

Creating the ecosystem to grow our people

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While fundamentally botanic gardens grow plants, they are also places where people grow people. Creating the fertile ecosystem that supports growth at all levels is critical in securing strong successional planning for our institutions and across our industry. Rather than being a linear process, it can be best thought of as an interconnected, cyclical process. Inspiring entrants to the industry, growing the skills and expertise required in conservation horticulture and plant collection management, encouraging skills progression and personal growth, and developing future leaders who aspire to be coaches and mentors will create a strong ecosystem that is enduring and sustainable. It can be difficult to consider how to build a people-thriving ecosystem, especially now when resources and capacity within our individual gardens is stretched. Equally pressing is that the clock is ticking, loudly, as a generation of expertise ages out. The journey that Auckland Botanic Gardens is on is not unique to us, so the solutions lie in us tackling the challenges together. How do we do this? Central to success is having an aspirational vision to build a strong, diverse global ecosystem and creating the right environment for people to succeed and advance in. By seeking strategies to collaborate and partner locally, nationally, and globally surely will benefit all botanic and public gardens. Investing in strategies to secure a future that is healthy and strong will build the capacity of not just our people in Auckland Botanic Gardens but those in the international botanic and public gardens community.