



*Banks Florilegium.*

Two speakers, whose talks are briefly summarised below, travelled to Christchurch to speak to very appreciative audiences.

Ewen Cameron, Curator of Botany at the Auckland Museum detailed his longstanding work tracing and linking the first descriptions and illustrations of New Zealand Flora. The prime resources for this work are the original herbarium records of the New Zealand specimens. As well as those held in New Zealand, some Ewen Cameron personally revealed within the collection at the British Museum while others he has traced to several disparate locations such as Sweden and the US. The latter reflect the tendency for collections to be sold and travel to the locality of the buyer. The other key reference work is the meticulously detailed manuscript by Solander which, probably due to his early and untimely death in 1782, has never been published and is not widely known. *Primitiae Florae Novae Zelandiae* (First Fruits of Flora of New Zealand) has never been fully translated from its original Latin yet holds a wealth of taxonomic and, importantly, indigenous detail. By drawing carefully from these sources, Ewen has been able to triangulate the probable location and original collection notes of samples collected in 1769. His work makes links from Solander's names to those now commonly used, in many cases reflecting how subsequent plant hunters who, unlike Solander published, are credited with the taxonomy. Such specific work highlights the importance of Solander's contribution and may in future allow comparisons for evolution of species and shed light on endangered plants and ecosystems. Ewen's work is due for publication in the near future. A sense of the extent of this work can be found at:

[www.waikereru.org/assets/documents/1769TairawhitiSpeciesBanksAndSolander.pdf](http://www.waikereru.org/assets/documents/1769TairawhitiSpeciesBanksAndSolander.pdf)

The second talk, by Malcolm Rutherford, of the QEII Trust, described his work as curator of The 1769 Garden, part of the Waikereru Ecosanctuary, Turanganui (Gisborne). A project initiated by Dame

Anne and Jeremy Salmond, designed by Philip Smith of O2 Landscapes, whose kaitiaki (guardians) are Malcolm and Department of Conservation's Graeme Atkins tohunga taiao (environmental experts) Ngāti Porou. The garden features plants that grew in the region when Banks and Solander collected there. Many now rare or endangered, 52 of the 73 species have been planted in a manner that intentionally challenges a visitor's understanding of 'native' and familiar. By showcasing rare and interesting plants the garden evokes some of the strangeness that the European's may have felt when arriving. Stone mounds, used cunningly for practicality and maintenance, replicate the kūmara garden layout described by Banks. In time, a blaze of kōwhai will reflect that observed by the visitors as *Endeavour* made landfall.

Malcolm shared the profiles and features of the plants which can be seen in detail at the garden's website [www.waikereru.org/1769-garden/](http://www.waikereru.org/1769-garden/). He discussed these and described how the mature garden will stand in the landscape. It was a talk of stories which wove the experiences of those whose collaborative work has established the garden with the stories of the plants themselves. The garden seeks, through its Welcome Centre, to educate, and to reflect on the irrevocable change that was begun when James Cook arrived at the mouth of the Waimatā River in October 1769, bringing the Ra'iatean star navigator Tupaia and the first Europeans ashore. Through ancestral knowledge, science, art and immersive experience, children explore the challenges faced by indigenous plants and animals, and how to safeguard their future.



1769 garden from above.



1769 garden. Stone rows and mounds are used to showcase rare and interesting plants, for instance tarakupenga (*Coprosma acerosa*), tūkōrehu (*Plantago raoulii*), kōpata (*Pelargonium inodorum*)