

The Magazine of the Friends of Pukekura Park

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Beautiful, lush spring foliage of *podophyllum*
'Kaleidoscope' growing in Stainton Dell.

Photo Derek Hughes

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The Recreation Grounds Maze

Ian Hutchinson
Botanical Records Officer

Did you know that at one time Pukekura Park had a maze? In fact the maze existed during the last decade of the nineteenth century, to be precise. It was the idea and brainchild of New Plymouth local Mr Archibald Hood who approached the Recreation Grounds Board and put forward his idea.

As reported in the 5 September 1892 edition of the Taranaki Herald on page 2: "Mr Hood waited on the Board and submitted a plan for a 'maze', which he and others proposed to set in the Grounds. The Board accepted the suggestion, and decided to offer Mr Hood and those interested every facility to carry the idea into execution."

By the following month things had moved along and were obviously ready to go. The October 6 1892 Taranaki Herald printing the following: "It will be remembered that some time ago Mr A. Hood interested himself in making 'a maze', an intricate walk formed by planting a hedge in a coil shape, in the Recreation Grounds. Permission was obtained from the Recreation Grounds Board to carry out the work, and Mr Hood soon set to work to accomplish the project. Under Mr Hood's supervision 'a maze' of box thorn (between 3,000 and 4,000 roots being used) has been made towards the head of the gully above the lakelet. In a few years this work should prove an especial attraction to the grounds."

The mind boggles somewhat at the thought of a maze being formed using box thorn, *Lycium ferocissimum*, and in such numbers as 3,000 to 4,000 roots or plants. It would have been formidably prickly and ferocious as the species name of this plant, 'ferocissimum', would surely imply, with box thorn being one of the prickliest hedging plants imaginable. The Taranaki Herald newspaper on 23 May 1893 suggests that the hedges must have established quickly: "The 'maze' that has been formed at the southern end of the reserve will, in the course of a couple of years, be one of the attractions of the place, as the box thorn hedges are growing vigorously." Interestingly, in the same newspaper article mention is made about the formation of a new 'lakelet', which is a reference to the lake that we know of today as Fountain Lake.

Obviously having a feature such as a maze has costs associated with it and a report in the Taranaki Herald dated 4 December 1893, about a meeting of the Recreation Grounds Board, says: "Mr C. Edgecombe's account, £3/3 for labour at the maze was passed for payment. The Board resolved that no further expenses in connection with the maze be incurred for six months." (Mr C Edgecombe was the custodian for the park at the time.)

In order to help the board with the costs involved with the maze, Mr Hood took it upon himself to help out by writing a story for sale to raise money for upkeep of the maze, which is noted in the Taranaki Herald on August 9 1894: "Mr A Hood has now in press a novelette, entitled 'Johnny Fro, a fairy tale with a tragical wind up in New Plymouth Recreation Grounds,' which will be published shortly." On October 15 1894, Mr Hood's story was advertised in the Taranaki Herald: "To the Public. To assist in partially recouping outlay connected with the Maze in the Recreation Ground, the local Fairy Tale of Johnny Fro is now being sold by the publisher (Mr T Avery) and others in the trade, at the very moderate charge of Sixpence. Freely should this entire price forgo, the tale to buy of Johnny Fro and those its worth deem cost amends, may further buy to post to friends."

On 3 December 1894 had the Taranaki Herald publishing this: "JOHNNY FRO; A FAIRY TALE. We have received from the author, Mr A Hood, a little book bearing the title of 'Johnny Fro; a fairy tale with a tragical wind up in the New Plymouth Recreation Ground'. The tale is supposed to have emanated for the brain of a 'sixth standard boy', just recovering from 'some sort of fever' which had been the means of laying him up for a fortnight. Johnny Fro finds himself in the Rec 'one clear night' and whilst leaning over the rail of the Poet's Bridge, thinking of nothing in particular, he sees a young lady with a horse, who introduces herself as Marimmemonia Breenge. She asks Johnny to look after her horse whilst she goes on an errand, which he does, and on her return sees the young lady safely off. On going home Johnny finds himself surrounded by fairies, who describe themselves: 'We are folks jolly, who scorn melancholy, and never a wrangle e'er causes a strike. Ay! we are the fairies controlling the

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dairies, and turn from the churn any butter we like'. After such a night as he had with the 'wee people' it is not surprising to find that Johnny found himself in bed next morning, but being of adventurous disposition we are told he got up and dressed himself and was soon ready to seek fresh novelties. He again meets Miss Marimmemonia, who tells him her father is 'going to put her up to the highest bidder for her hand'. Johnny, who had got quite smitten with the young lady, determined to secure her, and with the assistance of the fairies lays down before the girl's father gold enough for the purpose. Johnny and his sweetheart find themselves together again in the 'Rec' and Miss Marimmemonia suggests they should be married in 'the Maze'. A rival claimant for the girl's hand appears, but the fairies soon settle his claim by turning him into an islet, which goes by the name of Novey-yea, even to this very day. The purport of this little book – to draw attention to 'the Maze' in the Recreation Grounds, which Mr A Hood has taken a great interest in – and the revenue derived from the sale of the brochure will go towards recouping the author for the very great outlay he has taken in connection with the maze. The book is to be obtained from all good booksellers, and we hope soon to hear that the edition is out of print."

However towards the end of 1895 things in relation to the maze were starting to become complicated. In the 9 November 1895 letters to the editor: "An appeal for the Maze: To the Editor. Sir, seeing in your column an appeal for assistance to maintain the maze at the Recreation Grounds from Mr A. Hood, I sincerely hope the public will cheerfully respond, and enable Mr Hood to complete the task he has undertaken to keep the maze in order until sufficient growth is obtained, and it is fit to hand over to the Recreation Board, when, no doubt, it will be a source of revenue to them and endless amusement to the public. Hitherto Mr Hood has done the work of weeding, trimming and keeping in order personally, but failing health prevents him from further exertions of this nature and it now becomes the question whether a little timely assistance from the public will allow us to have a maze in our beautiful grounds or merely an overgrown mass of weeds, I am, G. W. Browne." In the December 7 1895 edition of the Taranaki Herald, it shows: "Mr A Hood wrote, informing the board that owing to illness he reluctantly compelled to hand over the further conservation of the maze. The Board decided, that the thanks of the Board be tendered to Mr A Hood for his past services and labour in planting and the attention to the maze, and the Board regret that, owing to illness he is unable to render any further assistance." In the same paper in the advertisements column: "We are asked to state that Mr Austin has been employed today (Saturday) by Mr G. W. Browne to continue the work of putting the maze in the Recreation Grounds in order. On Monday he will be employed by Mr R. Bayley and as it will still take some five or six days to complete the work, Mr E. Humphries will be glad to receive the names of others who are willing to contribute." In the 11 December 1895 Taranaki Herald it says: "Mr H.F. Knight has employed Mr Austen at the maze in the Recreation Grounds today. At least three or four more days work is required to finish the job and unless someone rolls up this evening Mr Austen will have to do the work on 'spec' tomorrow."

It would appear that despite all the efforts, mentioned above, to keep the maze going it probably all became too difficult to find and fund labour because as the Taranaki Herald 11 August 1900 indicates, the maze was obviously no more: "The custodian reported that a good deal of planting had been carried out during the month, 200 native trees being put down around the site of the old maze."

So where was the maze situated within the park? It was actually situated roughly where Rhododendron Dell is now and it is specifically mentioned in reply to correspondence that took place between a local resident and the Board via letters to the editor relating to the extension of the main lake.

On January 27 1908 it is reported in the Taranaki Herald that there are plans to extend the main lake: "During the past few weeks a notable transformation has been effected by the Pukekura Park Board. Some little time ago the Board had placed at its disposal a sum of £300 through the large-heartedness of members of a well known local family, and it was decided that this very acceptable sum should be devoted to a permanent improvement in the form of an extension to the large lake. Plans were prepared by Mr S. Percy Smith, F.R.G.S., and under this gentleman's supervision the work has been successfully carried out." The completion of this project obviously piqued the interest of a local resident, who commended the Board on this project via a letter to the editor in the January 29 1908 Taranaki Herald: "(To the Editor) Sir, after reading your description of the work approaching completion in the park, I thought that as some time had elapsed since my last visit I could not do better than have a stroll round and see what the Board have been doing. As you say, a very striking improvement has been effected, and the extension of the large lake will add greatly to the beauty of the already lovely domain. It is evident that whoever laid out the new work is a master in his art and that the Board is most fortunate in its advisers. But I

hope matters will not be permitted to stand still, for there is much to be done to give a finish to this new piece of water. There is a good deal of work needed in the way of finish to this new piece of water. There is a good deal of work needed in the way of lowering, grading and otherwise improving the paths which run round it, and beautiful effects may be produced by the judicious planting of its banks with flowers and shrubs. Then, too, there is one spot near the upper end of the lake, which appears to have been created specially as the site for a bridge like the one we used all to be familiar with on the willow pattern plate. Such a bridge would be quite a unique and fitting embellishment and I commend the idea to the Board's consideration – I am, etc X.Y.Z.”

The Board chairman Mr Corkill replied to the correspondent's letter in the Taranaki Herald dated January 30 1908 and clearly references the location of the maze: “(To the Editor) Sir, - The appreciative remarks of your correspondent, 'X Y Z,' are gratefully noted. The Board is doing its best with the means at its disposal to maintain the park, as the finest domain in the Dominion, but unfortunately financial considerations prevent us from carrying out our friend's suggestions and a good many other improvements which we have in view. The windfall which we had to expend was £200 – not £300 as the Herald had it a few days ago – and this has all gone now, and we are nearly up to the overdraft limit which the Bank allows us on the personal guarantee of certain of the Trustees. If some good soul will give us the 'willow-pattern' bridge, or the means to build it, we will gladly reserve for him a line on the open page of the book of Deceased Benefactors. The same distinction awaits the public-spirited citizen (or citizeness) who will give us £25 for the purpose of lowering the path round the extension of the lake and depositing the soil where the maze used to be. We want to lay out a beautiful garden there, and that swamp stuff will make an ideal mould for growing flowers and flowering shrubs. I shall be very pleased to tell any liberally minded friends of other directions in which spare cash can be advantageously laid out for the public weal– I am etc., F P Corkill, Chairman, Board of Trustees January 29th 1908.”



Photo Derek Hughes

Rhododendron Dell - imagine this full of box thorn!

David George Medway LLB, FLS, MRSNZ (1939 - 2013)

Ron Lambert

This issue of the Friends *Magazine* marks three years since the sudden death of that doyen of the Friends of Pukekura Park, Dave Medway, on 3 October 2013.

David's contribution to the Friends and the Park was immense. He became a member and joined the committee in 2006 and was elected President from 2009 until his death. He was also the editor and a major contributor - both in articles and photographs - to this *Magazine* for a number of years. As many will know, David's knowledge of the history, ecology and environment of Pukekura Park and Brooklands was vast and encyclopaedic.

Apart from his magazine articles, over the years he also compiled a meticulously researched *Catalogue of Significant Plants in Pukekura Park* which includes the identification and history of more than 500 noteworthy specimens in the park.

Dave was born in New Plymouth, the elder son of George and Connie Medway. He was educated at New Plymouth Boys' High School and later obtained an LLB at Victoria University in 1964. The following year he returned to New Plymouth and began his legal career with Billing and Co - the firm he remained with as a partner until his retirement in 1998. In 1965 he and Carole Lamont married and they had three daughters - Natalie, Patricia and Heidi.

Although the law was his profession and he was appointed a Notary Public in 1979, his major passion was the natural sciences - especially ornithology. He joined the Ornithological Society of New Zealand - now Birds New Zealand - and Royal Forest & Bird Society as a schoolboy in 1955. He was also, at various times, a member or office-holder of the Taranaki Alpine Club (he made over 50 ascents of the mountain), the Taranaki Caving Club and many other professional societies including the Friends of Alexander Turnbull Library, the Ecological Society of N.Z., the Royal Australasian Ornithologist's Union and the Friends of Taranaki Museum. He also served as Deputy Chair of New Plymouth Girls' High School Board of Trustees and as member and President of the Taranaki Club.

David was, from 1968 to 1981, a valued member of the National Parks and Reserves Authority, a member of the Fauna Protection Advisory Council, an executive member and councillor of the Forest and Bird Protection Society as well as its Taranaki branch President.

The Ornithological Society remained, however, his major interest. As related above, he was a member of the society from 1955 and was the Taranaki Regional Representative from 1965 to 1973 and again from 1981 to 2000. He was a member of the OSNZ's National Council from 1998 to 2007 and served as President of the society from 2000 to 2006.

Few locals, though, were fully aware of David's standing in the international ornithological field. He was granted a Fellowship of the Linnean Society (FLS) in 1979 - a singular honour for what he described at the time as "a leisure time occupation". His work on the ornithology of James Cook's voyages was of international standing and he presented his researches to a number of conferences overseas.

A list of his well-over 30 published papers covers four pages - and that's without his books on Common New Zealand Shorebirds (2000), Sea and Shore Birds of New Zealand (2002) and *The Birds of Pukeiti* (2006) the latter a major ecological study of the birds of the property. He also co-authored the Ornithological Society's Checklist of the Birds of New Zealand (2010) and contributed the avian annotations for Dr Michael Hoare's monumental edit of naturalist, George Forster's journal, from James Cook's second voyage to the Pacific.

He and Carole made several trips overseas to study Cook material - working on archives in Australia, Britain, Sweden and France in 1974 and Tahiti in 1977.

In 2012 he received the Robert Falla Memorial Award from the Ornithological Society.

I first met David on my return to Taranaki in 1972, when I joined the local branch of the OSNZ and for many years our families were close friends.

In those heady days of our youth, weekend birding field trips were to overwhelmingly intriguing and often remote places - the mountain and the inland hills, lakes tucked away in distant valleys, river mouths from the Waitotara to the Mokau, and a sublime one to Tahora where we awakened in the bush to the dawn chimes of some of the last surviving Taranaki kokako.

After his retirement in 1998 David spent many hours in Pukekura and Brooklands observing and recording aspects of the wildlife and botany of the valleys. He also worked for hours in Puke Ariki and the Council researching the many metres of Park's records held there. It was from these records and researches that he produced his articles in the Friends' newsletters.

David was passionate about the ecology of the park and its management. The legacy of DGM continues to reverberate around the corridors of Council power when his researches and his name are recalled in discussions. His work can seldom be questioned. It is to be hoped that it will continue to be utilised for many decades to come!

Haere Rawiri – Haere Haere Haere.



David Medway
Kaitake Trig
Egmont National Park
Aug 1977

Photo Ron Lambert



David doing something he did so well - leading a Park walk.

Fungi in the Park

Val Smith

Autumn is the season for fungi, and although they were not abundant in the park this year, there were enough to keep my interest up and camera out. They are there all the time of course, but until their presence is betrayed by the appearance of the spore-bearing fruit bodies, most spend the greater part of their life cycle as a tangle of fine threads called hyphae, buried from sight. The aggregate tangle of hyphae is the mycelium, and sometimes this can be seen with the naked eye, as under the bark of a rotting log, or in mushroom compost. Fungi are natural recyclers, and together with bacteria, are agents of decay, without which the world would come to an end. In most cases they are best left to get on with their work.

The common *Lycoperdon perlatum* ('wolf's flatulence', or literally, 'wolf'-fart') puffballs can usually be seen, either in clusters or scattered, throughout the year. The delightful genus name refers to the emission of clouds of spores from the well-defined pore, when the mature fruiting body is hit by heavy rain!



Fly agaric,
Amanita muscaria

The first of the larger fungi to catch my eye this season was the dramatic and colourful fly agaric, *Amanita muscaria*, an introduced species in New Zealand and associated with pines, oak, silver birch and sweet chestnut. Deadly poisonous, it is the toadstool children are frequently warned about, which is perhaps why it is unusual to find a specimen not shattered by those who feel the need. The appearance and colour of this species can be variable, as rain may wash out some of the red pigment or remove the white veil patches.

The basket or lattice fungus *Ileodictyon cibarius* can also be quite large (up to 16 cm across), hence it is easily seen. It is a spherical white net with slimy, olive-brown spore mass or gleba smeared all over the inside of the meshes. This attracts flies and aids spore dispersal.

The basket can break free and roll or blow some distance away from the "egg" from



Lycoperdon perlatum ('wolf's flatulence', or literally, 'wolf'-fart') puffballs

which it hatched – if budding footballers haven't already helped it along. Usually found in deep litter at forest margins, it has become common in gardens and parks, especially where wood chip mulch is used.

Spotting what looked like a sodden scrap of red rag lying on the mulch in the Victoria Road border proved to be a highlight of my 2016 fungi year. It was the weather-beaten remains of the flower fungus *Aseroe rubra*, a stinkhorn I had been looking for since it featured on the cover of our magazine five years ago. There were a few more dilapidated specimens lying around, but there were also some unhatched "eggs" waiting in the wings. It took about a week of daily visits between periods of heavy rain before at last I could discern a developing embryo ready to erupt from its egg, and the following day I was able to photograph it in its prime. By the next day it had collapsed, and soon there was no sign of it ever having been there.



Aseroe rubra, flower fungus

Photos Val Smith

The velvet earthstars *Geastrum triplex* were congregated on the ground in litter under native broadleaf- conifer trees on Monument Hill. At first an earthstar looks like a puffball, but then the outer wall splits and folds back like the petals of a flower, leaving the inner wall intact. In *Geastrum triplex* the wall is made of three layers, hence the specific name. Spores are released when droplets of rain hit the papery wall of the inner puffball, causing them to be released through the apical hole.

The last, and possibly my most exciting find, were two tiny bright yellow mushrooms nestled amidst (or on) the woody roots of a mature tōtara near the bottom of Brooklands Drive. Duly photographed, not



Aseroe rubra, flower fungus



Geastrum triplex, velvet earthstar

without considerable difficulty, I studied them on the computer screen and decided they were *Cyprina asprata*, commonly known as golden-scuffy collybia, a saprophytic species widely distributed in tropical regions, and first described from Ceylon by English naturalist Miles Joseph Berkeley in 1847. Apparently quite common in New Zealand, it has a distinctive bright yellow, shaggy cap and white gills, but there was no way I could see the gills without causing damage. I returned two days later with a small mirror (a dentist's tool would have been ideal, I think) - but there was no sign of my little treasures ever having been there!

These are a few of the fungi seen in Pukekura Park recently. What will next year bring? One of the delights of fungi hunting is that nobody knows!



Ileodictyon cibarius, basket or lattice fungus

George Mason.

Honorary Life Member, Friends of Pukekura Park.

During our evening meeting held on 28th July 2016, Dr George Mason was presented with Honorary Life Membership of Friends of Pukekura Park. It was another rainy night and yet again the main gates were locked so attendance figures were less than usual at 14 hardy souls but the atmosphere was convivial as we began with a talk from NPDC officer Hayley Oliver about the Festival of Lights. This quickly turned into a discussion as the audience participated and contributed with enthusiasm.

Elise Smith opened the tributes to George, telling of his help to the Friends over a number of years and how he had been a committee member who kept business sharp and to the point.

She had experienced years together with George on the committee and was able to expand on the help he'd been over the years.

Elise also commented that George was only the third member to be recognised in this way.

Karl Rossiter then followed with his contribution thanking George for his ongoing help and commitment to our organisation and for his financial contributions. He has long been a committed and valued member of the Friends.

Adrienne followed with this tribute.

“Not all of us are aware of the extent of the involvement in the Park George has had over the years.

He attends some of our walks in the Park and comes to our meetings, where he always has a positive and helpful attitude. His enquiring mind and scientific knowledge make his comments welcome and constructive.

George has his fingers in many pies but tonight we restrict the conversation to his commitment to the Park.

He has been a member of the Friends for many years. He's been a staunch committee member and sponsored our newsletter in the early stages, getting it established.

He has granted money to University graduates who have used the opportunity to carry out useful work on park related missions which would not have been an option otherwise. These students gain encouragement and experience in being useful in this manner.

The last student was a landscape graduate who gained work experience in the Park's new office, drawing up design possibilities for the development of Cannon Hill. She also focussed on reorganising chapters of the Significant Plants in the Park project which was written by the late David Medway. This book is now undergoing proof reading.

The sound system we use on our walks in the park was funded by George.

The George Mason Trust has contributed in many ways over the years and I have really only seen the tip of the iceberg of his achievements, however Elise and Karl have already spoken about their times in partnership with George in earlier years.

I have great pleasure George, in granting you our friend, with Honorary Life Membership of the Friends of Pukekura Park. It is not something we bestow lightly.

Derek has kindly crafted a certificate and picture for you to remember us by.”



Photo Derek Hughes

From the Friends

Park Curator Chris Connolly and FoPP President Adrienne Tatham planting *Magnolia Campbelli* 'Cook's Splendour' gifted to the Park by Lyn Bublitz in recognition of the Friends of Pukekura Park Twentieth Anniversary. This will be a spectacular feature in a few years.



Photos Derek Hughes

From the Curator's Office

Spring 2016 Update

Sheryl Clyma
Field Work Coordinator
Pukekura Park



Welcome to spring in the park, daffodils and irises are flowering, the kowhais are bursting into flower following the stunning performance of the campanulata cherries. Take a stroll up into Upper Stainton Dell to view the magnificent magnolias. While here look up to the bank where we lost a huge specimen of *Litsea calicaris*. *Litsea* known as mangeao is an evergreen native tree, this tree was planted circa 1935-1937. The bank area has been replanted with

revegetation natives and some *Neolitsea sericea*, known also as laurel tree. This tree is grown for its interesting different stages of its foliage, as the description below describes (www.botanyboy.org)

Its mature leaves are lanceolate and oblong, 8-18 cm in length, and dark green with 3 prominent lighter green veins along their length. When young they form in a whorl and hang down almost



vertically. At this stage they are covered in an extremely shiny, soft velvet like hair that in truth is a muddy yellow green, but gives the impression of brilliant silver in the spring sun. To the touch they are soft, like velvet or silk.

Within a few weeks these hairs shorten to a light pubescence as the leaves mature and take on an extraordinary dark pink to reddish purple coloration throughout. The prominent veins of the leaves are almost white at this stage in development and the leaves are more staggered along the newly forming twig in an alternating pattern. By early summer they mature, losing the pink colour and all pubescence. What is left is a stiff, glaucous mature leaf. The underside of the mature leaf is a nearly white/green, hence its Japanese name shirodamo, meaning "white ash".

So some thing to watch out for over the future years when these trees start to develop.

Unfortunately over the winter season we have had an increased amount of trees and branches come down, keeping our arboriculture team and contractors extremely busy.

On Brooklands Drive we lost a black wattle *Acacia melanoxylon*, this came crashing across the road and required contractors, a Hiab and the road to be closed for a few hours on a busy Saturday morning.

Earlier in the season a rewa rewa also crashed across the Brooklands Drive. Unfortunately this resulted in an accident where a cyclist coming down the driveway crashed and was taken to hospital in an ambulance.

Along the Eastern side of the main lake we have also had in two separate incidents large branches crashing down off the large pine tree and across the track.

The Rhododendron Dell is starting to take shape as a woodland garden. Last year we removed the azalea hedges around the edges of the rhododendron beds, opening them up for increased air flow and allowing for bulbs and perennials to be planted and viewed. This year the hellebores have been flowering thru winter and were then complemented by the daffodil "*Snowflakes*". To introduce more variety of flowering material we have planted groups of *Pieris Temple Bells* which are thrip resistant and provide white flowers in spring. We have also planted some more *Camellia reticulata*. Further pruning and removal of rhododendrons has occurred this season. We have concentrated on replanting varieties of *Rhododendron yakushimanum*. These are more resistant to thrip and are lower growing and require minimum pruning.

Projects in the Park

The entrance upgrades and signage installation are still underway. The Exeter Street and Somerset Street entrances are complete. Moving around to Upjohn Street opposite the Highlands Dairy this entrance is complete also. We removed some gardens of daylilies that were beneath the Ginkgo trees and grassed this area making a lovely shady lawn area.

The Shortland Street entrance is complete except for some seats to be installed. Parks team will revamp the gardens in this area and turf will be laid.

The Racecourse Walk entrance by the TSB stadium car park is going to be planted this season, spraying has occurred and compost has been brought in. We are planting back the following *Camellia* species - *C. salicifolia*, *C. scentuous*, *C. snowdrop*. Along with this we are also planting 3 Blue Mediterranean fan palms *Chamaerops cerifera* which will provide some nice foliage contrast.

Little pockets of the park have been developed and refreshed with plants being pruned or removed to make way for new plants. The azalea bank area next to the Fountain Lake is one area where this has occurred. Large old azaleas have been replaced with new azaleas resulting in the area having been opened up.

Native ferns have also been planted extensively throughout the park, as have clivias, something to watch out for next spring.

Tamarin Conservation

Eve Cozzi

Brooklands Zoo participates in a population management programme for cotton-top Tamarins in the Australasian region through the Zoo and Aquarium Association.

This programme was initially established to support a potential recovery programme for the species (which is still in place as cotton-tops have been listed as critically endangered in their wild habitat); however, its primary and current function is as an advocacy role.

As participants of this programme, Brooklands Zoo supports the *in situ* Proyecto Tití project. This is an on-site conservation programme in Colombia for cotton-top tamarins that combines field research, education initiatives and community programmes to make the conservation of natural resources economically feasible for local residents. Brooklands Zoo promotes this project through our visitor experiences by using educational posters, our Facebook and website pages, and keeper talks.

We also celebrate the Day of the Cotton-Top Tamarin which is an annual event held every August 15th which promotes Proyecto Tití. Each year, zoo staff come up with different promotions for the day, and this year we held keeper talks on the weekend before the day and had a story and photo run in the Taranaki Daily News.

At our keeper talks, some of our visitors had the special opportunity to feed live insects to the tamarins through the enclosure mesh - which went down a treat (for both the visitors and tamarins)!

To learn more on Proyecto Tití, visit their website at: <http://www.proyectotiti.com/en-us/>

or



Nephrite one of our female Cotton top Tamarins