



# THEN and NOW

A love story of NZ flora over time, from Sarah Featon's paintings in the 1880s to Gillian Deane's garden from 1995.







# An appreciation of Sarah

- **“THE ART ALBUM NEW ZEALAND FLORA”**
- **“A SYSTEMATIC AND POPULAR DESCRIPTION OF THE NATIVE FLOWERING PLANTS OF NEW ZEALAND”**
- Sarah Featon painted with Hooker's book of NZ Flora beside her, ensuring scientific accuracy as well as expressing her artistic sensitivity.
- The authors expressed a hope "that their labours may tend to make many friends to help and conserve Native Flora"
- The book comprised 180 pages and was published in 1888. It was the first book published in NZ with colour illustrations.



# In 1888 Edward Featon wrote

- “It has been repeatedly asserted that there are no flowers in New Zealand, and by many the statement is generally believed to be true.
- The authors of this work deem it to be their privilege to prove how fallacious and incorrect such beliefs are”
- Quote from the Preface to The Art Album of New Zealand Flora 1888 by Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Featon
- Such beliefs still prevail today in some quarters
- May this presentation also help dispel these myths





**The artist Sarah Featon's Gisborne and the old Waikanae Pa (village) site, both in the 1890's. The Pa is close to Gillian Deane's garden today.**



# NZ Native Forests & Wetlands

- . Settlement was an attack on the forests, wetlands and birdlife
- . Deforestation facilitated creation of pastures for a farming nation
- . Today only 10% of NZ's original wetlands remain
- . However resuscitation of wetlands is becoming increasingly popular
- . As is the replanting of native trees



# **Native Forests and Wetlands**

- **Our rural road is said to have the highest density of protective Queen Elizabeth II National Trust covenants of any area in NZ**
- **Many surrounding properties and our own have been declared ecological heritage sites**
- **80% of NZ flora is found only in NZ**
- **Our garden is about 30 acres within a property of 90 acres**
- **60 acres to work on !**
- **A myth to dispel – that NZ natives are simply shades of green**





**Our garden was a series of cow paddocks  
when we started the garden at Te Maimai in 1995**



# Gillian and Roderick

## In the early days

- The challenges:
- Dry sandy soil
- Fierce coastal winds
- No shelter
- Severe frosts
- Lack of rain in summer
- Hungry rabbits and pukekos







**Then and Now: Sarah's painting and Gillian's kowhai**  
**The dramatic kowhai is the sign of spring and signals the arrival of the tuis**





# Pohutukawa: the NZ Christmas tree

Sarah's painting on the left & Gillian's photograph on the right



# Kahikatea

- Kahikatea trees are giants of the forest
- They have the most delicate flowers as shown by Sarah's painting (top)
- Our trees are still young (bottom)





# Totara

- Totara forests were extensive
- The forests were destroyed for farming
- We have replanted totara extensively
- A totara waka ama was discovered on our property in 1964
- The canoe is now at Te Papa
- Sarah's painting below;  
Gillian's totara above







## Manuka: an antimicrobial

Sarah's painting on left & Gillian's manuka on right



# Koromiko

- Traditional Maori medicine used
- koromiko
- kawakawa
- manuka
- flax
- koromiko was used as treatment for dysentery, ulcers and as a tonic
- Sarah's painting above; Gillian's koromiko below



# Kawakawa

- Kawakawa were used as treatment for
- Kidney and stomach problems
- Skin ailments
- Rheumatism
- Sarah's painting above;  
Gillian's kawakawa below







**Whau : an example of Maori translocation of species**

**Sarah's painting left and Gillian's whau right**

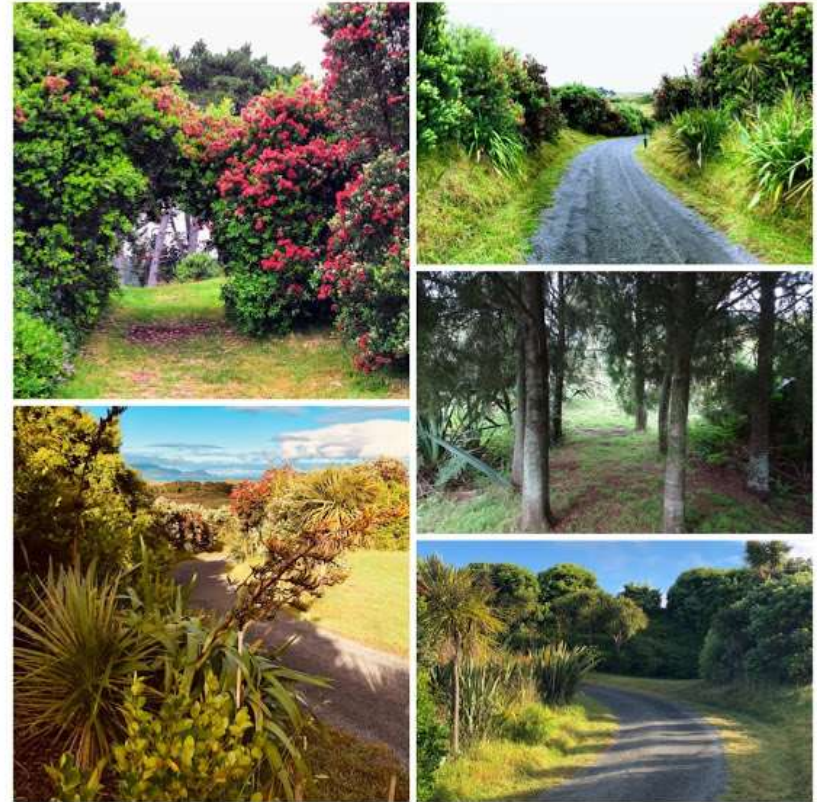




# Flax flowers in multiple colours

Maori used flax for food, shelter, garments and medicine





# Walkways

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Our large  
manuka  
swamp, much  
loved by the  
bees, aerial  
photo, shaped  
like a kiwi



















# A garden with sculpture

Neil Dawson & Jeff Thomson sculptures





## Some more sculpture

Ralph Hotere window, Maimai shelter, Rick Rudd sculpture



# Feathersphere

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# A paradise for Labradors

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The view to the west to  
Kapiti Island, New Zealand's  
principal bird sanctuary, as  
the sun sets.







**THEN and NOW : What has happened to the cow paddocks ?**



**Let me take you on a walk in my garden, Te Maimai (a token of affection)**





**In the beginning we planted the Inner Garden around the house**





## **Dramatic Inner Garden views - Kapiti Island is NZ's principal native bird sanctuary**





**The In-Between garden comprises mown pathways, glades and circles**





**The larger trees are in the Outer Gardens and overlooking the Wetlands**

























Thank you all  
from the  
swamp  
dwellers









# Gillian Deane

- Lady Gillian Deane has a particular interest in the arts, music and opera, science, early New Zealand and Maori history, rare disorders and disabilities, and is a devoted conservationist, having regenerated a large area of wetlands on the west coast of the North Island, which has now been designated as a Heritage Ecological site and encompasses four Queen Elizabeth II National Trust covenants. Gillian is Chair and Founder of the Deane Endowment Trust, Patron of IHC NZ (NZ's largest voluntary welfare organization), and National Coordinator of Rett NZ.
- Previous positions include Trustee of the Arts Foundation of New Zealand (of which she is a Founding Patron), the International Festival of the Arts, the Diana Princess of Wales Trust, the NZ Organization for Rare Disorders (NZORD, of which she was a Founding Trustee), the Centre for Clinical Research and Effective Practice (CCREP), and Patron of the Mary Potter Hospice in Wellington. Gillian was also President of the Friends of the Wellington International Festival of the Arts, a Government appointed Ambassador for the International Year of the Family, and a Member of the Inclusion International Working Group for the International Year of the Family. Gillian is a member of the Ngati Whanaungua iwi.
- Gillian was awarded the Arts Foundation of NZ Patronage Award in 2008; was the recipient of the Inaugural NZ Lifetime Advocacy Award, presented by the Governor General to mark International Rare Diseases Day in 2019; and was the recipient of a Civic Award from the Wellington City Council. She is a Life Member of the Victoria University of Wellington Alumni Association and a graduate of the University with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She was honoured with Life Membership of the Waikanae Music Society and is an Honorary Life Benefactor of the City Gallery Wellington.