

AUCKLAND AREA DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

Once again the Auckland Area Designer of the Year competition for 2019 was held in conjunction with Auckland Area Day. This has become a major annual event in Auckland's calendar.

Although Kumeu is a very small Club they volunteered to be the host for Area Day 2019 as it coincided with their 30th birthday. Congratulations to Kumeu for achieving this milestone and taking on such a major floral art activity. The two day event was held in the local school at Waimauku, a beautiful new building.

The title for the Designer of the Year was "Dare to be Different". Lynne Causer won Designer of the Year with a stunning showpiece, benefiting from her husband's metal work skills. All exhibitors once again excelled themselves with their innovative designs, and it was heartening to see new members taking part in competition work.

Lois, the President of Kumeu, got funding for a mannequin for each Auckland Club to dress. The results were spectacular. The Club mannequin was won by Takapuna Club with a stunning ensemble. The school kept some mannequins for their students to see and others were later displayed in areas around Auckland.

Those who participated enjoyed a wonderful and hilarious day's entertainment and thoroughly enjoyed the antics of the participants. As always, a HUGE thank you to everyone who made this floral event happen and continue to support Floral Art in Auckland.

Sue Armstrong
Auckland Area Treasurer

*"Dare to be Different"
theme produces a
stunning exhibition*





BALANCE

by Linda Barnett

Flair: The actual and visual stability in a design.

Over the next four issues of Floral Focus there will be articles covering one of the four types of Balance.

Symmetrical Balance

Asymmetrical Balance

Counter Balance

Dynamic Balance

This article is focused on Symmetrical balance

Balance is an integral part of our lives - the human body shows great symmetrical balance with eyes, ears, arms and legs.

Symmetrical Balance

Flair: A type of balance in which visual stability is achieved through equal balance of components on either side of the central axis.

Balance as a principle of floral design is the actual and visual stability in a design

- Successful actual balance is achieved when the mechanics and components work together to maintain a design in the created position without them falling over.
- Visual balance is achieved through a successful combination of the elements of design, especially colour, texture, form and space. Visual balance uses the force or weight of the differing plant material to create either symmetry or asymmetry. Within the main principle there are various ways of achieving balance.



Symmetrical designs have an equal balance of weight on either side of the central axis. This is achieved by the use of the **same varieties of plant material** along with size, colour and forms used on either side of the central axis. The gradation of size, form and colour should move the eye through the design.

Draw an imaginary central axis through the design to assess the equal balance of weight through colour, form and texture on each side of the central line.

Remember to consider the vertical and horizontal central axis.

We mainly associate symmetrical balance with Traditional designs i.e. triangle, horizontal and crescent. However, symmetrical balance can be successfully achieved in Modern/ Contemporary work.



Traditional – symmetrical by Joyce Warnock



Traditional – horizontal by Linda Barnett

In place of reports from our own New Zealand Annual FASNZ Conference, sadly cancelled due to Covid-19, we have a wealth of articles and photographs from those who attended the WAFA World Show held in Jaipur, India at the end February.

A GRAND FLORAL AFFAIR WAFA WORLD SHOW, JAIPUR, INDIA

WAFA INDIA OFFICIAL EVENTS

As part of a World Show, certain official events are expected. WAFA India's aim was to immerse us in their culture from start to finish. They did this through their choice of decoration, food, dance and choice of demonstrations and talks.

The Official Opening occurred on the Wednesday evening after the competition and judging. We gathered near the Show entrance at a huge circular design of beautifully threaded plant materials. There were several short speeches and then Country Representatives were called forward to light candles set within the design. From there everyone dispersed for cocktails and to wander, for the first time, through the competition.

The next official event was the General Assembly on the Saturday. This was held at the Taj Jai Mahal Palace Hotel. A report on the discussions and decisions will be forwarded to management but further work by the Board will occur over the next three years on proposals surrounding new forms of membership and Judging.

The new Board members were introduced to the delegates. The WAFA NZ committee members in India had been asked to be present and towards the end of proceedings we were called forward, introduced and the WAFA

Banner passed to us by the WAFA India Committee.

The original banner was made by our own Mary Mackay, but was replaced by Barbados during their tenure, after WAFA had a change of name. It is this new banner we now hold.

Photographs were taken of the two committees, a luncheon served and then the official signing of the contract between WAFA Ltd and FASNZ occurred. Signatories were outgoing WAFA Ltd President, Margaret Abernathy, Treasurer, Maurice Webster and FASNZ President Nancy Murphy.

At the Gala dinner that evening Nancy was called forward and introduced by President of WAFA India, Kavita Poddar.

WAFA NZ Stand at the World Show

Part of the job of the WAFA NZ committee in India was to start the marketing campaign for the New Zealand Seminar, Southern Sojourn, and the World Show, Flora Aotearoa.

Our partnerships with 100% Pure New Zealand and ATEED were essential in making this work. Prior to travelling we collected from them Silver Ferns, pens, fridge magnets and brochures. 100% Pure NZ also printed save-the-date cards, a foldout Seminar invitation and

business cards. They supplied table cloths, video, advertising screens and t-shirts.

MPI also came on board and saw that we were well supplied with bio-security pamphlets in English, Hindi, Chinese and Korean.

We are most grateful to these organisations for their contributions. We were complimented on how well organised we were and how much information was available. Many took multiple copies of information for those at home. The gifts, we were told, would be a reminder, to ensure they booked their places with us.

We also need to thank all of the New Zealand delegation for giving up their time while in India, to help us man the stand. It was hot and thirsty work. Many of us came away with scratchy throats from hours of talking, but the positive feedback was really heartening.

Leigh Greenstreet
WAFA NZ Committee member



THE EXPERIENCES OF A FIRST TIME COMPETITOR

A challenge for a first time competitor that provided some real learning



Grand
Floral
Affair 2020

The Hotel ITC Rajputana 'Wake Up' call buzzed in my ear at 4.30am, startling me from oblivion.

Alas! It's Competition Day.

By 5.20am the corridors felt eerily quiet, as I clutched my flower box of carefully conditioned Phalaenopsis and Brunia and walked hastily to meet my flower buddy Leigh Greenstreet in the Hotel Foyer. On collecting our boxed breakfasts from Reception, we crammed ourselves and our large flower boxes into a very small Uber, and we were off for the 15 minute ride to Diggi Palace.

The Competition was from 6am until 12 midday. On arrival at my designated Hall 4 (Sapphire), it was a joy to my eyes to see all of the classes clearly signposted within a huge, freshly painted area. I think the painters had worked tirelessly for many days and nights.

There was a contented hum of voices as the designers unpacked their boxes, preparing themselves and their mechanics. A welcome voice announced we could begin, advising us that the refreshments were outside the Hall and not to eat inside. A lovely Indian lady, dressed in pink, was our volunteer to answer queries and keep a watchful eye on us.

I had entered Class 20, Title 'Suspended Sensation', with staging of a 180cm high black box with a hook in which to suspend our sensations. I remember thinking while I was doing my design that I was in my 'happy place' being part of this wonderful experience as so many innovative and creative designs evolved around me. The atmosphere became even more frenetic when the Imposé designers arrived for their 8am start.

On reflection even though my design needed to be of larger scale and proportion, the experience was brilliant and provided some real learning. It was a challenging exercise to think up a design structure that could be packed in my suitcase and that didn't require an MPI Phytosanitary certificate. The WAFI India Show Chairman had sent us two websites to order our flowers on line, with the Show Brochure indicating when and where to collect them from.

For me the most memorable part of competing first time in a World Show was meeting my fellow designers from Dublin, Kenya and the United Kingdom. Small gifts and phone numbers were exchanged and I am sure we will be life-long friends.

Sue Gardiner
Takapuna Floral Art Club



TO INDIA AND BACK

*India – A Country of
Contrasts*

Visit India? What? No desire! Third World Country! What about Delhi Belly? Who would want to go to India? Never been on my bucket list!

These are some of the responses I got when I looked at this opportunity. Well – my travelling buddy, Sue Davies from Taradale Floral Art Group, and I said “WHY NOT?” and so we joined the other 35 Kiwis who went to Jaipur for the WAFA Grand Floral Affair and then stayed on with a smaller group to complete the tour of Northern India organised by Pukekoe Travel.

The purpose of my article is to take you out of this wonderful Grand Floral Affair and into the streets to see the sights, sounds and smells of the country. Of course, there is not enough room to include an account of everything so I have cut down my original 10 pages and will concentrate on highlights only. I took 1500 photographs – how to choose!

Our tour itinerary took in: Jaipur, Agra, Lucknow, Delhi, Dharamshala, Amritsar, Shimla, Chandigarh and back to Delhi. I hope I will fill your senses with the sights, smells and sounds of India – “Jewel in the Crown”.

Our first day together as a touring group was to see some of the sights of Jaipur. Most of us had had the experience of riding in a tuk-tuk, the easiest form of transport to get around and so cheap – mostly 200 rupees (the equivalent of \$4). But now we had the luxury of our big orange 40-seater bus (with toilet on board) which picked us up from our fantastic accommodation at the ITC Rajputana.

We had the most amazing Indian Tour guide Padmaja or Daisy, whose knowledge and love of her country was exceptional. There was nothing she did not know and she shared it all with us. We were a bunch of Kiwi Tourists (or was that ‘Shoppers?’) and she had to control us!

Jaipur, the largest city of Rajasthan, is the epitome of magnificence and vibrancy. Established in 1727 and India’s first planned city, it is also known as the Pink City. The drive from the airport to the hotel was quite overwhelming; such contrasts of squalor, dilapidated buildings, tuk-tuks, motorbikes and battered little cars everywhere; hair-raising chaos and sensory overload on this drive ... not to mention the sacred cows, dogs and monkeys all owning the streets as well – and no footpaths!

The next day we were on our way to Agra and to the magnificent Taj Mahal. The drive on the bus was mind boggling as we had to be at the gates by 4.30pm to see this wonder of the world at sunset. Beautiful saris flowing from the Indian ladies sitting side saddle on the backs of the motorbikes - you cannot imagine what that bus ride was like in streets full of cars, motorbikes, tuk-tuks and us in the big orange bus. Indicators are rarely used by anyone; the horn is the ‘get out of my way’ signal. The noise is deafening.

TIMARU ROSE COMPETITION

Timaru Floral Art Group's annual Dorothy Parker Trophy with its title: "The Days of Wine and Roses", posed quite a challenge for members. How to turn those memories of long lost days of hot summer and an evening glass of wine in the garden into a stunning floral design?

There were 11 entries and a range of different designs. The Winner of the Dorothy Parker Trophy was Gayleen Atwool. She created an intricate design on a wine bottle with small hanging bottles strung on a handmade wire mesh frame. She included a beautiful small copper colour rose in her design which was very smart and innovative. She also won the Margaret Tulley Trophy for the most innovative design.

Dawn Esler's two designs came in at Second and Third place. Highly Commended designs were by Liz Johnston and a second entry by Gayleen Atwool.

Dorothy Parker is one of the founder members of the club and a life member.

There was a good showing of the public at the Caroline Bay Hall which also housed the Rose Society Show and two photographic displays over the two days in late November last year.

We had a very good raffle, which was donated by members, and helped to boost our funds.

Jan Chambers
Publicity



Highly Commended Gayleen Atwool