

Royal Arch Masonic Centennial Awardee 2017-2018

The 2017 award from the Royal Arch Masonic Centennial Award Fund has been made to Dr Peter Sergel MNZM, Director of the Hamilton Gardens.

Dr Sergel has been the main designer of the Hamilton Gardens since 1978 and the Director for the past 20 years. During that time the gardens have received international acclaim and were named "International Garden of the Year" in 2014.

They consist of a number of themed gardens including Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Tudor, Indian, Maori, Victorian, and English. Several more gardens are either in the construction or planning stages. The Gardens attracted one million visitors last year, a quarter of them from overseas.

Dr Sergel will apply his award to a research tour in which he will visit gardens and meet with other experts in garden design, history, maintenance, and management in Singapore, Malaysia, Britain, France, Germany, Spain, and the USA. This research will help inform the designs of the future gardens in the Hamilton collection.

Dr Sergel will speak about the Hamilton Gardens at the Grand Convocation in New Plymouth in 2018.

Information about the Hamilton Gardens can be found on the website at:

<http://hamiltongardens.co.nz/>