

CLARK COLLECTION / CREATIVE NZ 2008 SCHOLAR

Priscilla Pitts

I knew when I moved from the museum world to work with built heritage at the New Zealand Historic Places Trust Pouhere Taonga that I had a huge amount to learn. The Clark Collection/Creative New Zealand scholarship offered me a once-in-a-lifetime chance to attend the three-week Attingham Summer School, which focuses on English country houses, their collections, gardens and social context. This was an intense, experience rich and information-packed course with participants from the USA, Britain, Europe and Australia.

The scholarship also enabled me to spend a week each with the National Trust and with English Heritage; both these organisations manage a wide range of historic properties throughout England and I - and NZHPT - gained a great deal of wonderfully useful information from my visits to properties and meetings with key staff. I also spent time at the Victoria and Albert Museum and two Historic Royal Palaces and it was fascinating to experience something of these august institutions from the inside.

I learned about approaches to building conservation, restoring heritage gardens, interpreting historic sites in a variety of ways and much, much more. I made many great contacts and came back enriched and stimulated by this extraordinary opportunity.



View from the roof of Broughton Castle



Calke Abbey stuffed full of stuffed things



Attinghamites at Kedelston Hall