

U3A Kate Sheppard

Christchurch, New Zealand

Web: katesheppard.u3a.nz

Email: u3akates@xtra.co.nz



“Those who teach shall also learn Those who learn shall also teach”

Trott’s Garden Visit

A day in the country, what could be better? Our group of 47 U3A Kate Sheppard members had a very enjoyable trip to Trott’s Garden in Ashburton on 31st October 2019. The weather was perfect for meandering around the property, and the gardens were a blaze of colours and textures.

The bus trip of a little over an hour was soon behind us as we arrived at our destination, and were welcomed with morning tea and an introduction into the background of the formation of the garden.



Our walk around the garden began with a stop in the maze for a group photograph. It is easy to simply walk through the maze area, until one stops and reflects on the work required to keep these hedges in such pristine condition.

The woodland area was developed around a series of gently curving paths. Later the water gardens were added and finally the English inspired formal gardens. The layout is such that the garden areas are integrated yet contain elements of surprise as the visitor explores. The dappled woodland areas offer garden rooms planted with unusual shrubs and trees, followed by vistas of immaculate lawn.

Emphasis on the choice and placement of trees and shrubs means the garden is equally stunning in form and colour, all year round. Structures are a feature of this area and include a gazebo, belvedere, large dove cote, and frames for pleaching. Some 50 species of magnolia, 70 different kinds of maples and 40 different varieties of the dogwood family give some idea of the scale of the woodland area, then add hundreds of rhododendrons and azaleas, under planted with flowering woodland plants and ground covers. Bordering the woodland garden and flowing into it, is a stream edged with a fine collection of moisture loving plants.

Our guide for the day Leanne the Garden Manager explained how Trott's Garden came into being. A renowned garden which has international acclaim, Trott's Garden, has been home to Alan and Catherine Trott and their family for thirty-seven years.

In September 2017 the garden was sold to the newly formed Trott's Garden Charitable Trust to ensure this beautiful garden remains accessible to people from all over the world who admire this local New Zealand paradise.

Trott's Garden is recognised as a Garden of International Significance and has been awarded 6 stars by the New Zealand Gardens Trust.



Morning tea and our introduction to Trott's Garden
To be welcomed with country-style home baking for morning tea and lunch was a delight



Heading off into the great unknown



A fantail showing off its plumage



Gordon Murray and Jill Lyall



Beautiful reflections



Some 'experts' discussing which variety of tree they are looking at



Yvonne Cargill, Sue Buchan, and Diana Robilliard enjoy the beautiful blooms



Joan Cardno, Helen Cordner, Ann de Lambert, and Vina Moir look excited



Chris Evans, Liz Taylor and Jill Lyall





Alison Wilkie admiring a beautiful rhododendron



'Stand Clear – Coming Through!' Francis Young at the wheel



Historic church on the Trott's Garden grounds



Helen Cordner, Sara Daly, and Kath Taylor make their way back to the bus



Joan Cardno, Sue Buchan, Liz Taylor in happy mode



And then it was heading for home on the bus

Well done Richard Fowler and the others who contributed
to make this a truly memorable day in the country