at South Taranaki gardens and the programme ensures that everyone enjoys a drive around Taranaki Maunga.

We will spend time at Pukeiti which has had major changes since 2011. A full programme of a talk, walks, and a visit to the nursery has been arranged.

We encourage you to take this opportunity to extend your visit to Taranaki and to take in the ten-day Taranaki Garden Festival which starts on Friday October 27, the last day of Rhodenza 2023.

It looks like a great flowering season for rhododendrons as the 'bud set' is excellent. As we experience weather suitable for growing magnificent rhododendrons, it is necessary to come prepared with good wet weather gear. We look forward to seeing you.

Andrew Brooker - TRC

Lynn Bublitz - Pukeiti

Yvonne King - TRGG

**Airport transport.** If you are flying into New Plymouth please include your arrival time on your registration form. We will endeavour to meet all planes on Tuesday 24 October.

**Bloom display.** Bring entries for the bloom display. Vases and cards will be available from 1.00 pm on Tuesday 24 October.

**Auction at the Rhodenza dinner.** A number of special plants will be on offer. We would be most grateful for donations of suitable plants.

**PLEASE NOTE.** Registrations are limited to the first 150 people. Get in early!

# PROGRAMME SUMMARY

## Tuesday 24 October

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If you arrive early take the chance to visit other gardens:

- ▶ **Pukekura Park**, Liardet Street, New Plymouth
- ▶ **Tupare**, Taranaki Regional Council, Mangorei Road
- ▶ **Te Henui Cemetery**, Hobson and Lemon Streets
- ▶ **Neil and Linda Tapsell**, 92 Ridgewood Drive – Open today for Rhodenza

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**1.00pm**    **Bloom display set up**  
*Organised by the Taranaki Rhododendron & Garden Group*

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**3.00pm**    **Registration opens at Plymouth International Hotel**  
*Please collect your Rhodenza bag and plant*

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**6.00pm**    **Rhodenza Opening**  
Gather at Plymouth International Hotel for a buffet dinner – cash bar.  
**Speakers:** NZRA President Sue Davies,  
Rhodenza Chairman Andrew Brooker.  
**Keynote speaker** – Steve Hootman  
Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden, USA.  
**Introduction to Taranaki** – Charlotte Littlewood, Chair, Taranaki  
Regional Council.  
*Please note: A meal is included in your full registration.*

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## Wednesday 25 October – South Taranaki Gardens

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**8.30am**    **Buses leave for South Taranaki.** Lunch at Hollard Gardens

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- ▶ **Cairnhill Garden** – June and Colin Lees
- ▶ **Puketarata Garden** – Jennifer and Ken Horner
- ▶ **Hollard Gardens** – Taranaki Regional Council
- ▶ **Gravetye** – John and Jenny Pease
- ▶ **Oakley Garden** – Jenny and Guy Oakley

**Buses return to Plymouth International Hotel by 5.00pm**

**Free evening.** Dinner – own arrangements.

*Please note: While New Plymouth is well off  
for good cafes and restaurants booking is advised.*

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## Thursday 26 October – Pukeiti and Hurworth Gardens

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**8.30am** Buses leave for Pukeiti – Taranaki Regional Council.

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Talks, workshops, guided walks, lunch and the NZRA Annual General Meeting.

*Full details in your Rhodenza booklet*

**Speakers:**

**Steve Hootman**

Species Botanical Garden, USA

**Laurence Frost**

Farmlands, New Plymouth

‘Chemicals in Horticulture’

**Chris Thompson**

Bioforce Limited, Auckland

‘Biological Control of Plant Pests’



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**From 2pm** Buses leave for garden visits

▶ **Hurworth Country Garden** – Jan and Graeme Worthington

▶ **Saxton Sanctuary** – Kim and Owen Howell

*Buses return to Plymouth International Hotel by 4.30pm*

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**6.00pm** **Rhodenza dinner and auction**  
**Plymouth International Hotel**

**Dinner Speaker:** Lynn Bublitz – ‘The Evolution of Rhododendrons’

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## Friday 27 October – North Taranaki Gardens

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**8.30am** Buses leave for North Taranaki gardens

▶ **Tawa Glen Nursery** – Ian and Wendy Swan

▶ **Riverlea** – Ann and Vince Naus

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**11.00am** **Lunch and Rhodenza conclusion**

**Talk:** Abbie Jury

This will be special – don’t miss it! Details later

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**1.00pm** **Garden visit**

▶ **Tikorangi The Jury Garden**

– Mark and Abbie Jury

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# RHODENZA 2023 GARDENS

## Wednesday 25 October South Taranaki

### Cairnhill Garden – June and Colin Lees – Toko

The well planted driveway introduces this mature country garden. June and Colin have developed it over the last 56 years and they are still trying something new. Their dedication has led to a profusion of colour at every turn. A series of garden rooms highlight special plants with a range of edging plants defining the layered borders.

### Puketarata Garden – Jennifer and Ken Horner – Ngawhini Rd

Spectacular views are a feature of this hilltop property which is sophisticated and well planted. The spacious garden merges with its planted hillside and the native bush. The house is well integrated into the garden and a parterre and unusual sculptures add interest.

### Hollard Gardens – Taranaki Regional Council – Manaia Rd

Established by Bernie Hollard in 1927 this 4.5 ha garden features an immense international range of plants as well as many rare and unusual natives. Even the most experienced gardener can discover something new here. Bernie raised one of New Zealand's most successful rhododendrons; look out for the early flowering red, *R. 'Kaponga'*.

### Gravetye – John and Jenny Pease – Manawapou Road

Gravetye is different! This dramatic garden has been carefully designed by the owners over the last 17 years and they have adapted ideas from their

extensive travels into a New Zealand setting. Wide avenues edged by clipped hedges radiate from the house and feature different plantings and unusual geometric features which focus the eye. This garden will get you talking!

### Oakley Garden – Jenny and Guy Oakley – Lower Normanby Rd

If ever there was a garden stalwart, Jenny is it. Supported by Guy, she has opened her garden for the Taranaki Garden Festival since its inception in 1987. Mature trees give this large family garden protection from the salt laden southerly winds and allow it to thrive. The spectacular *Xeronema*, the Poor Knights Lily, was one of their favourite plants from the early days. Other features include brick walls and pillars, cottage style plantings, early flowering roses, vegetable potager and Jenny's iconic hanging baskets.

## Thursday 26 October Pukeiti and Hurworth

### Pukeiti – Taranaki Regional Council – Carrington Rd

An NZGT 'Garden of National Significance'. Long the mecca of rhododendron lovers in New Zealand, Pukeiti is the jewel in the crown of Taranaki gardens. Today Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust has a partnership with the Taranaki Regional Council which now owns the garden. The extensive property is 72 years old and is a well-established, mature garden. Enjoy more than 10,000 rhododendrons and azaleas in a unique setting of the rain forest and mountain streams. For many the 'bush' is the main attraction.

Drifts of primulas, hostas, bluebells and the world renowned vireya collection complete the magic that is Pukeiti.

### **Hurworth Country Garden – Jan and Graeme Worthington – Carrington Rd**

This graceful country garden, packed with flourishing beds, borders and mass plantings has been developed around a beautifully restored 1910 villa. Special features include an interestingly designed summer house, extensive lawns, established native and exotic trees, formal and woodland plantings, brick and stone walls and a fountain. *Featured in NZ House and Garden magazine.*

### **Saxton Sanctuary – Kim and Owen Howell – Saxton Rd**

Members will be pleased to see this garden open again. This 40 year-old woodland property is the legacy of renowned Taranaki plantsman, Les Taylor. His vision is now very evident as the garden has matured and Kim and Owen have done a great job in making the most of the early plantings. Set among an extensive range of established trees, colour is provided by rhododendrons, azaleas, astilbes and irises. Hostas flourish beside the pond alongside burgundy and red maples.

## **Friday 27 October North Taranaki.**

### **Tawa-Glen Nursery – Ian and Wendy Swan – Richmond Rd, Brixton**

If you think rhododendrons are going out of fashion you should talk to Ian

and Wendy. Their thriving immaculately cared for nursery produces a range of rhododendrons and other plants for independent garden centres and they sell all they can produce. The nursery is strictly wholesale but plants can be bought at the nearby Big Jims Garden Centre.

### **Riverlea – Ann and Vince Naus – Corbett Road**

Now retired from their garden centre, Ann and Vince both have a great love of plants, which shows in this extensive garden. Planting ranges from a formal Long walk with its herbaceous borders to a cottage garden around the house and an interesting, wilder native area beside the Mangaoraka Stream.

### **Tikorangi The Jury Garden – Mark and Abbie Jury – Otaraoa Rd**

The unique rimu avenue dating back 150 years sets the standard for this historic garden. Mark and Abbie took over from Mark's father, Felix in the 1980s and the garden continues to develop. The dramatic Summer Garden opened in 2020 and the Wild North Garden is now open. Mark and Abbie believe a garden should be sustainable, environmentally sound and aesthetically pleasing and they have achieved this to a remarkable degree. This garden is no longer open during the Taranaki Garden Festival so this is a good chance to see one of Taranaki's most significant gardens.



Early flowering R. 'Kaponga'.



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