

# Floral Art Society

of New Zealand Inc.

Patron: Her Excellency The Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy, GNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand



With deep sadness and heavy hearts, we announce the cancellation of the WFA NZ World Show 2024 'Flora Aotearoa'.

The cancellation will be an enormous disappointment, not only to our own Society members who were looking forward to hosting and attending the Show, but also to WFA Ltd and our global floral art community.

This is not a decision we have taken lightly but there are overriding concerns that have caused us to make this decision at this time.

First, is the increased and overwhelming concerns about the COVID-19 virus, the current spread of the Delta variant, the potential for further variants, and the strict and frequently-imposed Government restrictions, which have kept New Zealanders safe. All indications point to a highly probable and continuing model where inbound visitors to New Zealand will be required to adhere to strict mitigation measures, if in fact they are granted a visa.

Second, is the responsibility we feel towards WFA Ltd, our members, sponsors and partners, overseas registrants and visitors who will fund the show. In an ideal world we would wait and see. But, we are in the real world, and we cannot, in all good conscience, ask our members to continue to invest money, or approach partners and sponsors knowing the potential risks.

These factors, combined with doubts as to the number of registrants who will be in a position to make a commitment to attend and pay sixteen (16) months in advance when registration and competitions entries are sent out, have led us to the conclusion the only option is to cancel the WFA NZ World Show 2024.

We want to make it very clear that we have made this decision based purely on the facts as we know them today and, importantly for the Management Board of Floral Art Society of NZ Inc., based on the responsibility and genuine care we feel for all our members and the global floral art community.

We are grateful for the support that has been shown to us by the WFA Ltd Board and overseas members. Quite rightly many of you see yourselves as friends and members of the extended New Zealand floral art family, which is precisely why we've thought long and hard in the past few months, before making this decision.

Thanks go to the Auckland staff of ATEED and 100% Pure, for their generous support of WFA NZ, and donations and sponsorship for the promotion in India. We also acknowledge the hours of work behind the scenes with Tony Dickson from Auckland Conventions, Venues & Events.

We intend to keep morale high and, together with WFA member countries around the world, to focus on collective efforts to rebuild confidence and advocate the power of floral art to aid a positive recovery for the future.

Once again, we are thankful for the support that has been shown to us, and we are here to support others as we all work through these difficult times.

Together in flowers

Marianne Gibson  
FASNZ President  
5th July 2021