



## Chairman's Comments

As spring turns towards summer it has been a challenging time for everyone involved in horticulture. Wellington Botanic Garden has been fortunate in surviving the worst of the rigors of the weather and has had a wonderful flush of roses, though we have struggled to keep up with the other spring growth in the garden.

One of the recent outcomes of the horticultural training symposium was the first meeting of the symposium steering group. It is good to see that some momentum is developing around recruitment and training in the horticultural sector and that the industry is starting to look further into the future. I have also recently attended a regional meeting for local authority trainers with regard to delivery of horticultural training in the Wellington region and how we can work together and support each other.

This may manifest itself in regional training days, particularly targeting hands-on subjects for which it may not be possible for all employers to provide adequate training. Considerable discussion also went into how

we might promote horticulture as a career. At its earliest it may well involve career days at the Botanic Garden for teachers and careers advisors. One thing is for certain – if we are not enthusiastic about the industry we can't hope to attract others into it – particularly young people who are the future of the industry.

This year's Young Horticulturist of the Year competition can be described as nothing less than remarkable. Under the guidance of the RNZIH New Zealand Education Trust, NZHITO and managed by Elenka Nikoloff, a very supportive brace of sponsors were pulled together. Nine horticultural sectors were represented in the final which is not only a tribute to the skills and quality of the contestants but also the increasing credibility this competition is gaining. We pass on our congratulations to the organising team, the contestants and most especially the winner Marcus Wickham of Marlborough who represented the Viticulture sector.

This year's recipient of the Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Scholarship, Paul Wynen



of Eastwood Hill Arboretum, has returned from Kew having completed the Botanic Gardens Management programme. Paul has been undertaking an extensive database development programme for Eastwood Hill and reports that while he was well on track he is reassured, after attending the Kew Programme, that the work he is doing is valuable and will provide a solid base for the future management of one of this country's finest tree collections.

This year's inspection programme for NZGT accreditation is well underway with a number of the original gardens undergoing re-inspection this year to ensure that standards are maintained. NZGT goes from strength to strength with a substantial number of hits on the NZGT website. I recently met with a tour group who had organised their visit around the Gardens of National Significance which underlines the success of this scheme.

Have you had a look at the RNZIH website recently? Murray Dawson has been uploading reviews and articles and the proceedings of the 2003 conference 'Greening the City' are now also available online. The RNZIH website is a very good resource for amateur and professional horticulturists alike – Murray is continually developing the website and it was great to receive advice that more journal content has gone online.

Be sure to book into your diary next year's conference in Christchurch on 5 & 6 May 2007. Again it will sit alongside the NZGT meeting in one of New Zealand's most quintessential garden cities.

Best wishes from the RNZIH Executive to you all for the Festive Season and the New Year.

**David Sole**  
Chairman

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## **RNZIH website – what's new?**

Since I last wrote for the RNZIH Newsletter, I have added online issues of the *New Zealand Garden Journal* (journal of the RNZIH). These online issues currently date from 2002 to 2005, and contain some 75 articles on a range of subjects.

The new index page is at [www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/NZ\\_Garden\\_Journal\\_index.htm](http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/NZ_Garden_Journal_index.htm). Please feel free to check it out.

This makes a lot of interesting content available to everyone who has Internet access, certainly a much larger audience than is catered for by our current print runs of 500 hardcopies per issue.

More recent issues will be added online as they become available. It would be great to add older content as well, but it is a time-consuming process to scan the original documents and convert them to pdf format. The journal dates way back to the late 1930s so there is plenty of scope!

Another new resource is the addition of all 37 papers from the 2003 urban biodiversity conference (available at [www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/2003ConferenceProgramme.htm](http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/2003ConferenceProgramme.htm)). These are also in pdf format and are essentially the conference proceedings document divided into individual online papers.

Both resources strengthen the RNZIH-focussed content of the website, as compared to the more general garden type of information.

Further Book Reviews ([www.rnzih.org.nz/Book\\_Reviews/Book\\_review\\_index.htm](http://www.rnzih.org.nz/Book_Reviews/Book_review_index.htm)) and Plant Doctor content ([www.rnzih.org.nz/Plant\\_Doctor/Plant\\_doctor\\_index.htm](http://www.rnzih.org.nz/Plant_Doctor/Plant_doctor_index.htm)) have also been added recently. We sincerely thank the *Weekend Gardener* for their ongoing permission to reproduce these sections of their magazine for the RNZIH website.

Unfortunately, the Notable Trees database (at [www.notabletrees.org.nz](http://www.notabletrees.org.nz)) has been unavailable for several months now. With the passing of Ron Flook, the database developer has withdrawn his support. We hope to get this valuable resource online in some form again, probably under the auspices of a Notable Trees Trust.

**Murray Dawson**  
Webmaster



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## New Members

**We warmly welcome the following new members who joined the RNZIH between September and December 2006:**

Mr F Allen	LOWER HUTT
Royal Business College	CHRISTCHURCH
Blooming Good Gardeners Ltd	NELSON
Mrs C Jackson	HAMILTON
Ms A Richards	AUCKLAND
Mr M Tucker	AUCKLAND
Mrs L Verma	AUCKLAND
Mrs J Aitchison	AUCKLAND

# Awards

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The RNZIH administer a number of awards. The first two listed below have a deadline of 31 March.

For further details and a full list of the other awards offered by the RNZIH, please see [www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/awards.html](http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/awards.html)

## The Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Scholarship

### Purpose:

"To assist with the conservation of the exotic and indigenous plant resource in New Zealand"

### Objective:

The Scholarship will be granted for research field work, publication, propagation, protection and/or cultivation of plants, production of educational resources, and any other activity likely to promote and assist the conservation of New Zealand's indigenous and exotic plant genetic resources.

The main criterion shall be the value of the work in conserving a plant or group of plants, especially those that are threatened. Plants include trees.

### Eligibility:

Applicants must be New Zealand residents or citizens. The Scholarship may involve travel and/or study outside New Zealand. However, the work must be of benefit to the plant genetic resource **within** New Zealand.

### Applications:

Applications must be typed on the appropriate form obtained from the Institute and lodged with the RNZIH no later than 31 March. A synopsis of the proposed project must carry a statement of support by an acknowledged authority on the topic. Late applications will not be accepted.

## The Margaret Watling Scholarship

### Purpose:

The purpose of this scholarship is to assist people to undertake further study or obtain practical experience in amenity horticulture, ornamental horticulture, nursery management or any other closely allied field.

### Conditions:

The conditions for this scholarship were reviewed at the end of 2001 and some changes were introduced. The main one was that the scholarship may be held at a teaching or training institute, preferably in the United Kingdom, but also at such Institutes in the United States, Canada, Australia, or New Zealand.

Another change was to increase the age of applicants, those under the age of 35 are eligible to apply. The value of the award is up to \$5,000.

Applicants must have studied or are studying for an approved qualification at the RNZIH or at Lincoln University, or at an equivalent horticultural training organisation. Applicants must have resided in the South Island for at least two years prior to the award.

### Applications:

Applications close on the 31 March each year with:

The Scholarship Manager, P.O. Box 94, Lincoln University, Canterbury. Full details of this scholarship and the application form are available from the Scholarship Manager.

## The Memorial Prize Fund

### Purpose:

"To assist RNZIH members who are bone fide full or part time horticultural students with the costs of attending seminars, conferences or workshops that are being held within New Zealand."

### The Fund:

The Memorial Prize Fund is made up from a number of previous RNZIH awards. These were: Rita Skellerup Prize, David Tannock Memorial Prize, Dugald McKenzie Prize, Junior Memorial Prize.

### Eligibility:

Any financial member of the RNZIH who has been a member for a minimum period of one year and who is a registered full or part time horticultural student at an institution in New Zealand.

### Applications:

Applications should be submitted at least **two months** prior to the conference, seminar or workshop.

**2nd Announcement**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Global Botanic Gardens Congress**

*Building a sustainable future:  
the role of botanic gardens*

Wuhan, China  
April 16-20, 2007

**Organized by**  
Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)  
Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)  
Hubei Provincial Government  
Wuhan Municipal Government

**Hosted by**  
Wuhan Botanical Garden  
Chinese Academy of Sciences (WBG-CAS)

**WWW.3GBGC.COM**

# RNZIH Education Trust Update

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## Hort Fertplus Young Horticulturist of the Year 2006 competition

The second Hort Fertplus Young Horticulturist of the Year was held on 16 and 17 November 2006 at the Auckland Botanic Gardens and the Ellerslie Convention Centre.

The competition, which is supported by the NZ Horticulture Industry Training Organisation, is modelled on the Young Farmer of the Year event. It was created to inspire and acknowledge horticulturists aged under 30 years and prizes include overseas travel, an educational management course, clothing and tools.

A total number of nine finalists were involved in the competition and represented different sectors of the horticulture industry as follows:

- Carl Jaunay, of Hikurangi, who represented the Northern Cutflower Growers Association
- Shaun Vickers, of Hamilton, who represented the Fruit Sector for Horticulture NZ
- Gareth Holder, of Napier, who represented the Vegetable sector for Horticulture NZ
- Renee Amodeo, of Auckland, who represented Floristry NZ Inc
- James King, of Wellington, who represented the NZ Arboriculture Association
- Rewi Elliot, of Wellington, who represented the NZ Recreation Association
- Marcus Wickham, of Blenheim, who represented the NZ Winegrowers
- Erin Farrow, of Auckland, who represented the Landscape Industry Association on NZ
- Paul Jameson, of Nelson, who represented the Nursery and Garden Industry Association

The Grand Final event for the competition was held over two days as follows:

During the afternoon of Thursday, 16 November for the AGMARDT Market Innovation Project Presentations by the six finalists who chose to be involved in this project, out of the nine finalists involved in the competition.

Friday 17 November:

During the day at the Auckland Botanic Gardens, Manurewa, Auckland, all finalists completed a series of practical outdoor activities and a computer-based project assessment. Activities included a hortisport event, where all finalists raced against each other, as well as the clock, tackling assorted horticultural-based contests. There were also interviews with the three main judges.

The event was judged by Jo Harrison, who specialises in providing executive search solutions; Jack Hobbs, curator manager of the Auckland Botanic Gardens, and emeritus professor of horticultural science Errol Hewett.

During the evening at the Ellerslie Convention Centre where all the finalists completed a three-minute speech as well as a round of quick-fire questions. The evening concluded with the announcement of the three placegetters in the AGMARDT Market Innovation Project as well as the announcement for the overall winner for the HortFertplus Young Horticulturist of the Year and the two runners-up.

The winners were as follows:

For the AGMARDT Market Innovation Project:

First: Shaun Vickers  
Second: Carl Jaunay  
Third: Erin Farrow

With consolation prizes for Marcus Wickham, Renee Amodeo, Gareth Holder.



For the HortFertplus Young Horticulturist of the Year 2006:

Overall winner: Marcus Wickham  
Second: Gareth Holder  
Third: Carl Jaunay

The day and the evening event both ran smoothly and everyone seemed to enjoy the event including the finalists who approached and thanked us for putting on such a professional event. The emails after the event from the finalists reflected this as well.

Were our objectives achieved?

Yes. We felt that the event went extremely well, was run professionally and gave the whole horticulture industry a huge media focus as well as acknowledging the young people in our industry who are achievers. Without these people we do not have a viable industry in the years to come so we must recognise them and applaud their achievements.

This event is the first of its kind to bring all the various sectors of the industry together in a one day event. The ability to chat to people across the various sectors can not be underestimated and as a result is widely supported by industry people via sponsorship and sectors nominating finalists to go into the competition.

We would like more television coverage but that is a hard one to acquire, so we have found out.

**For further information:**

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**David Puflett**

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## **RNZIH Gardens Trust Update**

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### **Book of NZGT gardens**

Liz Morrow has been busy gathering the materials needed to publish a book of the NZGT listings. Reminders have been sent to those garden owners who have not yet provided print quality garden images. It is vital that the images are high resolution (300-600 dpi), to ensure that the publication is of a high quality. After discussions with the publishing company Weldon Owen, it is almost certain that the book will be launched at the NZGT annual conference in Christchurch in May 2007.

### **Ellerslie Flower Show**

More than 4000 brochures and *Weekend Gardener* magazine supplements were distributed to the masses at the 2006 Ellerslie Flower Show. The exhibit won a silver award and created a lot of attention and interest. It was rewarding to meet people from Britain who had read about the NZGT gardens in Royal Horticultural Society publications (e.g.,

*The Garden*, November 2004). A huge effort went into the organizing of the 6m x 3m exhibit space, then the build-up over several days, and manning the site for five days from 10 am – 8 pm, and finally the unenviable task of dismantling it. However, always a worthwhile and rewarding exercise but a bigger team of volunteers will be required for 2007. Special thanks to the designer Robyn Willis, supported by Annie Coney and Cynthia Innes, and the landscaper, Dean Barber, who did a fantastic job and worked tirelessly. Thanks also to Roger Hunter of Hunters Garden Centre who provided 95% of the plants and shrubs, and Terry Hatch who also provided plants – clivias, naturally! The Auckland Botanic Gardens provided props in the form of bricks, paving and mulch. A great effort also by Margaret Barker of Larnach Castle, Sue Davison, Terry and Lyndsey Hatch and Alan Thomson who all so willingly gave their time to promoting the Trust throughout the Show.

### **Endorsement Certificates**

Our generous sponsor Rob Lahood of the *Weekend Gardener* magazine kindly provided the funds for the design and printing of the Certificates which will be mailed to the Gardens of Significance and all the registered gardens, before Christmas.

### **Webmaster**

Murray Dawson has stood down from his role as Webmaster of the NZGT. He will continue in his ongoing roles as Webmaster of the RNZIH site and as journal editor. It was Murray and Jayson Kelly who established the original NZGT website specifications and liaised with the website development company. We thank Murray for his work over the last few years, and he hands the role over to Alan Thomson of Auckland.

### **Assessments**

Senior assessor Gordon Collier has been touring the country with support from North

and South Island assessors. He has been re-assessing gardens and visiting and assessing new registrations. This is a huge undertaking and he will be relieved to stop touring by middle of December.

### **Committee**

Jayson Kelly was farewelled from the Executive at the last meeting in September 2006 and was presented with the book "The Oxford Companion to the Garden" for being the 'rock' for the Trust and an inspiration to all involved. Bryan Gould has taken over the roll of NZGT Chairman and Mick Reece was appointed to the Committee as Vice-Chairman.

**Liz Morrow**  
**Executive Officer NZGT**