



Chairman's Comments

It seems like only yesterday that I was extolling the virtues of the magnificent Central Otago landscape yet as I look out of my office window I see the last of this years tulips being lifted as spring draws to a close and summer is about to be upon us.

The Cultivated Plant Names workshop, hosted by Landcare Research, was very successful in pulling together the range of organisations involved across the diverse fields of horticulture. RNZIH was well represented as was the Notable Trees Trust. The workshop reinforced the need to capture the existence of all New Zealand's germplasm both exotic and native. The RNZIH is contributing to this through the New Zealand Plant Collection Register update and linkages with BGANZ (Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand) and botanic gardens through their databases, especially with their use of the BG-BASE plant data system which is in use at five sites through the country. The eventual linking and public accessibility of the resources provided by the various databases throughout New Zealand will prove to be a valuable national resource.

While there is a more detailed report later in this newsletter it is good to see the new Notable Trees database up and running. This is the culmination of the Lotteries funded project led by the NZ Notable Trees Trust to provide a lot more structure and robustness to the recording and management of New Zealand tree data. The Trust has also been very successful in obtaining support from local authorities and other organisations in gaining seed funding to contribute to the project. This underpins the value of the register as a national database of trees of cultural, historic, horticultural and scientific importance.

This newsletter is to be the last for general distribution in print form. The recent member's survey indicated that the majority of respondents would be happy to receive their newsletter in an email format. Please take the time to add your current email addresses when you return your subscriptions to ensure that you don't miss out on newsletters in the future. We will be making print copies available to those who do not have access to an email account. While speaking of publications – congratulations to editors Murray Dawson and Andrew Maloy and contributors to the June 2009 issue of the *New Zealand Garden Journal*. I have received feedback from several people saying how much they enjoyed this issue and the spread of topics it covered.

The RNZIH awards for funding applications and nominations close in March. Please check this newsletter and our website for the terms and conditions. If you employ staff please take the time to suggest that they apply for awards which can contribute to supporting horticultural learning and research.

Remember to diary the Banks Lecture and AGM to be held in conjunction with the New Zealand Gardens Trust Conference '*A Century of Sun*', in Gisborne on 23–25 April 2010. Next year is also the celebration of Eastwood Hill's centenary and an opportunity to see the autumn colours of the stunning National Arboretum.

Best wishes for the Festive Season

David Sole
Chairman, RNZIH

Congratulations

Arthur Healy

Congratulations to Arthur Healy for being awarded the NZ Plant Protection Medal for 2008. This medal is awarded to honour those who have made exceptional contributions to plant protection in New Zealand. Arthur was employed for most of his career at the former Botany Division of the DSIR where he worked on weeds. He is co-author of Volume 3 of the *Flora of New Zealand* series. Arthur is one of our longest standing members (joining the RNZIH in 1954) and was made an Associate of Honour in 1977.

Audrey Eagle

On 14 October, Audrey Eagle received the 2009 Allan Mere Award, presented by the New Zealand Botanical Society to outstanding botanists to acknowledge their contribution and work. Audrey is a renowned botanical illustrator and author of *Eagle's complete trees and shrubs of New Zealand*, for which she won the non-fiction category of the 2007 Montana NZ Book Awards. In 2002 Audrey was made an Associate of Honour of the RNZIH.

Philip Simpson

Double congratulations to Dr Simpson for being awarded the 2009 Loder Cup, and also for receiving the 2009 Creative New Zealand Michael King Writers' Fellowship.

The Loder Cup is one of New Zealand's top conservation honours. The cup was donated by English botanist Gerald Loder in 1926 and is awarded by the Minister of Conservation each year for outstanding achievements in flora conservation. The Michael King Writers' Fellowship was granted towards Dr Simpson's upcoming book on totara (*Podocarpus*) in New Zealand.

Dr Simpson is a Nelson-based botanist and founding member of the Project Crimson Trust, established to protect rata and pohutukawa. He is also well known as the author of the highly regarded *Dancing leaves – the story of New Zealand's cabbage tree, ti kouka* and *Pobutukawa and rata – New Zealand's iron-hearted trees*. The first title won the Environment section of the Montana New Zealand Book Awards in 2001 and the second, the Montana Book Awards Medal for Non-Fiction in 2006.

Marion McKay

Congratulations to Dr Marion McKay and her team for receiving the 2009 Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Scholarship to work on vireya Rhododendrons.

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The Rhododendron Conservation project are investigating the range of vireya Rhododendron species in collections in New Zealand, reviewing the taxonomic issues of red-listed species, and conducting DNA fingerprinting. When the work is completed, we will know more about vireya taxonomy and how New Zealand can contribute to any world conservation for the group.

The team is Marion MacKay, Ahmed Fayaz (PhD student), Susan Davies and Claudia Weidow of Plant and Food Research, and Graham Smith of Pukeiti. On behalf of the team, Marion extends her thanks to the Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Award for supporting this work.

New Members

We warmly welcome the following new members who joined the RNZIH since June 2009:

Mr J C Evans

FIELDING

Ms M Gaddum

GISBORNE

2010 Awards and Nominations

Applications for RNZIH awards and nominations are being sought for 2010 – the closing date for most is 31 March 2010. Please contact:

RNZIH National Office, PO Box 12, Lincoln University, Canterbury.

Also see www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/awards.html

Associate of Honour

“Persons who have rendered distinguished service to horticulture”

For Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture AHRNH(NZ).

Nominations are active and considered for three years. Nominees need not be members of the Institute. Nominations can be made by Branches, National Executive or by Associates of Honour (do not approach the person being nominated).

Nominations should address the following headings:

- Personal; qualifications, awards, etc.
- Horticultural experience
- Participation in professional organisations
- Publications
- Special conditions indicating distinguished service to horticulture.

Fellow

“Members who have made a significant contribution to horticulture by their activities or interest in or service to horticulture”

For Fellow of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (FRNH).

Nominations are active and considered for three years. Nominees should be members of the Institute. Nominations can be made by branches or by National Executive (do not approach the person being nominated).

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.

RNZIH Website

RNZIH member's lists

There are currently about 400 subscribed members of the RNZIH.

On our directory webpage (www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/directory.htm) we currently list contact details for the RNZIH executive and a few other key members including those with positions on the RNZIH trusts and previous executive members.

Elsewhere, we list current and previous members who have received awards, most notably recipients of the Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (AHRIH) (www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/AHRIH_Recipients.htm).

Some of you may not be on these lists, but nevertheless may wish to be named on the RNZIH website as a member and supporter of the Institute.

If you would like to be added to the directory page on our website, please email Murray Dawson, our Webmaster at dawsonm@rnzih.org.nz.

Let Murray know how much contact information you wish to be made publicly available – name / postal address / email address etc.

Publications

Newsletter via E-mail

The National Executive have decided to make this Newsletter available to members via email. The electronic Newsletter will also be archived on the RNZIH website.

To receive these new e-Newsletters from 2010 please return your email address with your subscription payment advice, or contact Tanya Maylam, our Office Administrator at office@rnzih.org.nz.

Printed copies will still be made available to library members and those who do not have email.

RNZIH Journal

The RNZIH *New Zealand Garden Journal* will continue to be printed and mailed out to all members.

Printed back-issues are available at \$10 for members and \$15 each for non-members. Contact Tanya Maylam our Office Administrator at office@rnzih.org.nz.

We also have online versions of dating back to 2002 (see www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/NZ_Garden_Journal_index.htm).

RNZIH Notable Trees Trust report

The new Notable Trees database is now live and open for business!

Users visiting the site at www.notabletrees.org.nz can now view the following registers:

The General Tree Register

All trees submitted are held in this register.

Notable and Historic Trees of New Zealand

Trees identified as having notable characteristics – e.g., age, tallest, largest, historical, rare etc. A vetting process determines this notable status.

Champion Trees of New Zealand

A ranking of the top trees by species will be listed here.

Historical Records

When a tree on the general register dies, its record will be preserved as a historical record. Historical records of trees not already on the Notable Trees database can also be entered into this database.

Search Function

Tree records can also be searched by:

- Botanical name
- Common name
- Region
- City/Town
- Local Authority
- Age
- Tallest
- Champion status
- Largest girth
- Name association

New Notable Tree records can also be submitted for registration through this website.

Since last Newsletter (No. 2, June 2009), activities of the Notable Trees Trust that have led up to this achievement are:

- 9th September 2009 – Brad Cadwallader attended the Workshop on Cultivated Plant Names (Wellington). There he gave a brief presentation on the development of the website and database to date.
- 30th September – the Trust met with the IT company Turboweb (Dunedin) and completed the handover to take control of the online database.
- 19th and 20th November – the new Notable Trees website and database was showcased at the NZ Arboricultural Association Conference (Blenheim).
- 19^h November – the date that the Notable Trees database went live.

Next Steps

The Trust will continue developing the website, through uploading new information pages and making further improvements to the database. The Trust will also establish a regional tree recorder network.

David Glenn and Brad Cadwallader

RNZIH Education Trust

The Grand Final for the NZ Horticulture ITO Young Horticulturist of the Year competition was held over two days – Thursday 5th November and Friday 6th November 2009.

On Thursday the finalists gave presentations to support a written project, the AGMARDT Market Innovation Project which they had completed leading up to the Grand Final.

Friday was a series of desk based and practical activities held at the Auckland Botanic Gardens, Manurewa. There was an awards dinner held in the evening at the Rendezvous Hotel (formerly the Carlton Hotel) in Auckland City.

The list of winners is as follows:

Overall winner: Caine Thompson, Viticulturist from Mission Estate winery in Hawkes Bay.

Second place: Erin Farrow, Landscaper for Glorious Gardens, Auckland.

Third place: Pip McVicar, Sales and Marketing Manager at Conifer Grove, New Plymouth

Winner of the Leadership NZ Course: Caine Thompson.

AGMARDT Market Innovation Project:

Winner: Caine Thompson with a project on a clip on machine/device to carry out virus scanning in the vineyard.

Second place: Laura McGuire, Florist from Christchurch with a project on a recyclable florist material.

Third place: Pip McVicar with a project on an interactive website re-launching conifers.

Best Overall Speech: Caine Thompson.

Best Overall Practical Activities Score from Friday: Marc Higgie, Arborist from Wanganui.

This year was a great competition with some outstanding results. We wish Caine well with an exciting year ahead in 2010 and in his travels, he plans to visit Europe and in particular Italy to view their wine production.

Elenka Nikoloff
Event Manager, Young Horticulturist of the Year

RNZIH NZ Gardens Trust

Annual Conference in Gisborne

The 2010 NZGT annual conference has been confirmed. Entitled '*A Century of Sun*', the not-to-be-missed conference will be held in Gisborne, 23–25 April.

The programme will combine the RNZIH Banks Memorial Lecture (delivered by Dr Keith Hammett, well-known Auckland-based plant breeder), an international guest speaker (Dan Hinkley, a celebrated plantsman from the USA), and New Zealand contributors, as well as other events.

2009 Assessments

Our assessors are doing the annual rounds of gardens throughout the country at the moment. Forty-eight gardens throughout New Zealand are being assessed including gardens due for reassessment and new gardens.

2009/2010 Subscriptions

Following feedback from garden owners the trustees have revised the subscriptions, to reflect the benefits in relation to garden visitor numbers and individual garden budgets.

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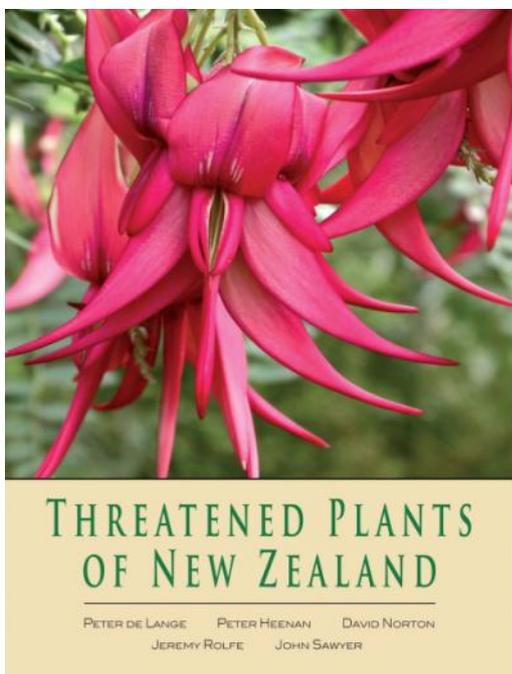
New Treasurer needed

The NZGT are currently seeking a new Treasurer. If you would like to become more involved in the Trust, and have an aptitude with numbers, budgeting and financial reporting this could be the role for you. For more details, please contact Liz Morrow, the Executive Officer of the RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust at morrowl@rnzih.org.nz.

Two new books due for release

Two new books on New Zealand plants, one on rare and endangered native plants, and the other on common weeds are soon set for release.

Both titles will be available from Touchwood Books (<http://touchwoodbooks.co.nz/>) and Manaaki Whenua Press (www.mwpress.co.nz)



Threatened Plants of New Zealand

By Peter de Lange, Peter Heenan, David Norton, Jeremy Rolfe and John Sawyer
Canterbury University Press
RRP \$99.95

One in 13 of New Zealand's native plants are now threatened with extinction.

Six species are already extinct and even the popular kakabeak (*Clianthus puniceus*) is in a serious plight, with just one naturally occurring plant left in the wild. Another 24 species are known in the wild from fewer than 200 plants.

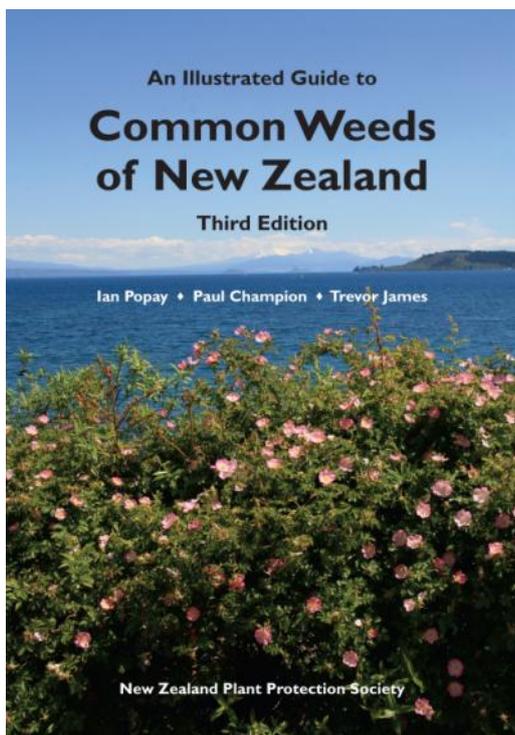
This book combines precise botanical descriptions with lavish illustrations in describing the 189 species defined by conservation scientists as Extinct or Threatened, using the New Zealand Threat Classification System.

Each description contains information on how to identify the plant in question, the specific threats it faces, and its

current distribution.

Threatened Plants of New Zealand is designed to be an essential tool in the fight against extinction, as well as a stunning showcase of the spectacular flora of a country in which new plant species are still being routinely recognised and described.

An Illustrated Guide to Common Weeds of New Zealand—Third Edition



By Ian Popay, Paul Champion, and Trevor James
New Zealand Plant Protection Society

This hugely popular book, produced by the New Zealand Plant Protection Society, is a standard reference for information on weeds and their management. The first edition was printed in 1998 with a second edition in 2004.

Edition two is now out of print but a new, fully revised edition is in the final stages of production. For edition three, more than 50 new weed species will be added, and more than 1000 new photographs have been taken to add to or replace photos in previous editions.

As in the two earlier editions, colour photographs and simple text aid in identification of weeds. Plants are listed by both botanical and common names, and indexes enable easy searching. The usefulness and toxicity of plants are also covered.

For edition three, the text will be extensively revised to accommodate new information and updated plants names and classifications.