



Chairman's Comments

The last year has been a steady year marked by a number of small gains but perhaps most publicly memorable for the success of the Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition. Both the success and the profile this event brings to the horticulture sector are a true boon for the industry. More introspectively the Horticultural Training Symposium in August 2006 forced those participating to look to the future of horticulture both as a career option and with regard to training. There remains no question in my mind as to the huge value of the contribution made by Dean Astill, the first Young Horticulturist of the Year, who encapsulated the issues facing the horticultural sector so well yet provided some real time perspectives on how we might get it right in the future.

Notable Trees NZ is in good hands with David Glenn, who is working his way towards the establishment of a trust to administer the scheme. Recent changes to legislation regarding trusts has meant that he has had to tread with some care. He is also exploring further seed funding for the Trust in addition to the offer made by Auckland Branch of the RNZIH. This will provide NTNZ with a sound administrative footing and allow it to be more inclusive of its key stakeholders. Included in this newsletter is an article reproduced from the *Heritage Matters* that explains some of the work of the Notable Trees scheme.

The RNZIH NZ Education Trust continues to work closely with the New Zealand Horticultural Industry Training Organisation through David Puflett. The Board has recently signed a further agreement with NZHITO. My thanks to David Puflett not only for the day-to-day work that continues to deliver but especially for his work in coordinating the Horticultural Training Symposium.

The New Zealand Gardens Trust continues to evolve and the publication of the NZ gardens of significance guidebook will add further strength to the brand. Informal contacts I have had over the last year have shown that the scheme is working well as intended. What has become apparent is that visitors are looking for gardens with a particularly New Zealand bent or quirkiness which may or may not include native plants.

The RNZIH publications have continued to roll out and our collective thanks especially must go to Murray Dawson and Andrew Maloy for their work. The journals have been very good and the newsletters have remained current and topical. I should not ignore the work our office administrator Linda Sallabanks also puts into the newsletters – thank you Linda.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of the *Weekend Gardener* magazine team, led by Rob Lahood, who have been so generous with their resources.

Financially the RNZIH continues to remain stable but does not find itself in a position to embark on projects such as a review of the National Plant Collections database without injections of external funding. I would like to see this project moving forward over the next year and we have already had offers from interested people to assist with it.

After long service Michael Ayrtton has stepped down from his role representing RNZIH on the NZHITO board. I acknowledge and thank Michael for his contribution and his advocacy. Eddie Wullems will continue to represent the RNZIH on the board.

We extend our congratulations to executive member and long time RNZIH member Dr Ross Ferguson who was recently made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his contribution to the kiwifruit industry. Ross has made a huge contribution over the years and his recognition is appropriate and timely.

Lastly I would like to thank the members of RNZIH for their continuing support for the organisation. RNZIH remains a bastion for horticulture, especially the amenity sector, which is underpinned by your support.

David Sole
Chairman RNZIH

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Vice Patron	Ralph Ballinger OBE, AHRH
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New Members

We warmly welcome the following new members who joined the RNZIH since March 2007:

Judith Hyndman BLENHEIM
Paul Howarth CHRISTCHURCH

Finance Report

Last year the Institute's budget was set to make a loss of \$280. While a loss budget can occur from time to time for any organisation is not a sustainable option. The cost of living keeps increasing every year and consequently our expenses increase as well. Our major cost increases have been in wages, the newsletter and the journal.

A modest \$10 increase in subscription rates was proposed at the last AGM. This was approved along with an amendment which proposed that individual membership be increased by \$15. The increase should enable the Institute to at least break even and barring any unforeseen expenses provide a small surplus of \$2,000.

Membership fees for 2007 are:

Individual	\$75
NZGT	\$70
Corporate	\$120
Joint	\$60
Associate	\$50
Student	\$55

A positive budget is necessary to effectively implement new initiatives and improvements.

The RNZIH, like any organisation needs to move with the times so as to continue to be relevant and provide for its members. The Institute is in the process of reinventing itself and this can be seen by the establishment of the Gardens Trust, Education Trust and the soon to be established Notable Trees Trust.

It is my hope that members will appreciate and support this increase in subscriptions.

Eddie Wullems
Finance & Administration Portfolio

RNZIH website update

The RNZIH website (www.rnzih.org.nz) is a major horticultural and botanical resource that continues to grow.

A recent addition has been the inclusion of previous issues of the New Zealand Garden Journal (Journal of the RNZIH) as pdf's (online versions of documents). These online issues date back to 2002, the earliest date that we have in electronic format. It would be great to go even further back, but this is a separate project that would involve scanning the original documents, text recognition, and conversion into pdf format.

I have also been actively expanding the ornamental plant profiles, and these should be online soon.

Here are the current website stats: 2546 web pages and 370 pdf's, currently including plant doctor archives (690+), book reviews (310+), journal articles (95+), image galleries, ornamental plant profiles (77), and weed profiles (39).

Our thanks to Landcare Research who provide free hosting of our website.

Murray Dawson
Webmaster

CRAIG PHILLIPS BCM CA
Chartered Accountant
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Springston 7616
Ph: 329 5102

Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture
PO Box 12
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Canterbury

3/4/2007

MANAGEMENT LETTER

Dear Sir/Madam

The Audit for the year ending 31 December 2006 was completed on the 3 April 2007.

The Institute has reported a net loss of \$15,799.48 this financial year. There are two main reasons for the loss. Firstly, the "Greening the City" book was printed in June. This was a one off cost of \$10,182. The revenue from this book should flow in over the next financial year and beyond. Secondly there was a payment accrued of \$6635 which was paid to the Auckland Branch as half share of proceeds from the Conference in May 06. This expense was recognised in this financial year, which matched against the revenues associated with the conference.

The Trust money remains secure and intact and interest revenue has increased this to \$114,215

There was one award made from the Peter Skellerup Prize Fund of \$5000 made in this financial year.

The cashflow statement and income spreadsheet worked very well. Bank Reconciliations were done on a monthly basis, which flowed through to the cashflow statement. All folders presented were tidy and well laid out. I hope this continues in the future.

Should you have any queries with this letter or the audit, please don't hesitate to contact the writer.

Yours Sincerely



CRAIG PHILLIPS
Auditor

Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants

Auditing, Cashflows, Financial Accounts, GST Returns, Tax Returns

AUDIT REPORT

Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc).

To the Members of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc).

I have audited the Financial Report. The Financial Report provides information about the past financial performance of the Institute and its financial position as at 31 December 2006. This information is stated in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 5 to 6.

Executive's Responsibilities

The Executive is responsible for the preparation of a Financial Report, which fairly reflects the financial position of the Institute as at 31 December 2006 and of the results of operations for the year ended 31 December 2006.

Auditor's Responsibilities

It is my responsibility to express an independent opinion on the Financial Report presented by the Institute and report my opinion to you.

Basis of Opinion

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. It also includes assessing:

- the significant estimates and judgements made by the Institute in the preparation of the financial report, and
- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Institutes circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I conducted the audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in New Zealand except that my work was limited as explained below. I planned and performed the audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary. I obtained sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial report is free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial report.

Other than in my capacity as auditor I have no relationship with or interests in the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

Qualified Opinion

In common with other organisations of a similar nature control over revenue prior to being recorded is limited, and there are no practical audit procedures to determine the effect of this limited control. In all other respects I have obtained all information and explanations required.

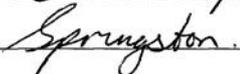
In my opinion except for adjustments that might have been found to be necessary had I been able to obtain sufficient evidence concerning revenues, the financial report fairly reflects the results of operations for the year ended 31 December 2006 and financial position of the Institute as at that date.

The audit report was completed on 3 April 2007 and my qualified opinion is expressed as at that date.

Auditor



Address (city)



**ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006**

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
INCOME:		
Conference Fees	15,568.22	7,901
Donations	531.47	13,643
Greening the City income	1,547.73	0
Hebe Register	0.00	240
Interest Received	304.97	472
Notable Trees	478.23	567
NZ Garden Trust - Administration	10.67	117
Publications Services	96.00	96
Subscriptions	17,852.80	12,723
Sundry Income	1,907.46	77
GROSS INCOME	<u>38,297.55</u>	<u>35,836</u>
Less EXPENSES:		
Accident Compensation Levies	27.92	32
Accountancy and Audit	1,600.00	1,600
Advertising / Publicity	496.15	0
AGM Expenses	979.02	259
Bank Charges	44.00	60
Computer Maintenance	221.33	0
Computer Software	0.00	138
Conference Expenses	17,600.17	2,693
Greening the City Expenses	10,182.42	0
Honarium - Journal Editor & Website Maintenance	2,000.00	2,000
Insurances	569.95	570
Internet Expenses	0.00	481
National Executive General	221.18	1,832
Notable Trees	71.04	1,614
Newsletters and Journals	7,932.64	2,504
Printing and Stationery	2,598.00	533
Postage and Telephone	794.85	952
Publications - Other	0.00	1,625
Rent	1,499.95	1,500
Salary and Office Wages	6,240.00	6,345
Sundry Expenses	293.41	123
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>53,372.03</u>	<u>24,861</u>
NET CASH PROFIT (LOSS)	<u>(15,074.48)</u>	<u>10,975</u>
FIXED ASSET COSTS:		
Depreciation	725.00	524
TOTAL FIXED ASSET COSTS	<u>725.00</u>	<u>524</u>
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>(15,799.48)</u>	<u>10,451</u>
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	<u><u>\$(15,799.48)</u></u>	<u><u>\$10,451</u></u>

NOTE: This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements

**ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS OF EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006**

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
Equity at Beginning of the Year: 1.1.06	25,522.00	15,071
Plus:		
Net Surplus (Deficit) for the year	(15,799.48)	10,451
Transfer of Trusts & Bequests (net)	5,000.00	0
	<u>14,722.52</u>	<u>25,522</u>
Less:		
Peter Skellerup - Scholarship		
- Paul Wynen	5,000.00	0
Equity at End of the Year: 31.12.06	<u>\$9,722.52</u>	<u>\$25,522</u>

NOTE: This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements

**ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2006**

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
CURRENT ASSETS		
BNZ Cheque Account	15,415.01	12,699
BNZ Publishing Account	4,904.39	14,639
Cash on Hand	20.33	47
Accounts Receivable	38.00	72
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>20,377.73</u>	<u>27,457</u>
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	8,754.79	1,800
GST Retention Account	2,772.42	1,732
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>11,527.21</u>	<u>3,532</u>
WORKING CAPITAL	<u>8,850.52</u>	<u>23,925</u>
INVESTMENTS		
TRUSTS and BEQUESTS - Bank of New Zealand	114,215.33	111,398
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	<u>114,215.33</u>	<u>111,398</u>
FIXED ASSETS		
Fixed Assets as per Schedule	872.00	1,597
	<u>\$123,937.85</u>	<u>\$136,920</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trust Account Prizes (Note 2)	114,215.33	111,398
CAPITAL		
Accumulated Funds	9,722.52	25,522
	<u>\$123,937.85</u>	<u>\$136,920</u>



 Chairperson

NOTE: This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
 FIXED ASSET AND DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

Asset Description	Purchase Date	Cost Price	Depreciation to Date	Opening Book Value 01/01/2006	Additions Disposals	Gain/Loss on Disposal	Capital Profit	Months	Depreciation Rate (DV)	Amount	Closing Book Value 31/12/2006	
OFFICE EQUIPMENT												
Computer Trolley		183	183	0							0	
Two Drawer Filing Cabinet		444	444	0							0	
Chair		475	475	0							0	
Filing Cabinet		1,854	1,854	0							0	
Typist Chair With Arms		229	229	0							0	
Typist Chair Without Arms		249	249	0							0	
Macintosh SE With Hard Disk		8,595	8,595	0							0	
Apple Keyboard		302	302	0							0	
Apple System Peripherals		90	90	0							0	
Display Board		1,584	1,584	0							0	
Computer Printer		2,400	2,400	0							0	
Macintosh Carry Case		186	186	0							0	
Apple Computer		3,967	3,967	0							0	
Computer Trolley		536	536	0							0	
Computer External Drive		935	935	0							0	
Laser Printer		5,300	5,300	0							0	
Calculator		120	120	0							0	
Macintosh SE Plus Keyboard		7,000	7,000	0							0	
Coffee Maker		51	51	0							0	
Nashua Gestetner		2,350	2,350	0							0	
Cordless Phone		221	221	0							0	
2 Four Drawer Filing Cabinets		617	617	0							0	
Two Tier Adj. Computer Unit		210	210	0							0	
2 Chairs		238	238	0							0	
Klipbind Compact Punchbinder		575	575	0							0	
Mistral Fan		47	47	0							0	
Quantum External 170Mb Hard Drive		680	680	0							0	
Refrigerator & Heater		200	200	0							0	
Computer	May-99	1,907	1,907	26				12	48%	12	14	
Brother HL 1040 Laser Printer	May-99	622	614	8				12	48%	4	4	
Microsoft & Pagemaker Software	May-99	991	978	13				12	48%	6	7	
Website Software	Jul-00	551	535	16				12	48%	8	8	
Banner	Aug-00	284	161	123				12	14%	18	105	
Celeron Computer and Printer	Jul-05	1,855	445	1,410	0			12	48%	677	733	
TOTAL		\$45,874	\$44,278	\$1,596	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$725	\$871	

NOTE: This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements

**ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006**

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These Accounting Policies are an integral part of and are to be read in conjunction with the Financial Statements.

The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc) is registered under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc) is an exempt entity for purposes of the Financial Reporting Act 1993. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Act 1993.

The following accounting policies as recommended by The Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand have been adopted in the preparation of these Financial Statements.

Unless otherwise stated, these accounts have been prepared on an historical cost basis.

Accrual accounting is used to match expenses and revenues, except for interest, which is accounted for on a cash basis.

Fixed assets are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation.
Depreciation has been charged in the Financial Statements using the straight line basis allowed by the Inland Revenue Department and writing off over five years.

These Financial Statements have been prepared on a GST exclusive basis.

Accounts receivable at balance date are recorded at net realisable values.

Interest earned on trust accounts is credited directly to the individual fund and is not taken through the Statement of Financial Performance.

There have been no changes in accounting policies. All policies have been applied on bases consistent with those used last year.

The Institute is established for the promotion of horticultural education and is exempt from income tax per the Income Tax Act 1994.

The principal activity is that of horticultural education.

**ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006**

2. TRUST ACCOUNT PRIZES

	CAPITAL	INCOME	EXPENSES PAID OUT / SCHOLARSHIPS/ TRANSFERS	TOTAL 2006	2005
Junior Memorial Prize Award	500.00	1,633.63		2,133.63	1,992.00
Dugald MacKenzie Memorial Prize Award	500.00	2,273.71		2,773.71	2,589.00
Notable Trees Trust	2,509.58	2,397.77		4,907.35	4,581.00
David Tannock Memorial Prize Fund	500.00	1,847.00		2,347.00	2,191.00
Peter Skellerup Prize Fund No.1	37,000.00	48,347.49	(5,000.00)	80,347.49	79,783.00
Rita Skellerup Prize Fund	2,500.00	6,674.67		9,174.67	8,564.00
DD Baker Account & Sir Victor Davies	2,821.95	9,709.53		12,531.48	11,698.00
	<u>\$46,331.53</u>	<u>\$72,883.80</u>	<u>(\$5,000.00)</u>	<u>\$114,215.33</u>	<u>\$111,398.00</u>

In accordance with the minutes dated 22 June 2006 \$5,000.00 be transferred from the Peter Skellerup account to the Bank of New Zealand cheque account.

In accordance with the minutes dated 22 June 2006, \$5,000.00 was awarded to Paul Wynen.

RNZIH Education Trust update

The Education Trust began in 2004 with its role being to assist and promote, in any way possible, horticultural training and education at both the regional and national level in New Zealand.

The Education Trust has continued outsource contract services with the NZ Horticultural ITO during 2007. The range of projects includes moderation of horticulturists and horticultural providers to ensure that the standard of training throughout New Zealand is consistent and up to a recommended industry standard. This involves organising around 60 workshops throughout New Zealand. Accreditation of new horticultural providers has also taken up considerable time especially with providers wanting to teach international students.

One of the highlights over the past three years has been managing the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition. This has been an outstanding success with excellent contestants seeking to take out the major prizes. This year the naming sponsor is the NZ Horticulture ITO and again excellent prizes will be offered to all contestants. It is one of the few horticultural events in which nearly all horticultural sectors are represented. Each contestant is represented in the competition by the nursery, amenity, landscaping, floristry, arboriculture, fruit, vegetable and viticulture sectors. The national final will be held on the 9th November 2007 commencing at the Botanic Gardens at 9.00am. Everyone is welcome and it's free to attend for the day.

This year the Education Trust has commenced working with the NZ Sports Turf ITO in running workshops on national moderation of their turf qualifications. This has involved working with golf course superintendents, turf contractors, and amenity turf managers.

Other 2007 projects include a national survey on horticultural training issues that were outcomes from the Horticultural and Training Symposium last year; writing of common assessments for horticultural unit standards; reviewing horticultural management unit standards and developing a horticultural diary for apprenticeship training.

The Education Trust is also working on re-launching the RNZIH Oral and Practical exams that were held prior to 1993. The Horticulture Industry in general is keen to have an exam whereby graduate apprentices can gain a percentage mark rather than a pass for their knowledge and skill attained in the horticultural industry. The one-day exam will be held on the 30th August 2007 at the Auckland Botanic Gardens commencing at 9.00am.

For more information on this report contact David Pufflett, National Training Manager, RNZIH Education Trust, Ph (09) 236 3043.

Gardens Trust update

“Southern Splendour” conference

The Trustees wish to thank everyone who attended the NZGT “Southern Splendour” conference held in Christchurch on the 4–6 May 2007. We hope that you enjoyed the experience and will continue to support and take interest in the Trust and what it has to offer you. We were delighted with the response to our fourth Conference and truly appreciated the effort of so many who travelled from throughout New Zealand to attend.

From the feedback that we received, there seemed to be the right mix of speakers and garden visits. Thank you to our generous sponsors and to those who gave their time to speak to us. Our thanks also to all the people who opened their gardens to us – the garden visits played a big part in the success of the conference.

NZGT guidebook

At the “Southern Splendour” Conference, Gordon Collier launched our new guidebook of New Zealand Gardens of Significance. This comprehensive listing is based on the information on the NZGT website, and we hope there will be further editions of this hardcopy in the years to follow. Gordon’s book launch speech for the guidebook was published in the May 2007 issue of the NZGT Newsletter and in the June 2007 issue of the *New Zealand Garden Journal* (Journal of the RNZIH). We are most grateful to Avelyn Davidson and Weldon Owen Education for making possible the publication of this unique guidebook.

***Weekend Gardener* supplement**

Rob Lahood of the *Weekend Gardener* magazine continues to provide us with valuable sponsorship and has recently produced another supplement featuring all of the NZGT gardens. This was published in Issue 221 (June 28 – July 11, 2007) of the *Weekend Gardener* and has gone out to a circulation of more than 30,000. Several thousand additional supplements have been printed for our stand at the Ellerslie International Flower Show this November.

New Trustee

At the NZGT Executive meeting in May, Kerei Thomson of Bark Limited was appointed as a Trustee; he has already been an assessor for the NZGT for a number of years.

2007 Garden Assessments

The NZGT applications for garden assessments closed at the end of June – our thanks to all of those who applied. Based on these applications, Gordon Collier, Beverley McConnell and their team are starting to plan the spring assessment itinerary.

Liz Morrow

NZGT Executive Officer

Notable Trees news



When John and Deana Feehily of Waihi considered buying their current property Deana fell in love with this mighty oak and thought the house “would do”. To safeguard the tree in the event of future land developments the couple recently applied to have the oak added to the Notable Tree Database. “We wanted it to have some level of protection”, says Deana.

Historic Trees

Waihi Beach arborist Brett Soutar doesn't just hug the trees he loves; he does his best to protect them. One of a growing number of people working to increase public awareness of one of New Zealand's greatest treasures, its heritage of venerable trees, he says that many of us just don't get it.

“In New Zealand we go, “oh, dirty old pongas...” but we're one of only two countries in the world to have them.”

Two hundred years ago in Europe, trees were

central to the community. “They planted them in village squares and pushed their lives towards them; now we drive past them and call it a park”, says Brett, who feels not enough significance is placed on tree planting in New Zealand; who planted it and why it was planted there.

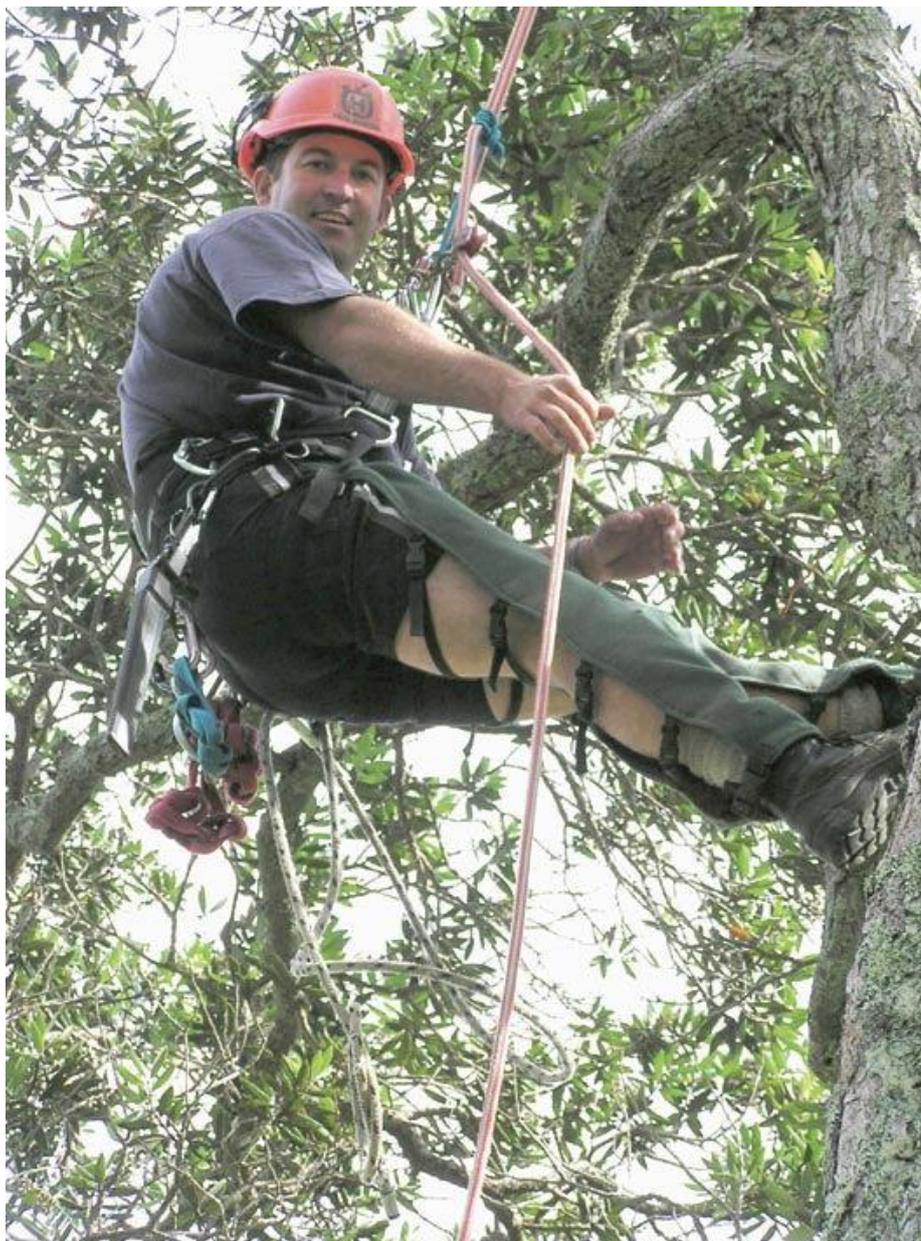
“Often trees marked the site of rebellion, murders or overthrows – you know, “meet me tonight by the old *Macrocarpa* tree...” he hisses in a conspiratorial whisper. They were also planted as landmarks; “the Maoris

planted cabbage trees to mark hunting tracks. You can still see lines of them in the King Country.”

In Greendale, England, one famous oak tree has a hole through the trunk big enough to drive a horse and carriage through. Apparently the owner and his wealthy neighbour often quibbled over whose oak was the biggest. In order to settle the dispute once and for all, the owner ordered his woodsman to cut the hole and promptly drove right through it.

An old, scrawny-looking apple tree in the grounds of the Geological and Nuclear Sciences Institute in Lower Hutt may look like any other backyard fruit tree, but it can trace its history directly back to grafts taken from the apple tree at Woolsthorpe in England under which Sir Isaac Newton sat in 1666 on the fateful day an unsuspecting apple landed on his head and inspired the theory of gravity.

In New Zealand many significant trees are lost simply because their significance is unknown. Recognising the need to locate and identify these trees, long term Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture member Ron Flook, who passed away last year, was instrumental in setting up and maintaining the Notable Tree Database – a national register of outstanding trees deserving of protection.



Waihi Beach arborist Brett Soutar going “out on a limb” for notable trees in his area. Pruning work carried out by an experienced arborist can often save trees which have become too big, are blocking light or views, while still retaining their aesthetic quality.

Brett says anyone can apply to have a tree registered – not just the owner of the property on which the tree is growing. “If any member of the community can see it from one kilometre away it’s classed as a community tree”, he says. “If they’ve played on the tree as a kid, that’s history. If a 91 year old lady says she planted it when she was



The New Zealand's Christmas tree – icon of long hot summers and memories of holidays and picnics under its leafy canopy, is under threat. While it may be well known that possums do a lot of the damage, humans are also responsible for the Pohutukawa's decline. Their fragile root systems are easily damaged by farm animals, and people clambering, driving or parking over them. "Project Crimson" is a charitable trust formed in 1990 aiming to protect New Zealand's native Christmas trees – Pohutukawa and Rata. www.projectcrimson.org.nz/

six... suddenly you've got an 86 year old tree."

To qualify, a tree must be more than 50 years old and significant for one or more reasons. These could include its stature and form; its historical significance or association (with an eminent person or event); it may be a remnant of an original forest or planting; or it could have scientific significance or rarity (found in unusual circumstances or numbers).

Anyone applying to have a tree listed will be asked to file an S.T.E.M (Standard Tree Evaluation Method) report. Also developed by Ron Flook, this evaluation method is

unique to New Zealand and takes about 20 – 30 minutes to complete. Then an independent arborist, such as Brett, will visit the site. Based on his/her assessment the tree will either be rejected or accepted on to the Notable Tree Database.

Notable Tree Registrar David Glenn says that while there is no one actually standing guard, once a tree is made notable it isn't allowed to be touched.

"Do so at your peril", says David. "There is a mechanism in place for assessing a tree's amenity value and there have recently been some high profile court cases where people

have been fined exorbitant amounts (for felling protected trees). The risk of being punished is pretty high.”

Recently in Dunedin, a developer wanted to fell some mature rimu to make way for a dam. Using the aforementioned formula, the trees were valued in the region of \$200,000 to \$300,000 each; a total of more than one million dollars. Upon learning this, the developer was quite happy to adjust the shape of his dam accordingly. David says “there is a lot of public interest there. Almost inevitably, once a chainsaw starts up and developers are rushing around, someone will ring in.”

But to grow and develop properly the Notable Tree Register, currently under the umbrella of the New Zealand Arborist Association, which in turn grew out of the RNZIH, needs to become a project in its own right. “It was Ron Flook’s baby. He was a real champion for the project, even as he moved into retirement he still maintained the database, kept it alive. It’s a half-time position, just keeping up with it.”

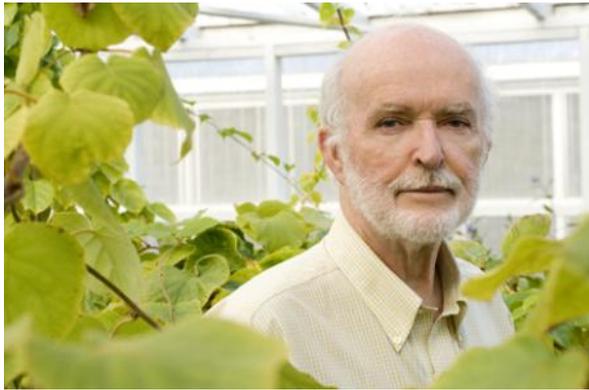
At the moment David is in the process of setting it up as an independent charitable trust – a collaboration of the RNZIH and the NZAA (New Zealand Arboriculture Association). “I don’t think it is going to be difficult to attract funding. It readily attracts interest.” Prominent Christchurch businessman Ralph Ballinger has already offered \$10,000, and Environment Minister David Benson Pope has said he will provide a small launch at Parliament once things are all sorted out.

There are currently around 800 sites covering about 2000 trees on the Notable Tree Database nationwide, but Brett says some areas are grossly under represented. “Nelson has about 1100 notable trees; we (Waihi, Paeroa, Waihi Beach and Katikati) have about seven.”

Hamilton council allows \$500 per tree in its budget each year, and he says that’s reflected in the quality of the trees in that city. Newly planted trees in Hamilton are watered every week, mulched, and set up for life. “It’s like kids. In my opinion it’s more important to have a great kindergarten and primary school education than high school. It’s the foundation.”

He says, aside from the more obvious advantages like providing us with shade, shelter and oxygen, the psychological benefit of having trees in a community is no secret. “Research has shown people who see trees outside their hospital window leave 30% quicker than those who don’t. Children are happier around trees. There’s an old Chinese saying; when you plant a tree in the last year of your life, and you know it’s the last year of your life, and you’ll never see a fruit or a bloom from that tree, you finally understand.”

Reproduced with permission from an article by Paula Trubshaw in *Heritage Matters* 11: 44–45, 2007.



Top kiwifruit scientist honoured

Award reflects lifelong dedication to plant science

Auckland, New Zealand, 4 June 2007 - HortResearch scientist Dr Ross Ferguson has been recognised in the 2007 Queen's Birthday honours list.

Dr Ferguson, renowned as a world authority on kiwifruit biology has been made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of merit for his contribution to kiwifruit industry.

The award marks a scientific career that began 1965 (when Dr Ferguson graduated BSc (Hons) from Victoria University, Wellington and joined the Fruit Research Division of the then Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) and continues today with his role as a senior scientist based at HortResearch's Mt Albert Research Centre.

Early in his career Dr Ferguson worked as a biochemist, making several major contributions towards understanding nitrogen nutrition in plants – each of which subsequently spurred the development of what are now major research fields.

In 1973, with kiwifruit emerging as an increasingly important crop for New Zealand, he began collecting knowledge and understanding about the fruit's biology. Much of this research was later included in the seminal work, *Kiwifruit: science and management*.

His earliest kiwifruit work established the mineral and trace element requirements of the crop. From there he developed nutrient budgets for kiwifruit, identifying the risk of potassium deficiency in cropping orchards.

In 1981 Dr Ferguson became one of the first western kiwifruit researchers to travel to the fruit's homeland in China. Over the next 25 years he maintained a strong relationship with Chinese biologists, helping to resolve much confusion about the plant genus *Actinidia* – to which kiwifruit belong. The relationship also helped HortResearch develop the most comprehensive collection of *Actinidia* species outside China. This was crucial to the HortResearch kiwifruit breeding programme that developed the yellow-fleshed kiwifruit 'Hort16A', now successfully marketed worldwide as ZESPRI™ GOLD Kiwifruit.

Hailed as one of the most innovative and important new fruits in decades, sales of GOLD last year generated over \$165 million in industry payments.

Recently, Dr Ferguson has focused on developing a better understanding of kiwifruit biology in order to assist HortResearch's continued breeding programmes which seek to develop further new and novel kiwifruit cultivars.

HortResearch chief executive, Paul McGilvary said Dr Ferguson's award was "A fitting tribute to one of New Zealand's finest horticultural scientists."

Mr McGilvary said the award was an honour that reflected not only Dr Ferguson's outstanding personal contribution to kiwifruit science, but also the wider role of science in the economic success of New Zealand.

"By recognising Dr Ferguson in this way New Zealand is underlining the crucial role that he and other scientists play in our primary production industries. It is through their efforts that many of our most valuable export products and processes have been conceived, created and successfully carried to market."

ZESPRI Limited, the grower-owned marketing company credited for much of the success of New Zealand's \$1 billion kiwifruit export sector also congratulated Dr Ferguson.

Chairman Craig Greenlees said it was important that his industry had continued access to such high-calibre researchers.

"Together, ZESPRI, our grower shareholders and HortResearch invest millions annually in research and innovation. This ensures that ZESPRI branded kiwifruit are the best in the world and that our production systems are the most efficient and sustainable.

"The work of Dr Ferguson and his colleagues is essential to ensuring New Zealand kiwifruit retains its hard-earned market premium. I'm delighted that this award emphasises the value of what we believe is a model for science and industry partnership."

The award comes atop numerous other honours Dr Ferguson has gathered during his career, including a New Zealand Research and Technology Medal in 1995. He is also vice-president of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture and a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

