



NZPF

Floral News & Inspiration

2024 Spring Issue

Florist Impressions in Europe

Kristina Bircsak at MIFGS

The Journey of Koha Iti

Wānaka Garden Tours

Small Town Floristry



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President's Message

It is unbelievable how fast time flies! We are now more than halfway through the year and spring flowers like earlicheers, daffodils, tulips and iris are blooming abundantly. However, due to low sunlight levels there has been a low volume of flowers leading to high market prices, so I'm sure everyone is eagerly awaiting the warmer weather and sunshine of springtime.

A reminder that our 50th celebration in Christchurch is fast approaching, being held from Friday October 18th to Sunday October 20th, 2024. Please register now with our secretary at secretary@nzprofessionalflorists.co.nz to reserve accommodation, a seat at dinner and/or your spot at the demonstration. The demonstration will feature members of the NZPF Executive, tutors from Open Polytechnic and current Level 3 students.

In this magazine you will find Megan's reflections on the 2024 Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show, along with details for the 2025 Show. We encourage you to consider attending — it is an incredible experience.

Kristina Bircsak also talks about her participation and creations at MIFGS and Kylie Sargeant, a Level 3 Open Polytechnic student, writes about some of the floral inspiration she gained from the event.

Megan shares her featured flowers and we take a look at floristry in Europe with Angela Orchiston — her story and photos are just amazing.

Additionally, we take a quick look at Kapiti Roastery, a florist's pick me up, where you can enjoy a roastery tour, learn about the finer details of roasting coffee and taste different brews.

Furthermore, we learn more about Carol Stockdill's journey into sustainable floristry, Jen's expertise in all things orchids, Marie's sympathy florals, and springtime arrangements. You can also read about the Wanaka Guided Garden Tours held this October, and Iona gives us an insight into the trials and tribulations of small-town floristry.

Wishing you all well for the coming seasons, before you know it summer will be here, Christmas will arrive and with that wedding season begins!

Stay warm, stay well.

Ngā mihi

Celeste

Florist Impressions

from across Europe & the Middle East

Angela Orchiston Dip.NZPF

I would like to share with you a snapshot of florist impressions I observed in a few countries through Eastern Europe, including the Baltics, Scandinavia and Northern Europe near Russia, as well as Dubai, over the past summer.

EASTERN EUROPE

Budapest, Hungary

Starting off in Hungary, wonderful pockets of colour were spotted down the length of streets with potted planters decorating the streets of Budapest. Masses of brightly coloured hanging baskets made the most of the summer sun before the slow emergence of autumn.

Hotels cooled down their outdoor entrances with large pots of lush green foliage — dripping ivy contrasted with white hydrangeas, blue festuca, senecio leaves and olive trees, displayed outside in tall ceramic stone angular pots. Inside the hotel's high ceilinged lobbies, the colours were of a similar theme with industrial metal containers made from hammered stainless steel and gunshot metals displaying softer greens and foliage.

It was difficult to find florists in the heart of Budapest due to a concentration of coffee shops, and sparsely filled but very expensive brand stores catering for many of the Arab clientele spending summers in Hungary. Many of the local folk choose to close their florist boutiques to enjoy their own summer holidays with fewer locals and more tourists in the city.

Prague, Czechia

Prague, on the other hand, had beautiful flower shops that were open and busy, very similar to New Zealand, where foliage, branches, berries, and vegetative treasures were integral in day-to-day designing.

Little boutique hotels reveled in vases of flowers decorating the rooms, in spite of the heat. These trends were often clear vases of different shapes, with a single variety of flower using cool colours.

Deep inky purple hydrangeas, gentians, green lisianthus... a range of crisp colours on contrasting Eastern European stacco walls. Large natural pots with twisted branches, highlighted by a feature spotlight, cream candles on a plain wooden table possibly centuries old, sat upon slate tiles in an old monastery.

Most of the vase arrangements were understated with emphasis on different heights and form. Tall allium were popular, blue hydrangeas, rosehip berries, green architectural foliage and euphorbias with textured branches that could withstand the lack of electric air conditioning in these historic old buildings, which are governed by building regulations, but would still



Colourful blooms in Budapest



In a monastery in Prague



Prague, Czechia



Warsaw, Poland

continue to look nice for a week to 10 days with a breeze from an open window.

In the old town of Prague there were three beautiful florist shops. The entrances were adorned with leafy topiaries in white washed wicker pots, wooden boxes of scented lavender, and ceramic urns of potted hydrangeas alongside cone buxus bushes with bright hanging potted petunias.

Inside the Prague flower shops were a wonderful selection of flowers, displayed upon multi levels for maximum visibility, with a Venetian mirror behind the flowers [3]. The offerings were: lily, rose, carnation, caspia, gerbera, gladioli anthurium, button chrysanthemum, spray roses alongside Columbian giant roses, coloured phalaenopsis, liatris, lisianthus, hydrangea, erica, thryptomene, delphiniums, larkspur, peonies, sweet william, iris, bouvardia, alstroemeria, snap dragons, sunflower, gyp, freesia, thistle flower, calla lily. Multi-coloured soft coloured hypericum with buckets of lush eucalyptus (very popular in Europe at the moment) sat between salal, italian ruscus, galaxy leaves, twigs, branches moss, all available in July. Bouquets in Prague were made with one third greenery, in mostly monochromatic colours, of a whimsical romantic style, with soft flick of a soft faux linen mesh, and a satin or organza bow.

Restaurant entrances and tables outside were ablaze with red petunias and geraniums, and cobbled streets were decorated with waist-high pots and urns in a varied selection of colours, often with bright callas in the middle tapering down to red geraniums and a dark blue lobelia then a skirt of ivy around the base of the pot — all plants



Warsaw, Poland

that can withstand the hot European summers and warm cobblestone alleyways.

Warsaw, Poland

Warsaw also had the same potted greenery adorning their entrance ways into restaurants and pubs, and a lot of cypress trees varieties were growing in wine barrels, but it was surprising how many florists were closed during the summer months, and taking their personal holidays, often with notices on the front doors they would be closed for 6-8 weeks. Similar to Prague, there was an emphasis on beautiful large potted plant urns on main streets and side alleys. Hydrangeas, with buxus spheres, trailing ivy and brightly colored geraniums were growing in pots on wrought iron windows.

It was interesting to note that despite Poland buckling under the financial pressure of taking Ukrainian refugees, there was still a focus on plants providing colour in the main areas. I have no doubt if money became even tighter and the government budget was cut for such decorative plants, the locals would ensure the town still looked pretty by financing it with their own means.

Extra large headed hydrangeas were very popular during the summer months in many countries. Inky purple and hot pink heads were featured all through Europe, often selected to take home, just one or two blooms in a glass jar, with its own dark complimentary greenery.

As Eastern Europe is only a stone's throw from Holland and Germany (1 to 2 hour flight) and trucks provide a very efficient method of delivery, the selection of plants is great.

THE BALTICS

Vilnius, Lithuania

Visiting these countries was mesmerising, similar to an analogy of a new butterfly spreading its wings. Although an old country with lots of occupational history, Lithuania is thriving, particularly since it has come into its own after becoming independent of Russia in 1990. There is no holding this country back. Set among one of the most well preserved medieval cities in Europe, the flower offering was abundant, and the young people were vibrant, enthusiastic, and spoke many fluent languages.

Each morning there were little old ladies near the churches, sitting with flowers picked from their gardens: sunflowers, daisies, sweet peas, cornflowers, day lilies, achillea, love in the mist, statice, solidago, veronica, all placed in little gold plastic goblets. These were sold as church flowers or blessing flowers (similar to lighting a candle) and they were very proud of their pickings.

The streets were adorned with hanging baskets of petunias, over door-ways and under vintage street lamps. Cafes and restaurants were separated by leafy greens, variegated caladium bright coleus, and highly coloured begonias.

There were no flower shops to see within the main city or old city, as in the three Baltic countries I visited, but within a 10 minute walk towards the edge of the main town there were large indoor and outdoor markets, showing a wonderful range of fresh flowers. The flower shops were situated next to each other, approx. ten in a row, with an abundant offering.



Riga, Latvia

In a central market in Latvia's capital city Riga, I ventured along a kilometre of flower stalls — some out in the open (predominantly individual flower gardeners) and some housed in stand-alone shops with chillers (flower sellers buying from larger markets in Germany)

The flower growers' treasures were of very good quality, and were all grown in local gardens, comprising of cornflowers, zinnias, freesias, dahlias asters calendulas, homegrown snapdragons and statice, bunches of gladioli, and sweet peas. These flowers were all sold in single variety bunches.

The more established flower shops sold flowers that were displayed in Dutch and German transport containers. The shop flowers were good quality, however a little bit more old fashioned in these countries. Gypsophila played a large part in most designs along with green fern foliage — not a lot of design value, but more sporadic open placement of flowers and still very good quality.

Traditional flowers used in the Baltics are lilies, chrysanthemums, roses, gyp, beer grass and fern. Posies and made up designs were mostly monochromatic with emphasis on detail within the bouquets by using interesting grasses finished with a romantic wrap.



Tallinn, Estonia

Upon disembarking from the Baltic tour bus in Tallinn, we happened to stop right next to a flower market, this time near a main street in the old part of the city.

Seventeen beautiful little flower shops all in a row were selling similar types of flowers, but the florists were all unique in their designs. Most of the flowers in this market were displayed again in Dutch flower buckets, hence the flowers were of very good quality and the Columbian and Ecuadorian roses were shown in pride of place, being the most expensive. The roses were shown in different lengths in high buckets of approx. 80 roses per colour.

People were flocking to purchase these lovely long roses! There were more folk aged from 18-30 than any other country I visited, and during the midday lunch break young men and woman were enjoying choosing blooms joyfully as they mixed and matched different flowers and had them arranged by a florist in a simple wrap.

It cost €2.50 for a 1m rose, €1.50 for 80cm, €1.20 for 60cm. Celosia was priced at €2.50 per stem, €8 per stem for very large headed hydrangeas, and €2 for long alstro. Most bouquets were priced between €28 – €60, and looked to be very good quality and value for money in regards to freshness, selection, size and design.

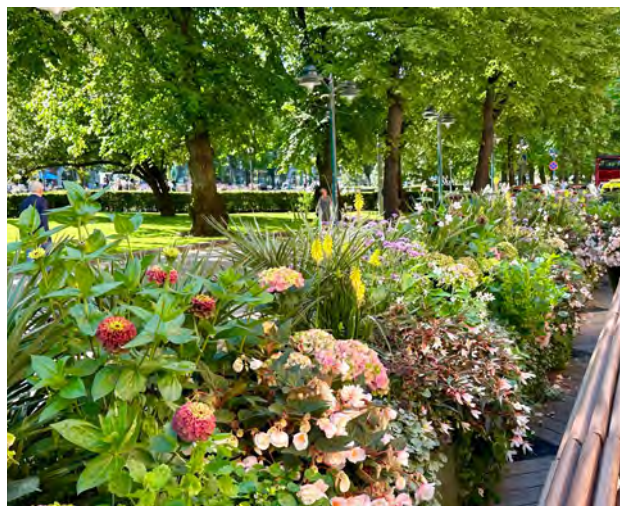


SCANDINAVIA

Helsinki, Finland

Helsinki is the city of gardens, and there were beautiful pots, hanging planters, and garden beds within green areas of the city, and 10m long garden boxes adorning main streets. Outside of each hotel were pots of cool green plants, with attention to selection, texture, form, and contrast, having been planted by people with knowledge of plants and groupings.

There were walls of greenery and flowering plants, particularly around bus shelters and main roads. These garden walls were planted as a barrier against traffic noise. The purpose of the wall is to create an oasis of colour in the city showing a pleasant colour/soundscape where you can sit and enjoy time amongst the vegetation and shade as respite on a hot summer day, along with attracting pollinators. There was fabulous emphasis placed on outdoor gardens, planting and seating areas in this city.



Stunning hanging pots with a varied range of foliage and flowers, it was as if all the florists in Helsinki had designed a pot each of all the flowers and foliage they enjoyed working with. But as with previous countries, florists were hard to find, instead there was a main shopping tower housing a large department store, where all containers, plants, baskets, green plants, flowering pots, vases and fresh flowers were available.

Upon talking to a gardener, he told me that as Finland was such a cold country and only had approx. 4 months of true summer, the population and regional councils valued the beauty of summer's flowers and plants immensely and a large budget was put aside each year to beautify the cities during those months.

Stockholm, Sweden

A wonderful selection of beautiful flowering and green plants were found within the city and old city, however florist shops were non-existent. The ivy plants aligning shop doors were sometimes 2m tall (grown on a tall pyramid steel frame) and of the leaves and tails were wedding quality. (I am sure folk thought I was a bit loopy, the way I was patting the large strong dark green beautiful leaves and admiring the perfect ivy tails of approx. 1.5 - 2m long!)

Oslo, Norway

However upon visiting the train station in Oslo, my disappointment in not finding a florist shop evaporated, as there were fantastic florist shops with both pots, green plants, flowering/tropical/exotic plants and an amazing range of made-up bouquets, along with single variety bunches. It seems to me that public areas, train stations, bus stations, and markets are where to find loose stems and made up flower bouquets rather than individual little florist boutiques in the main cities.

Top quality, large yield stems in big bunches of one variety were NZ\$20 per bunch (10 stems) retail, and NZ\$40 for 3 bunches. Mixed bunches, florist designed, with detail in texture, colours and grasses were priced from NZ\$60. Potted green plants, roses, kalanchoes in seagrass containers, approx. 60 cm in height were NZ\$9. Phalaenopsis 2 stems, approx. 20 flower plus, 60 cm mid length, ceramic pot 8 colours: NZ\$23. Spray chrysanthemums in willow pots, 50 cm in diameter, full of buds, 14 colours: NZ\$14.50.

The trends with cut flower bunches in Oslo were both soft colours and bright bouquets, full bunches not sparsely designed, with emphasis on form placement, highlighted with textural greenery, round cone shaped bunches, often monochromatic and polychromatic colour harmonies.



Bouquets for sale in Oslo



Kirkness, Norway

The tiny little town of Kirkness, in North Eastern Norway is close to the Finnish border (and only 11 km from the Russian border), and boasted the most interesting flower shop in all of my travels.

It was a beautiful shop in a town with no-one to be seen on the streets. NATO were surveilling and policing the nearby Russian border and preventing runaway Russians from entering the EU.

Kirkness had an eerie feeling, as virtually nothing had changed in this little town since the 1944 Russian Liberation from Nazi occupation by the Red Army.

Yet this little beautiful shop offered a range of products so varied and great that you would have thought the shop was sitting in Vienna. A wonderful range of fresh flowers, greenery, potted green plants, kalanchoes, echeveria, anthuriums, orchids, candles, baskets, pots, cards, topiary, and a fantastic range of fresh flower bouquets.

Regular flights and organised logistics allow a steady stream of fresh product to flow seamlessly into unimaginably far away places.



Stokmarknes, Norway

The next little flower shop spotted was in Stokmarknes, a small island with a population of 3,367 people. Surrounded by magnificent mountains was another lovely flower shop, the size of a small NZ supermarket, full of florist goodies and strongly advertised with Interflora signage.

A vast range of potted flowering and green plants were on offer, topiaries of all mixed sizes and shapes, potted chrysanthemums, begonias, and bromeliads, alongside large pots of 3-4 mixed plants, approx. 1.5m in height that would stand in the entrance of a home, to be taken inside during winter.

The flower selection was vast, ranging from orchids from Thailand, roses from South America, tropicals, gingers, anthuriums and wild flowers from Africa.

The trends with cut flower bunches in Norway were soft colours, full bouquets, round cone shaped bunches, often monochromatic or polychromatic colour harmonies with tinted hues, and added detail in unusual textures, plus understated wrapping in soft colours.

An interesting little point were the reindeer fences everywhere in North Europe. These were tall fences, dug into the mountains on a 35 degree slant, build to keep the reindeer out of residential and civic areas to prevent flower and decorative gardens and verge plots from being eaten.

The district councils have a large budget for beautifying their towns in this part of the world. The flower beds and hanging baskets are a loved feature each summer and reindeer are prevented from freely walking through the town with these fences, high and strong enough to prevent them from using their antlers to push it over.

Winter is another story - the fences are taken down and reindeer roam freely around the streets and parks.

MIDDLE EAST

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Throughout the Middle East, the last few summers have been unusually busy with floristry. Often at this time of the year, locals and ex-pats escape the high 40 early 50 degree celsius heat by heading to cooler countries often in Europe. However since the start of the Ukraine/Russian war, a surge of folk from Russia have come to Dubai to get married, which has kept the local florists very busy.

The Russian visitors, who are very wealthy, are spending their US dollars in Dubai and nothing is off limits. The amount that is being spent in these warm climates attractive for weddings is growing. Ballrooms are regularly decorated for Arabic weddings but now also

for folk from Russia. Ballrooms with runways, decorated floral sofas, dancing groups, large tables laden with flowers and overhead flower installations are quite the norm. It is not uncommon that a rose grower will have their entire rose crop of a particular colour pre-booked for a specific wedding.

Daily flower bouquets that are ordered by and for local Emiratis for birthdays/get well orders are often so large that large pallet jiffies are used to transfer flower arrangements and bouquets from delivery truck to recipient.

Designs are whatever the customer can conjure up for whatever the amount spent! Most usual daily customer orders are in the thousands of US dollars for maximum impact.



A little bit about me

I have always loved flowers, watching my grandmothers plant treasures in the garden, my mother decorating cakes with fresh flowers, and making tiny tussie-mussies. In 1990 upon finishing high school, I started an apprenticeship with Berys McDonald of Berys Lot Florist, in Gisborne. Berys, Pam Lane and Linda Gregory patiently guided me through workshops and personal lessons to help me achieve my Diploma.

In 1998 I moved to the Middle East and found a job working for an Arab businessman who had seven flower shops (soon to be 14) and I worked alongside and trained 60 florists from Sri Lanka, the Philippines, India, and Nepal. To ensure guaranteed quality and freshness, I was tasked with visiting flower growing countries and securing growing contracts from Kenya, Australia, Thailand, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Holland.

For a few months of each year, the job required me to travel throughout the world viewing floral design concept companies and Floral Trade Fairs. I was tasked with bringing back new ideas and products educating our florists in different concepts, themes and workmanship techniques. The owner of these flower shops was Mr Ali Al Bwardy and he was venturing into building international hotels, so I was asked to be part of an Arab Contingent exploring the opportunity of large scale buying from flower producing countries in Africa back into the Middle East. Transitioning from running flower shops to the challenges of working with airlines/ flower farms within different government regulations in a short time frame enthralled me. I knew this was a new direction for me in flower commodities, and I was captivated by the logistical components that had to work like a well oiled clock.

In 2001 I was asked to consult for the new Dubai Flower Hub project. The Dubai Flower Centre was developed to handle flower imports and exports, as Dubai is a major hub for the import and export of flowers. I was part of a team working on ensuring that the product would arrive and leave in an optimum level of quality, and what sort of specialist facility these products required, as they had to be temperature controlled from start to finish, tracked by satellites. The flower centre was completed in 2004 at a cost of US\$50 million, and my previous relationship with the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and the UAE Dept of Climate Change and Environment allowed for a smooth working partnership with freight companies collating AIRWAY bills, Phytosanitary and Certificate of Origin documents. These activities were peppered with exciting challenges such as expensive perishable products being subject to air flight delays, with potential missed flight connections, daily political and war restrictions, and

product arriving from cool climates to desert climates of up to 54°C. The position required diplomacy and patience when working with political situations, knowledge of international law regarding fluid trade sanctions and political unrest, and experience with border control and import/export requirements and licenses of each of the above countries, including each country's logistical delivery challenges amongst desert climates. I absolutely loved working in this type of dynamic international climate.

In 2006 I was employed as an operations manager for a company called "Alissar Flowers" working in the new Dubai Flower Centre Free Zone, an area that is airside and sterile, located within the airport boundaries before reaching customs. There, while managing a team of six staff, I catered for my (24+) clients as a flower broker from countries such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Jordan, Lebanon, UAE, and Cyprus. Solutions still had to be found for flower trade in times of civil war while managing multiple buying and selling currencies for particular countries. Two of the most memorable tasks were having to put huge quantities of Christmas trees through x-ray machines to make sure contraband was not coming through with them, and ordering a US\$25,000 Christmas tree three days before Christmas for the palace in Abu Dhabi, which took an entire Emirates freighter to fly it from Holland to Dubai.

In 2008 I ventured to Australia where I started a Floral Wedding business in Brisbane. I enjoyed designing weddings in Australia but declined taking on more in late 2009 as I had been called back to Dubai to negotiate wedding-related contracts for Arab families with European suppliers. I would accompany local Emirati women around the world to buy anything from interior furniture to jewellery and decorative items for their houses. During this time I would come upon items that would complement my range of giftware and Christmas decorations in Australia.

Eventually, with little children, my trips to Dubai became more difficult and I made Australia my home base. Since 2010 I've managed a decoration business on the Sunshine Coast, along with working as an adjunct marker for the Open Polytechnic Level 2 & 3 Floristry. I am honoured to be part of such a dynamic, professional passionate team encompassing teaching students the best practises in a floral arena. I have two sons and a lovely husband who has always been very supportive of my love for flowers.





Megan's Melbourne

Memories of MIFGS 2024

Megan Parker

Some of you may have read in our autumn issue regarding the sorcerer and her apprentice. Kylie Sergeant's article highlighting her experience and magical time at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show has excited a number of members who also wish to spread their wings, with some planning a trip to Melbourne for 2025.

It is funny how Kylie's involvement happened with the show. One day through the Open Polytechnic floristry course (my full-time gig) there was a passing comment where I told Kylie I would be at the show in March. She said to me "oh if you ever need any help, I have family in Melbourne I could fly over, visit them and then come to the show." Me being me cheeky and all said, "you should come and help me on stage". You can image the reply! "Are you joking Megan — or are you being serious?"

For those who know me, never, never offer to help. I am the best person in the world to find someone a job, I am always happy for volunteers!

I have been traveling to Melbourne since 2017, Covid got in the way but we are back on track making MIFGS as amazing as possible. The people behind the scenes run a very tight ship that is highly organised and professional, wanting only the best experience for visitors. The competitors are incredible, reaching for the stars every year. They always want to improve from the previous year. The crowds are delightful and so very interested. They love to chat and feel extremely excited when someone from the show talks to them. That is the power of flowers and gardens.

You will see in this issue that the dates have been released for 2025, Wednesday 26th – Sunday 30th March. If you

are keen to jump the ditch for a week of shopping (it's so good, the clothes are amazing), maybe even a girls' trip or encourage your partner to travel with you. It is well worth it. There is so much to do – bike around the city, dine out all hours, chat to me at the show... the list goes on!

The outdoor area is incredible, you will find it hard to believe what the Carlton gardens normally looks like without these incredible displays. There is a Friday evening where you can come along and be entertained with live music, food and bars. You can walk around at a casual pace and admire the ambience there is to offer.

Lastly there are amazing photo opportunities in the Great Hall where the flowers are. Stop for a while and take a few gorgeous pictures, register for a flower class, enjoy some new skills, take a seat and watch the numerous demonstrations every day, or watch and admire as live installations are created.

If you are planning to come, please be sure to send me an email to let me know, and if I have the time I would love to meet you there. Life is about those moments, the moments that create wonderful memories and nostalgia.



*One of Megan's pieces, a large hand-tied wedding bouquet.
Opposite page: The workers: Angela Orchiston,
Megan Parker and Kylie Sargeant*



*Alison Watts - Bee & Bloom
Photo: Jo Moore Photographer*

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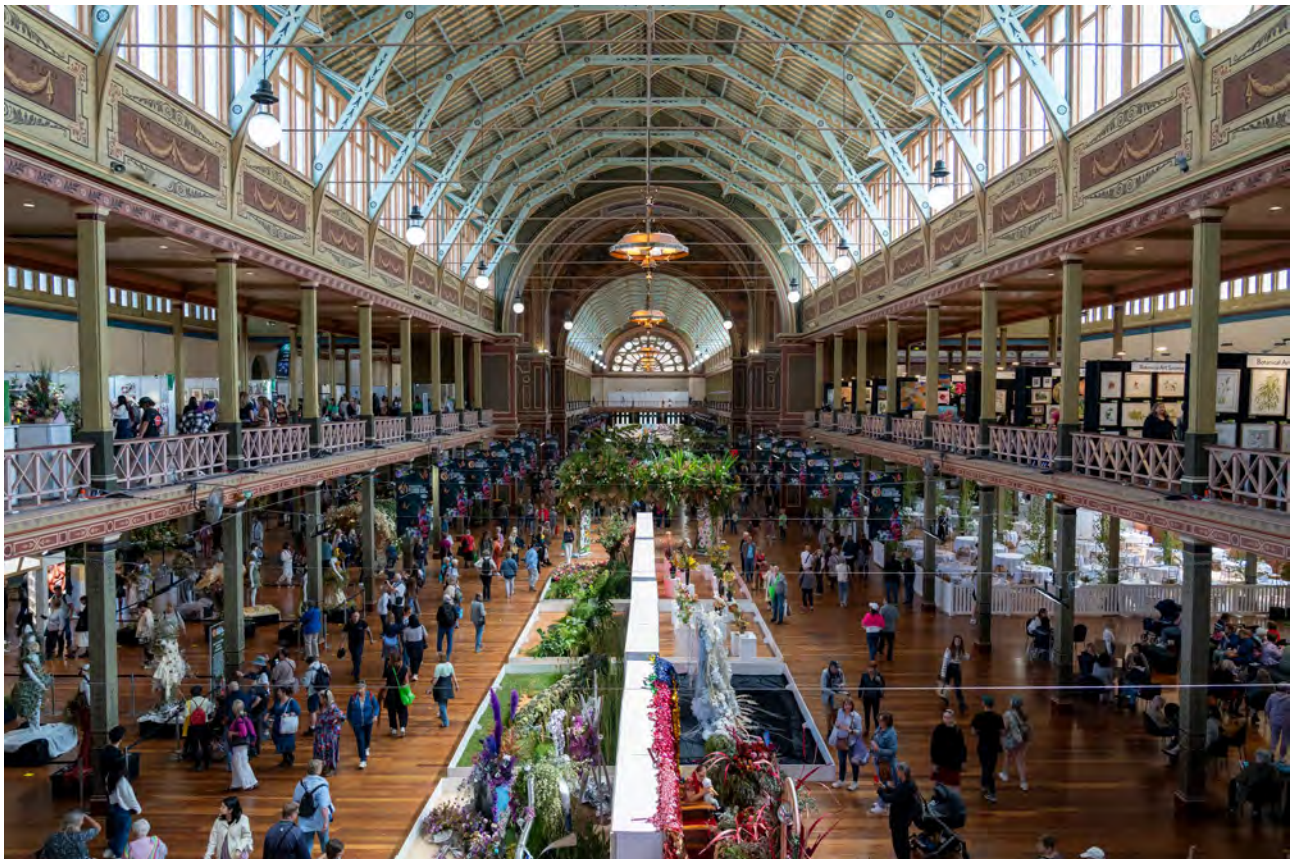
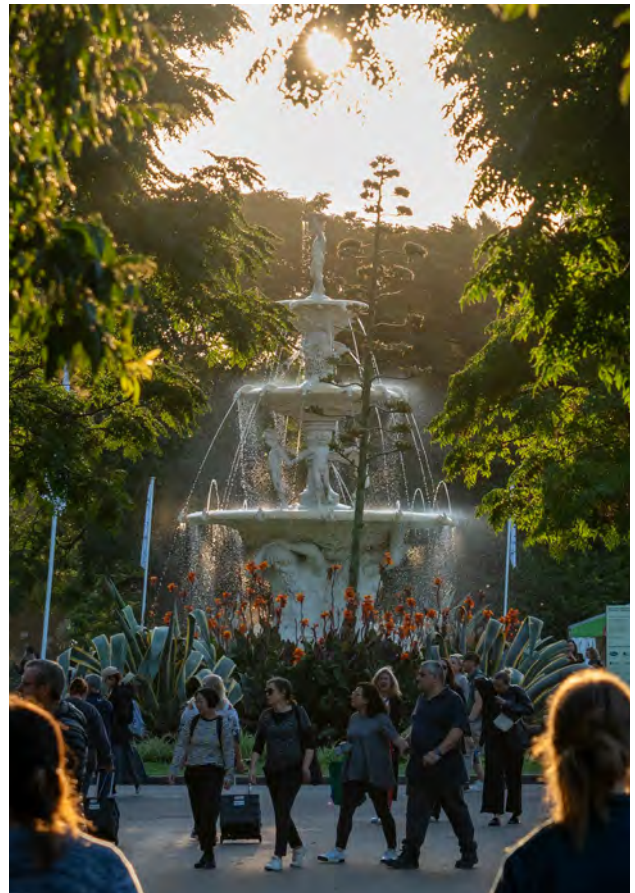
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Melbourne International Flower & Garden Show 2025

The world-renowned Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show is set to transform Carlton Gardens and the Royal Exhibition Building into a horticultural paradise from Wednesday 26th March until Sunday 30th March 2025. As the southern hemisphere's largest garden and flower festival, there is something for everyone with endless backyard inspiration from garden displays, fantastical floral fashions, hands-on workshops, educational talks from celebrity gurus, an abundance of family fun, and after-dark experiences.

Learn more at melbflowershow.com.au/Immerse and join their newsletter to be among the first to know when tickets for 2025 go on sale!





Krystalis Kokedama

‘Old World, New Growth’ at MIFGS 2024

Kristina Bircsak

Step into the world of Kristina Bircsak, a floral designer from Newcastle, NSW, whose enchanting kokedama and driftwood art are turning heads in the floral community. With five years of dedication under her belt, Kristina’s talent and passion have culminated in her triumphant participation at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show (MIFGS) 2024.

The Winning Creation

Kristina’s entry “Old World, New Growth” is a mesmerising blend of aged, recycled wood and handwoven kokedama, promoting harmony between people and nature. Her winning entry stands as a testament to the beauty and creativity that flourish when art and botanicals intertwine.

Elevating her creation with the use of innovative materials, her sculpture was crafted from two recycled trampolines, meeting and exceeding the competition’s new environmental criteria. This seamless integration of sustainability and artistry is underscored by the Krystalis logo, symbolising Kristina’s commitment to eco-friendly practices.

The Journey to MIFGS

The road to MIFGS was as challenging as it was exhilarating. Kristina transported her delicate kokedama from Newcastle to Melbourne in the tray of her 4WD, anxiously monitoring every bump. Over-preparation saw her crafting two dozen extra kokedama and purchasing unnecessary cut flowers in a last-minute panic. Amidst the whirlwind of setup, Kristina found herself marvelling at the speed and precision of her fellow competitors, often feeling out of her depth with her \$2 store craft scissors. Yet, through all the chaos, Kristina’s belief in her vision and the steadfast support of her partner carried her through. Completing her creation just in time, she felt a deep sense of satisfaction, knowing she had given her best effort.

A Surprising Victory

Kristina was celebrating with family when she received an unexpected message to attend a breakfast the following day—a clear sign she had won. Confirming her victory with the organisers, she excitedly shared the news with her family, who erupted in cheers and celebrations.





The MIFGS Experience

Participating in MIFGS was a dream come true for Kristina. Walking onstage to accept her award, she was buoyed by the camaraderie and creativity of her fellow florists. The event was a treasure trove of inspiration, with breathtaking displays and innovative designs from all participants. The acceptance and encouragement shown by the organisers made the experience even more enriching. Their willingness to embrace new ideas and incorporate innovation was truly heartening, providing a nurturing environment for all contestants.

The show not only highlighted the incredible talent within the industry but also fostered a sense of community and shared purpose among the florists. Despite the inevitable worries and exhaustive preparation, the positive energy and support from everyone involved made it a delightful and unforgettable experience.

Embracing Sustainability

Since her win, Kristina's focus has shifted towards environmental concerns in the floral industry. Previously unaware of the issues surrounding toxic floral foam, she has embarked on developing a home compostable alternative. Kristina has also been repurposing waste flowers from supermarkets. A newfound collaboration with Nadine Brown of the Ivy Institute sees Kristina

learning new skills in sustainable floristry practices other than the kokedama she currently makes. As a female founder in the University of Newcastle's I2N program, Kristina continues to innovate and drive change in the industry.

Tips for Kokedama Enthusiasts

For those inspired by Kristina's work, she offers some practical tips for creating kokedama:

Plant Selection

Opt for hardy varieties like kalanchoe, anthuriums, hypoestes, ivy, and succulents.

Watering

Avoid overwatering by placing kokedama in 1-2 cm of water for 10 minutes, then allowing them to dry in an airy spot.

Fertilisation

Use liquid fertiliser sparingly, based on the plant's needs.

Growth Management

Kokedama are biodegradable and can be planted in the garden once they outgrow their confines.

Kristina emphasises the use of quality materials, highlighting her preference for New Zealand moss, which she soaks overnight for optimal use.



From Inspiration to Creation

Kylie Sargeant

In the last edition of NZPF Inspiration & News, I shared my delight being The Sorcerer's Apprentice at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show. Today, I want to share with you some of my applications from my learnings — after all, what is knowledge and inspiration without application?

While I was helping and absorbing as much as I could from the MIFGS, I also had to buy a dress for a special upcoming event, because Melbourne is the best place to do such a job! At the time, the special occasion was a secret, but now, I can reveal, it was for my wedding! My love, Felix and I had decided to have a special elopement ceremony, in a special place – on our front veranda (because if it was raining, all would still be ok)! We had been planning it for a few months, I had chosen the date based on when our autumnal colours would be in their prime, our beautiful long driveway would be covered in nature's copper-coloured confetti and my autumnal chrysanthemums were 'due' to be in their prime... I just needed a copper-coloured dress – which I fortunately found on the last day of my stay in Melbourne (and yes, I like a monochromatic colour palette!).

I know they say a bride is crazy to do her own wedding flowers, but that is all I had to worry about, outside of not letting our wee secret out! I knew what I wanted to create – a beautiful floral column up the veranda post, a boutonniere and bouquet. I had a clear idea on how I would create a sustainable chicken-wire mechanic for the floral column and from my Open Polytechnic course and prior learnings, I was confident on my techniques for the boutonniere. I really wanted a big stunning cascading bouquet, I just love them, but I was not confident on my technique... then MIFGS happened, along with so much learning! Assisting Megan Parker and Richie Go prepare for their on-stage demonstrations gave me a great opportunity to learn new techniques and get new ideas.

Firstly, I helped Richie Go prepare for a stunning spiral cascading bouquet. He used half a dozen decorative wire coils to add support to the cascade, and then spiralled all the blooms around the handle made by the wires joining at the top. I thought this was my secret wedding bouquet answer – a modified cascade bouquet. I can do a good spiral, the mechanics of the decorative wire would

offer the support to the cascade, without all the flowers needing to be fully wired - I was excited!

But then, the next day I was helping Megan prepare for her on-stage demonstration, which was again using frames to support her creations and to my delight, she was creating intricate things for a 'bride' (it was so hard not to share my secret!). Megan created a beautiful veil head piece and a wire frame and cold glue wrist corsage to replace a traditional bouquet. I had made cold glue wire frame wrist corsages before, and love them, but had not considered making one to replace a bridal bouquet! What a brilliant idea, how many times do you see a bride looking around to see who can hold or where can she put down her bouquet when she needs to use two hands? I also rationalised that a huge cascading bouquet was too ostentatious for my dress and our private occasion. I was set, I had found the solution to my design ponderings. But there was more...

This year, the MIFGS had a strong emphasis on encouraging the designers to use more sustainable techniques for their designs. Floral foam was not banned, but other mechanics were strongly encouraged. Designers were also awarded points for their sustainable practices. As a farmer florist, I have a strong personal commitment to sustainably growing, gathering and styling blooms. It makes sense to me to be able to either re-use, or throw all floral waste straight into the compost pile, so that it can break down and make such rich food for next season's crop. As I am learning more floristry techniques through my Open Polytechnic Certificate 3 course, I also appreciate the role floral foam plays in many design styles and its 'appropriateness' for certain applications. Finding an alternative that has the same properties is still somewhat in its infancy, although there are new products being developed and coming into the market.

Finding sustainable alternatives were obviously a challenge for some designers at the MIFGS, particularly alternatives that provided a sufficient water source for a 5-day event. Individual water vials just do not hold enough water (unless you have the commitment and time to top up daily) and water holding vessels inserted into designs is limited to/and or limiting of the design style. Free styling without a water source is a popular choice for some florists designing sustainably (however one needs

to understand the product's durability and the duration of the event) and while if it is a short event, there is some merit to this, as a flower grower and florist, I do struggle with offering a design where flowers and greenery are out of a water source – my product is precious, it has taken much attention and time to grow, harvest and arrange, and I want it to look at its best, for as long as possible.

So, my take home learnings from this observation were that my floral column for my wedding needed to ensure all my stems had a water source, and I was going to make it sustainably (products that I could either re-use or put straight back into my compost/garden). Challenge accepted! Sustainagrow NZ wool matting, Magic Moss, chicken wire, Kenzans, and aluminium trays and wire were the materials chosen. The structure took about three hours to assemble (as there was some trial and error!) and about two hours to floral. Being on my veranda ensured I could hose down and add as much water to the moss and wool as possible before I began inserting stems. I was happy with the structure, however there are always take away learnings and if I was to do this again, I would not first quilt the moss between two layers of chicken wire, I would just wrap Sustainagrow NZ wool around the downpipe and post (protection and water retention) and then chicken wire around the downpipe and post and stuff a deeper layer of moss around the post (there were too many times I struggled to get stems through the wire and into the moss as it was wrapped too tightly around the post/moss not deep enough). I would still use two layers of chicken wire as it holds stems securely.

This was not cheap, however all were materials I use in my garden.

I enjoyed creating for our special day with my beautiful blooms (mostly from my patch, with a few additions sourced from my local flower friends and wholesaler). I achieved what I set out to do, ensuring all my stems had a water source, they looked stunning for 48 hours (and may have lasted longer) then on deconstruction, all materials went either into my shed for storage or into my compost pile – although I did recondition most of the flowers and foliage to make into arrangements to enjoy in our house for another week or so!

As a student of floristry, I appreciate that I have opened myself up to be vulnerable in this forum of those more experienced than I, however I truly value learning and experimenting and trying new things. I share my learnings because many others have shared in this forum and inspired me to try different ways of working, if I have given you even one idea to try something different, I am delighted, keep learning and enjoy creating beautiful floral things.



The mechanics of Kylie's wrist corsage





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Beans & Blooms



A match made in Kāpiti

Serena Harper

The Kāpiti Roastery on a mission to reduce waste and create a sustainable and environmentally friendly business.

We've been roasting coffee on the Kāpiti Coast since 2016. Our Sheffield Street factory now has an espresso bar where you can come and relax with a great cup of coffee and soak up the atmosphere.

We roast most mornings so you can see how your coffee goes from green bean to cup while enjoying a flat white. We also offer 'hands on' Roastery tours, where you can embark on an immersive journey into the world of coffee roasting. Our tours offer a unique opportunity to learn the art of roasting first hand. Discover the intricacies of the equipment used in the process, from state-of-the-art roasters to precision grinders. Dive into the roasting phases, understanding how temperature and time influence the flavour profiles of different beans. Gain insights into the green bean process, from sourcing to sorting, and witness the transformation of raw beans into aromatic delights.



We have two state-of-the-art German Probat roasters which are an absolute dream to operate. We have our signature blend which we created five years ago and a number of other organic and fairtrade beans which we either blend or keep as a single-origin roasts. One I am particularly proud to have on our shelf is the Timor bean. We started roasting it when an ex-VSA in Timor-Leste asked if we had heard of it. Now it's one of our biggest sellers. Its organic fairtrade status means



Timorese farmers get paid a fair price which gives them a better livelihood and the opportunity to invest in their community. I'm super proud to have this coffee as I know, from people who have been directly involved in setting up aid and medical programs there, how much it helps locals.

At The Roastery we are on a mission to reduce waste and create a sustainable and environmentally friendly business. We have taken the bold step of selling our coffee beans in reusable jars, championing the cause of minimising waste and saving the world one cup (or coffee bag) at a time. We are also searching for the most sustainable coffee bags to reduce landfill waste even more.

Community is super important to us. We recently worked with Kaibosh Food Rescue, donating \$1 from every bag of our signature Raumati roast sold. These amazing humans help reduce food waste across the Kāpiti Coast and distribute it to people who really need it.

We love a good co-lab too, supporting and working with local businesses. We host pottery making courses and painting classes at the Roastery. We also do a great little gift pack with local florist Copseford Flowers. It includes a pack of coffee, cups and a beautiful arrangement of flowers - super popular, especially for Mother's Day and Christmas. If you're on the Kāpiti Coast, come see us at The Roastery, 2 Sheffield St, Paraparaumu - open 7 days.

Embracing Sustainability

The Journey of Koha Iti

Carol Stockdill

Rediscovering Roots and Blossoming Dreams

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, my husband and I made the bold decision to leave our professional careers in a bustling city and return to our roots in Canterbury, New Zealand. This period of reflection led me on a personal journey to reconnect with my Māori heritage. What emerged from this exploration was a passion for creating a vocation that not only brought me fulfilment but also contributed positively to the well-being of others.



The Birth of Koha Iti

From this vision, Koha Iti, meaning 'little gift,' was conceived as a streamlined way of ordering and delivering flowers in Christchurch. Our business model is firmly rooted in sustainable practices, guided by the ethos of 'do no harm' and respect for Papatūānuku (Mother Earth).

The four pillars of Koha Iti are:

Minimising Waste

We offer one style of bouquet weekly, available in three different sizes, drawing on what is seasonal.

Supporting Local

We source flowers from local growers whenever possible, nurturing community ties and providing fresher flowers with a smaller carbon footprint.

Mindful Flowers

Our packaging is biodegradable, recyclable, and plastic-free.

Giving Back

Unsold bouquets are donated to charities, spreading aroha (love) to those who deserve it most.

Sustainable Materials and Practices

Creating a sustainable method for offering fresh flowers was at the core of Koha Iti. I aimed to be plastic-free, using only materials that could be recycled and would break down over time, leaving no lasting environmental impact.

One of the biggest challenges was finding a way to keep our flowers hydrated and spill-free during transit. After experimenting with biodegradable cellophane bags, I settled on Eden Eco biobags combined with coagulate water source gel to minimise spillage.

Our bouquets are wrapped in hessian or kraft paper and finished with recycled sari string and sometimes a hessian bow or little flax whetū creating an earthy, natural look that defines our style.

While much flower stock arrives with plastic packaging, it's a thrill to see more sustainably packaged stock from wholesalers. When companies consciously explore sustainable packaging alternatives, it's a win-win situation, resulting in reduced waste for everyone.

Of course, sourcing directly from local growers during warmer months reduces waste, keeps our flowers fresh, unwrapped, and ready for customers.

Community Connection & Giving Back

A unique touch we cherish is typing out swing tag messages on a typewriter, adding a nostalgic feel that aligns with our business model.

At the end of each week, unsold flowers are donated to various charities in Christchurch, such as Hospital Volunteers, Food Bank, and the Canterbury Charity Hospital. It's incredibly rewarding to witness the gratitude from those who don't expect anything in return and to spread positivity to individuals quietly supporting their community. Additionally, it's a guilt-free way to repurpose unsold stock.

The Conscious Florist

As consumers become more conscious of their spending choices, the demand for ethically sourced products, including flowers, is growing. Customers want to know where their flowers come from and their environmental impact. In the floral industry, we must consider our environmental footprint, from packaging waste to the carbon footprint of imported flowers. Sometimes the volume of packaging around the flowers far exceeds the actual flowers and if we are buying cheap flowers in a country a long way from where they were grown, then we need to ask how those flowers came to be so affordable, especially with expensive air freight factored in.

Florists have the unique advantage of connecting people with nature daily. We celebrate life's milestones with flowers, reminding us of the natural cycles of birth, growth, reproduction, and eventually, death. A florist shop is not just a place of business; it's an opportunity to connect people with the beauty and promise of the natural world, showcasing what nature can do rather than what we do to nature.

"OUR INSPIRATION FOR KOHA ITI WAS TO CREATE MORE THAN JUST A FLORIST SHOP;
IT WAS TO ESTABLISH A MOVEMENT TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY
AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION."



Orchids

One of my favourite things...

Jen Alexander

I've been asked many times over my many years of being a florist "what is your favourite flower?" I never know what to answer with – is it those flowers that have a fragrance, is it the bright flower that likes to stand out in the crowd, or is it a flower that brings back a memory?

I started my career in the month of October, where the bright colours and fragrance of spring welcomed me as I opened the door to the studio in the morning. But mixed in between those bright and fragrant blooms was one flower that has stood out to me for many years and that was the cymbidium orchid. This was also the first flower I bought my parents with my first pay as a Junior Florist.

There is something rather elegant about how this flower stem stands tall in the crowd and has beautiful blooms on a stem that lasts for weeks. She comes in an array of colours from pure white, soft pinks and creams, freshness of greens, burnt oranges and reds and the sunshine of yellows... I don't even know which one is my favourite as each one has a diverse array of what she can be used for.

I keenly await the season of cymbidium orchids and always have them available for my customers to purchase in my studio. I have them beautifully gift wrapped as a single stem with foliage, I have mixed them into my bouquets and arrangements.



Cymbidium orchid

Cymbidium orchids do have a reasonably long season which generally starts in May and they start to finish their season in late October early November. But for those orchid lovers out there we have other orchids available throughout the year like the Phalaenopsis (Moth), Dendrobium, Cattleya, Oncidium (Dancing Ladies), Paphiopedilum (Slipper) and Vanda.

Orchid Care

Have you heard that orchids are temperamental and hard to grow? Well yes, some of them are, but when you get these beauties well established in that perfect spot they can give you the most beautiful show. Just remember a few tips of what they need to thrive:

Light is really important, if indoors they like North facing windows, but watch that direct afternoon sun during the summer, they can get burnt. Orchids will let you know that they are getting the correct amount of light, their leaves will be light green and rigid, if they are not getting enough light the leaves will tend to be soft and floppy and dark green, and if they are getting too much light the leaves will have a bronze or yellow-coloured tint to them. If they are exposed to extreme sun they do show obvious signs of burning.

Temperature: Most orchids prefer warm days and cool nights.

Humidity: The natural habitat for the orchid is humid and moist air, they don't like to have their feet (root system) wet. Remember the moisture needs to be in the atmosphere not on the plants. Keep the plants grouped together as this will provide a humid microclimate for them. Mist spray the leaves a few times a week or if you have a well lit bathroom, they do love this.

Water & Air: It is really important not to over water your orchids - moisture is good but don't saturate them. Their root structure catches and holds water. If the roots are constantly wet they will rot, airflow is really important for orchids. Using a good orchid bark for their planting is important as this will give the roots good drainage and air flow. Don't cut off these roots that are exposed, train them to grow back into the root system, and remember to give them some orchid food every couple of months, which you can purchase from your local garden centre.



Cattleya orchid



*Oncidium
(Dancing ladies)*



Phalaenopsis (Moth)



Cymbidium orchid



Cymbidium orchid



Dendrobium orchids



Paphiopedilum (Slipper)



Sympathy Florals

Marie Fowler

Sympathy florals are one of my favorite designs. It is always such an honor to be able to design florals that represent a loved one during such a difficult time for family and friends.

I was asked by a family friend to custom design a floral tribute for his late mother. She was a lover of gardens and an English girl at heart.

The request

When approached he gave me a list of florals his mum had requested “pastel green, blues, English garden flowers, lady’s mangle, foxgloves, pink dianthus, peonies, hollyhock, phlox, delphiniums, lavender, primrose and hydrangea.

This was going to be a tricky ask in early June in New Zealand. Winter was well and truly here and these flowers were nowhere to be seen.

The final design

After a conversation with my buyer at our local Auckland flower market we came up with a plan for the florals to best match the vision the family and mum had.

The final result (pictured) included spray roses, garden roses, hydrangeas, snap dragons, veronica, matricaria, pieris, delphiniums and soft flowing foraged greenery.

Working with the seasons

It can be tricky when faced with specific floral requests with our ever changing seasons. Be up front and honest with your clients about what is and isn’t in season. Build a trusting relationship with them so that even though you may not be able to meet their requests they understand you will custom design them something beautiful that will still align with their vision.



Wānaka

Guided Garden Tours

Florence Micoud

Starting in October, Beautiful Gardens of Wānaka will be offering half-day guided garden tours for small groups throughout the Wānaka region.

Worldwide, garden tours have become a popular activity as the art and pleasure of gardening has literally blossomed into people's lifestyle.

Our garden tours offer a point of difference as each tour is accompanied by a knowledgeable and passionate guide narrating the gardeners' stories and informing the guests about gardening. This is an enriching activity in the midst of the beauty and uniqueness each garden promotes, helping to connect you to the land and offering inspiring ideas which may be achievable in your own patch of paradise.

From October 2024 to April 2025, we offer daily departures at 9am and 2pm. All our tours offer a different variety of unique garden styles in the Wānaka and Hawea area. Just about all these gardens are designed and maintained by the land owners, who are willing to share their work of love and beauty with you.

New this season is our educational tour featuring biodiversity attributes to adapt to our current climate crisis era, demonstrating how to regenerate land and gardens in harmony with nature. The property showcased on this tour is an inspiring example of sustainable living.

Please feel free to contact us for more photos or information if required. Call Florence 021 0279 2481 or find us at beautifulgardenswanaka.com



My life as a Small Town Florist

Iona van der Pasch

My hometown of Otorohanga is known as the Kiwiana Capital of New Zealand. It is a cosy township of 3027 people, nestled in a dairy farming district, and gateway to the famed Waitomo Caves.

You'll find my flower baby, Moss & Co Floral Design, in the heart of Otorohanga's main street. This year I celebrated not only 26 years in the flower industry, but also five years as a business owner (happy dance!)

Our closest flower market is in Hamilton (about an hour's drive north), and with products also coming from the Auckland auction, our flowers are always on an overnight delivery basis. It takes a bit of planning (and gut instinct) to make sure we have the flower product we need for the unexpected. I also must be mindful of freight costs. Luckily, I have access to wonderful growers in our area – stock, calla lilies, sunflowers, protea, waratah, leucadendron, beautiful foliage and fillers.

Three years ago, I decided to develop my own small flower farm in my grandparents' old orchard. Fast growing and abundant crops such as cosmos, celosia, matricaria, aster, amaranthus, snapdragons; and a few treasures such as David Austin roses, dahlias and waterlilies. The aim was to not only assist the shop with flowers and fillers on tap in Spring/Summer/Autumn (cutting down the weekly flower costs), though also to provide a healthy balance between being in the studio and out in the fresh air getting my hands dirty. Self-preservation is so important in our profession!



I am an Interflora Approved florist and have been a member of the NZPF since I was a junior florist in the late 90s. Training and qualifications (as well as an absolute passion for floristry), are so important to me. Currently I have two Pathways students from Otorohanga College assisting in the shop and have had several students from the Open Polytechnic complete their Level 2 Floristry Certificate work experience hours with me. I LOVE sharing my knowledge, and still find myself soaking up new techniques, marveling over how wonderful nature is.

My studio covers a large delivery area from small coastal communities in the west, to over two hours south of Otorohanga. We deliver most of our own local orders and have a fantastic courier company who covers the wider surrounding districts for us.

Being born and raised in Otorohanga has given me an added connection with my customers. They either know my parents or remember me growing up with their families. I celebrate the good times with them; I grieve in the sad times with them and have adopted the role of 'family florist' to many. And that is something very special about small communities.

Flowers have that unwavering power to talk without talking, and having someone familiar behind the scenes making flower magic happen adds that personal touch.



I like to think that my wee flower studio envelops what my community is about. Earthy, natural, even magical in a sense, with a seating area and a jar of Chocolate Fish at the ready.

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50th AGM WEEKEND

Friday 18th - Sunday 20th October, 2024



Venue: CHATEAU ON THE PARK
189 Deans Avenue, Riccarton, Christchurch

ACCOMMODATION & DINNER

We have reserved twin rooms at Chateau on the Park for the weekend at a special rate of \$226 per night, and have booked the dining area for our Saturday evening masked dinner (three course meal for \$75 per person).

DEMONSTRATION

NZPF is celebrating our 50th AGM with Razzle and Dazzle!

Date: Saturday 19 October, 2024 | **Time:** 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Where: Chateau on the Park, 189 Deans Avenue, Riccarton, Christchurch

Cost: \$25 (NZPF member) / \$30 (non-member)

Our creative delegation of demonstrators will wow and inspire you! Members of the NZPF Executive, along with florists from Open Polytechnic and a current Level 3 student, will present ideas sure to enrich and entertain.

Enjoy an afternoon of inspiring creations, with some designs available to be auctioned at the end.

Then join us for a drink in the bar after the demonstration and dinner if you have time.

Dinner (masked with golden surprises): \$75 | **Drinks:** BYO

REGISTER NOW!

Please contact our secretary Julie Ainsworth via email to secretary@nzprofessionalflorists.co.nz to book your accommodation, a seat at the dinner table and/or your place at the demonstration.

50th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA



To be held on: Sunday 20 October 2024 **from:** 10.00 a.m.
at Chateau on the Park, 189 Deans Avenue, Riccarton, Christchurch

Welcome and Greetings

Apologies

Minutes: Minutes of the 49th AGM held at Distinction Hotel, Palmerston North on Sunday 8 October 2023 to be accepted as a true and correct record.

Matters Arising

Correspondence

President's Report

Financial Report

Assessment Co-ordinator's Report

Moderator's Report

Appointment of Accountant: Dravitzki Accountancy & Tax Limited to be approved

Appointment of Patron

General Business

- Constitution/Rules
- Open Polytechnic update
- NZPF Floral News & Inspiration
- Website/Facebook
- Tutorial/Workshops
- One-off Diploma.

2025 AGM Venue and Date



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Ruscus

Family name: Asparagaceae

Botanical name: *Ruscus hypophyllum*

Common name: ruscus or butcher's broom

Origin/History: Native to Western and southern Europe. Genus of six species of flowering plants, however we do not see the flower, it sits underneath the leaf, which in actual fact is not a leaf but a cladodes (modified stem). Ruscus also has another common name, 'butcher's broom' this came from Europe. Due to the stiffness of ruscus, it is said that butchers would gather up bundles of ruscus to sweep and cleanse their cutting blocks. Later it was discovered that an essential oil that is an antibacterial can be extracted from the plant. Ruscus is now listed under the family name of Asparagaceae, it was previously classified as being part of the Liliaceae family.

Type of Plant: Perennial.

Pest/Diseases: No known insect or disease problems.

Care and Handling: Re-cut stems on a 45° angle and place in clean vases or buckets with flower food added. Ensure any leaves that sit below the water level are removed as these will taint the water. Ruscus can last for up to 12 weeks in freshwater, it is truly an amazing foliage.

Uses in Floristry: Excellent line material, great in bunches, cladodes (leaves) is an excellent foliage to roll individually and add to buttonholes, boutonnière, corsages, or headpieces.

Maturation signs: Excellent lasting foliage, up to 18 weeks in fresh water. Leaves start to go yellow. Can be used many times, great have in a flower shop.





Stock

Family name: Brassicaceae

Botanical name: *Matthiola incana*

Common name: stock

Origin/History: A Mediterranean and South Africa native, *Matthiola incana* is found in marginal areas such as cliffs and dry lands. Named by 16th century Italian naturalist and physician, Pietro Andrea Matthioli, it was quickly exported to the rest of Europe shortly after discovery. The leaves and flowers are edible and the seeds have a reputation of being an aphrodisiac.

Type of Plant: Annual.

Pest/Diseases: Fusarium wilt, grey mould, leaf spot, root rot, and verticillium wilt.

Care and Handling: Carefully remove the wrap on these flowers, they are very delicate, and you don't want to break any flowers. Recut stem on a 45° angle, place in fresh water with floral preservative added.

Uses in Floristry: Perfect for Bouquets, posies, wreaths, wedding bouquets, bowls and vase arrangements. Sympathy bouquets, weddings, table arrangements especially for events because of the perfume. Water becomes rancid and gives off a rotten cabbage smell. Flowers start to rot. Replace water every two-three days, clean out container and rinse stems if they become slimy.

Maturation signs: Bottom flowers start to shrivel and fall off, leaves go yellow and water becomes very smelly. Normally about 5 days later.



Step by Step Spring Arrangement

Marie Fowler



Gather your florals and vessel.
I have chosen an apple to use
as the base.



Make holes, make sure they do not go
all the way through. I used a balloon
stick to make random holes through
the top portion of my apple.



Add water.



Add your florals, making sure to
balance the weight as you go so the
design won't fall over.



Once all your florals are placed
and you are happy add some moss
around the top of the apple to
cover any left-over holes and the
flower stems at the bottom.



Add some final touches with tortured
kowhai or similar. This can be poked
directly into the apple.

This design is not made to last and will need regular attention and water to keep it going.

How do I start my exams with New Zealand Professional Florists Inc. (NZPF)

*We are often asked questions regarding exams and how it all works.
Please read the following guidelines to help you plan.*

Important things to know before you start the exam process

NZPF offers assessing and certificates for Level 3, Level 4, Diploma, Accredited Assessor and Master Florist. These are to be completed sequentially.

NZPF exams are marked to an extremely high standard by qualified examiners who have undergone rigorous training, often over a period of several years and levels. NZPF qualifications are held in high regard overseas.

The certificates produced by New Zealand Professional Florists, with endorsement from the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

Purchase of units

There are number of units in Level 3, 4 and Diploma that can be purchased, these have an expiry date of 5 years from the initial purchase date.

The Level 3 Starter pack is currently unavailable due to a review.

How do you learn?

It is best to be working in a flower shop/flower outlet, with experienced designers who can help develop your understanding of the Principles and Elements of Design and how they relate to the practical aspect of your work. Their help will ensure you cover the marking criteria in the exams. Also working in a flower shop/flower outlet helps develop a better understanding of what may be covered in the written paper.

If you do not work in a flower shop or the floral industry, you can sit your exams, but it can be difficult if you do not have good advice from experienced designers. You can attend workshops or have private training with mentors (pricing for this varies).

Workshops and Training Weekends are advertised in the *NZPF News & Inspiration* and New Zealand Professional Florists website: www.nzprofessionalflorists.co.nz

Attending Pre-Assessment is vital to attain the best results for your exam. When you attend a Pre-Assessment, you work with Assessors who work alongside you critiquing what you have produced, providing beneficial guidelines of what to work on before your exam in 6 weeks' time.

When do I attend Pre-Assessments and my Exam?

When you feel you are ready. If you wish to have clarification, create a couple of examples from the questions in the exam and send the pictures to the secretary. These will then be passed onto the Assessment Co-ordinator too check, and once you hear back, you can plan when/where to attend the exam. Dates and regions are advertised in the *NZPF News & Inspiration* and on the New Zealand Professional Florists website: www.nzprofessionalflorists.co.nz

Practice Certificate of Commercial Floristry is another certificate you can apply for once you have completed a certain amount of hours within the industry for both Level 3 and Level 4, these are called a Practicing Certificate of Commercial Floristry. This is issued from New Zealand Professional Florists when students submit signed confirmation of 1000 hours for Level 3 or 2000 hours for Level 4 from their employer confirming this has been completed. You must apply to the secretary for appropriate paper work.

Contact the NZPF secretary if you have other questions: secretary@nzprofessionalflorists.co.nz





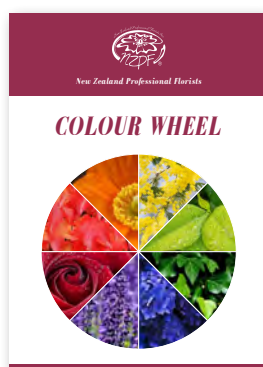
We are a non-profit organisation who promote and maintain the highest standards of Floristry.

We work with Open Polytechnic providing Level 2 and Level 3 training in the workplace or off-site location.

- We encourage our members to have a commitment and passion for their profession and work with us to achieve higher standards in floristry designs and business practices.
- We work with Open Polytechnic who provide Level 2 and Level 3 training in the workplace or off-site location.
- We provide assessments and qualifications for Level 3, Level 4, Diploma and Masters.
- We provide weekend and educational workshops.
- We are affiliated to the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture with our certificates being endorsed by RNZIH.
- New Zealand Professional Florists is recognised by a major flower sending organisation (with Interflora holding an Executive position providing current industry knowledge).
- We can provide a suitable contact for private tuition (cost to be negotiated direct with tutor).

From the Office

NZPF Handbook (A4)	\$25.00*
NZPF Colour Wheel	\$20.00*
NZPF Wiring Illustrations	\$25.00*
* + postage of \$5	



NZPF Executive & Secretary



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Images: Cover: Koha Iti (supplied). p16 MFIGS; p32 Chateau on the Park website; p33 Dreamstime; p37 Freepik.com; p39 Pexels.com. Graphics sourced from Freepik.com. All other images supplied.



Patron, Life & Affiliated Members

PATRON

Mr Malcolm Angus NZPF Dip.MF

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr Malcolm Angus NZPF Dip.MF

Mrs Pamela Jenkins-Lane NZPF Dip.MF

Mrs Carol King NZPF Dip.MF

Mrs Colleen Murphy Dip.NZPF

Ms Ann Stewart Dip.NZPF

Mrs Denise Wilson NZPF Dip.MF

Mrs Coral Macdonald NZPF Dip.MF

Mrs Megan Parker NZPF Dip.MF

Mrs Kate Jacobsen NZPF Dip.MF

Mrs Lynley Wilson Dip.NZPF

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DATES FOR 2024 MAGAZINES

1 December – Summer Issue

All articles must be emailed to Secretary one month prior to Issue date.

UPDATING OUR CONSTITUTION

New Zealand Professional Florists was founded on 2nd June 1930, and as an Incorporated Society was governed by the Incorporated Societies Act of 1908.

Our Society has been advised by the New Zealand Companies Office that we need to re-register under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. Failing to do so will mean our Society will be de-registered.

We have updated our Constitution (Rules) and this document is currently with a "Subject Matter Expert" to ensure we have covered all requirements of the 2022 Act.

Our updated Constitution needs to be tabled at our AGM on 20 October 2024 in Christchurch and ratified.

If you would like to peruse a copy of the Constitution before the AGM, we are proposing that the final document will be available to members at the beginning of September 2024.

Please contact the secretary to register should you wish to receive a copy when available.

secretary@nzprofessionalflorists.co.nz

The Open Polytechnic is the nation's leading distance and online learning provider.



What's our distance learning difference? It's the almost 30,000 students who join us each year to study and achieve their career and personal goals.

From Accounting to Construction and Floristry to Pharmacy we offer a wide range of qualifications and courses that you can study by distance and online learning.

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