



Friends of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth Inc. - Annual Report for 2010-2011

It is my pleasure to present your Committee's report on the activities of the Society for the 12 months to 14 April 2011.

Committee It has been another busy year during which the Committee met monthly at the Bellringer Pavilion and dealt with a considerable amount and variety of business on behalf of the Society. We particularly appreciated the attendance and input at those meetings of Chris Connolly, Curator of the Park, and of John McLeod and Craig McFarlane, the New Plymouth District Council representatives on our Committee. Following the District Council elections in late 2010, Lynn Bublitz was appointed to the Committee in place of Craig McFarlane. We look forward to his contributions. Olive Armstrong and Heather Allen are standing down from the Committee. We thank them for their interest and input as Committee members.

Park Management The President met on several occasions throughout the year with Mark Bruhn, Parks Manager, Stuart Robertson, Parks Operations Manager, and Chris Connolly when we discussed a variety of matters of mutual interest relating to the Park. The President also met separately with Chris Connolly on a monthly basis for the same purpose. The Society appreciates the continuation of these regular opportunities for informal consultation with Park management.

Volunteers Members will be aware from articles published in our *Magazine* during the year that our Volunteers have continued to be very active. Among other things, members of the team contributed to the establishment at Brooklands Zoo of an educational area relating to insect life-cycles and habitat. The gardening work the Volunteers regularly undertake at The Gables, and elsewhere in the Park, is a credit to them and their input is appreciated, not only by the Society but also by Park management.

Guided Walks and Wanderers These monthly educational and recreational activities in the Park, the Guided Walks being for members and the Wanderers being for all interested persons, have continued throughout the last year. They appear to be much appreciated by those who regularly participate in them. We are grateful to Heather Allen for organising and leading the Wanderers walks, and to John O'Sullivan for organising the memorial walk for Mary Morris.

Magazine Three issues of our *Magazine* were published during the year. Copies of the *Magazine* are distributed, not only to members, but also to all New Plymouth District Councillors, senior District Council staff, Park field staff, Fernery staff, Zoo staff and the Tea House on the Lake. We are grateful to those who contribute to the *Magazine*, to Derek Hughes who designs it, to the generous support of Graphix Explosion who print it, and to those who arrange its dispatch to members.

Data base of significant plants Field work, research, and documentation is continuing on the contract the Society has with the New Plymouth District Council to identify and document a large number of significant plants in Pukekura Park and Brooklands. A progress report on this important project was presented to members at an evening meeting during the year.



Park issues affecting Friends No major issues have required our consideration during the past year. There have been no further developments as far as the Friends are concerned relating to the proposal by The Taranaki Cricket Association to construct practice cricket nets in the Fillis Street Gully. However, it is probable that significant issues such as cycling in the Park and cleaning of the lakes will require our attention in the near future. We expect to be consulted by Park management at the appropriate time in relation to those matters.

Other thanks The Society thanks the Membership Committee for its attention to various essential matters that helped ensure the smooth running of the Society during the year. We are grateful to Olive Armstrong and others for arranging speakers for our evening meetings and for organising our annual luncheon for Park staff. We are also grateful to all members who promoted or helped the Society in various ways including, for example, our Secretary Elise Smith who, among many other things, has maintained our web-site, our Treasurer Chris Hinton who has looked after our finances, and Lorna Jones and other drivers of the Park buggy.

David Medway
President
14 April 2011