



Chairman's Comments

Even those of us who have gardened for years can never tire of the new spring – its flowers, its luscious new growth and the general feeling of well being.

I have recently been reading a steady stream of literature relating to the health and well being value of gardens and gardening. Almost without exception it points to the importance of green spaces in contributing to healing of bodies and minds. My interest in this was particularly piqued after speaking to a group about careers in horticulture and finishing up by talking about parks people being great people. We have all known this poorly kept secret for years!

Our thoughts go to the people of Christchurch. I understand that the Botanic Garden escaped the earthquake relatively lightly with more serious damage at Mona Vale. Both are open for business though there are likely to be many rural and urban gardens which have been badly damaged and will take some time to repair. Trees especially may not show evidence of decline from root damage for months or years to come. Of course for some, damage to their gardens is less of a concern when faced with extensive house rebuilding.

It was sad to hear of the recent passing of Rene Orchiston AHRIH who has probably done more than any other single person in the country to identify and grow weaving flaxes (harakeke), to protect the resource and to ensure that they remain available for future generations. Gardens from throughout New Zealand proudly promote the holding of weaving flaxes sourced from the Rene Orchiston collection. She will be greatly missed by Māori and Pakeha alike; our December 2010 journal has her obituary.

We congratulate Stuart Dudley, a viticulturist at Deleat's Wines Estate of Marlborough, for winning the 2010 Young Horticulturist of the Year. Stuart represented NZ Winegrowers at the finals held 3–4 November in Auckland.

We also congratulate Dave Harris, representing the Nursery and Garden Industry Association for winning second place, Gareth Holder, representing

the Vegetable sector of Horticulture NZ for third place, and winners of other awards. The organising team, again headed by Elenka Nikoloff, have done well to pull the event together in the face of economic change and constraints and, despite this, the finals were an outstanding event.

I would like to record my thanks, on behalf of the RNZIH, to Lawrie Metcalf for his representation, and more recently chairing, of the Loder Cup Committee. Lawrie has assisted in and presided over the awarding of the cup to very worthy recipients over many years and this year was his last before stepping down. The Loder Cup is New Zealand's premium conservation award and was won this year by Dr Colin Burrows. Rob Lucas has agreed to take over as the RNZIH representative on the cup committee – a role which he is also well qualified with his photography, writing, long teaching career and interests in native plants and conservation.

Lookout for the RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust conference to be held 14–17 April 2011 in Blenheim. The conference, *Days of Wine and Roses*, is being organised by Carolyn Ferraby and her team and is certain to be a gardener's treat. The RNZIH AGM will again be held alongside the conference so plan to take the time to attend both. More details will become available from the Trust.

Dunedin will be hosting the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) conference in 2013. This has been a major coup after competing with Hawai'i as an alternative venue. The conference will also provide an opportunity to showcase New Zealand gardens as there will be representatives of many of the world's major botanic gardens and conservation institutions attending. New Zealand's almost unique level of plant endemism will prove to be an important drawcard and provide many opportunities outside of the conference.

Best wishes and regards

David Sole
Chairman, RNZIH

Congratulations

Bob Berry

Congratulations to Bob Berry of Gisborne for receiving the 2010 NZ Arboricultural Association Ron Flook Award. This award is presented annually to the person considered to have achieved the highest standard of practice in arboriculture. Mr Berry (aged 94) has spent a lifetime fostering the largest collection of Mexican Oaks in the world and founded Hackfalls Arboretum, based on his farm in Gisborne. The Hackfalls Arboretum now covers about 50 hectares and has more than 3500 trees and shrubs. He has also been involved with the Eastwoodhill Arboretum and was responsible for creating the first catalogues of trees there in the 1950s and 1960s. The award was presented at the NZ Arboricultural Association conference in Auckland 11–13 November 2010.

Andrew Maloy

Congratulations to Andrew for some of his *Vriesea* cultivars (bromeliads) being part of a mix grown by the Stofbergen Plant Company in the Netherlands which was awarded a prestigious De Glazen Tulp (Glass Tulip) 2010 award for being judged best in the new product category. Andrew and Rhonda Maloy were in Holland in July visiting the Stofbergens where they received a copy of the award certificate. The judges described the Blad *Vriesea* Mix (foliage *Vriesea* mix) as “authentic plants with tremendous ornamental value”. Andrew’s *Vriesea* hybrids are mainly grown as garden plants here but in Europe they are used as indoor plants.

Colin Burrows

Congratulations to Dr Colin Burrows of Christchurch for being awarded the prestigious Loder Cup for 2010. Dr Burrows has worked as a botanist, scientist, researcher, writer, and ecologist for 50 years and has been committed to the protection of New Zealand’s native plant species.

Rob Lucas

Rob Lucas of Wellington has agreed to represent the RNZIH on the Loder Cup Committee. Lawrie Metcalf has stepped down from this role and we thank him for his many years of representation.

David Galloway

The 2010 Hutton Medal in plant sciences was awarded to Dr Galloway FRSNZ, Landcare Research, Dunedin for his significant contributions to understanding the New Zealand environment, particularly through his botanical work on New Zealand lichens. David joins Colin Webb, Henry Connor, Elizabeth Edgar, Alan Mark, and Eric Godley among previous winners of this prestigious award.

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New Members

We warmly welcome the following new members who joined the RNZIH since June 2010:

Ms J Webber	CHRISTCHURCH
Ms D Bellamy	AUCKLAND
Mr C Nicholson	CHRISTCHURCH
Mr D King	TAURANGA
Mr A Tayler	AUCKLAND

Members via the NZ Gardens Trust:

Mr and Mrs Bayly	NORTH AUCKLAND
Mr and Mrs Burkhart	MARLBOROUGH
Mr and Mrs Grigg	ASHBURTON

Congratulations — ctd.

Ross Beever

The late Dr Ross Beever, Landcare Research, Auckland, was awarded the 2010 Allan Mere posthumously. The nomination was well underway when Ross died suddenly. His wife Jessica Beever received the Allan Mere on Ross's behalf at an Auckland Botanical Society meeting on 3 November 2010. The Allan Mere is awarded annually by the New Zealand Botanical Society to outstanding botanists to acknowledge their contribution and work. Ross Beever's award is detailed in the *New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter*, No. 101, September 2010. His obituary is published in our December 2010 journal.

Rachel Vogan and Big Jim's Garden Centre and Café

Rachel Vogan became the first woman president at the 106th Nursery and Garden Industry Association (NGIA) Conference in Christchurch on 29 July 2010. At the conference, the family-run business Big Jim's Garden Centre and Café of New Plymouth won the Yates Garden Retailer of the Year Award. Our congratulations to both for their achievements.

And last but not least...

Congratulations to our own RNZIH journal. In October 2010, the *New Zealand Garden Journal* took out the Silver Award (offset-books/catalogues/magazines section) of the NIPPA (Network of In-house Print Professionals Australasia) Conference in Australia. Congratulations to June Lincoln of The Design Studio, The Printery, Massey University, for doing such outstanding design work for us.

News

Auckland Branch AGM

On 8 August 2010 the Auckland Branch held its AGM at the Information Centre of Cornwall Park. We then had afternoon tea and celebrated several local members who had received awards. Michael Ayrton was formally congratulated on being elected an Associate of Honour, Andrew Maloy read from the citation he had prepared and Jack Hobbs presented him with his certificate. Michael was unable to attend the meeting in Central Otago last year when he was elected. Bev McConnell was congratulated on being awarded the Queen's Service Medal in the recent Birthday Honours and our Chair, Penny Cliffin presented her



with a bouquet of carnations from the Auckland Branch – we all knew that she wouldn't be picking her own flowers. Christopher Johnstone was presented with the gold medal that goes with the Award in Garden History (also announced at the Otago meeting). That citation was read by Ross Ferguson. Christopher commented that his book, *The painted garden in New Zealand art*, seemed to have created more interest amongst gardeners than art lovers, an audience he had not really expected. He is now considering a companion book to his two previous books on New Zealand painting. Our next planned event is a tour of the Government House Gardens in Epsom, when the *Davidia* should be in flower.

Thanks to Andrew Maloy for the photograph showing Christopher Johnstone (left), Bev McConnell (centre) and Michael Ayrton (right) at their presentations.

Ross Ferguson

RNZIH Awards 2011

Nominations are called for the RNZIH awards. Nominations close on **31 December 2010**.

Please note the change in date. For the last few years our Annual General Meeting has been held early in the year, usually in April. The Executive has agreed that the closing date of 31 March often leaves insufficient time to consider the awards carefully and notify successful candidates in time for them to attend the AGM and receive their awards in person. We have therefore brought forward the closing date.

Nominations are now called for:

Associates of Honour – persons who have rendered distinguished service to horticulture.

Fellows – members who have made a significant contribution to horticulture by their activities or interest in or service to horticulture.

Plant Raisers' Award – persons or organisations within New Zealand who have raised cultivars considered sufficiently meritorious.

Garden History Award – persons or organisations within New Zealand who have made distinguished contributions to horticultural history and conservation.

More details as to how to submit nominations are available on our website (www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/awards.html) or by contacting Tanya Maylam, our Administration Officer at office@rnzih.org.nz.

RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust

Trustees

After seven years of service, Margaret Barker has retired as a NZGT Trustee. Margaret was one of the original founding trustees when the Trust was established in 2003. In 2005 she hosted the second annual Gardens Trust Conference at Larnach Castle and in the RNZIH journal published an article on building her garden (*New Zealand Garden Journal*, 2005, Vol. 8(2) 23–25). In 2006 she published the book *The Garden at Larnach Castle: A New Zealand story* and received an RNZIH Associate of Honour in 2007. These are just a few of her achievements and although she will be missed as a NZGT Trustee, Margaret's support of many areas of horticulture will undoubtedly continue.

Micheline Newton has been appointed as a new Trustee. For the past 5 years, Micheline (Mich) has worked as a manager of visitor services at Auckland Botanic Gardens. Prior to that she worked for AA Tourism. Mich has also contributed to the RNZIH journal and written on enhancing the garden visitor experience (*New Zealand Garden Journal*, 2008, Vol. 11(2): 2–3).

2010 Garden Registrations

The 2010 assessment round has begun. Twelve gardens are being assessed and results will be advised in February 2010 and also uploaded onto the NZGT website (www.gardens.org.nz).

2011 Conference – *Days of Wine and Roses*

Carolyn Ferraby of 'Barewood' garden has organised an excellent conference itinerary of garden visiting and other highlights.

The pre-conference tour is on Thursday 14 April with visits to 'Matuku Farms Garden' (the garden of Betty Manson) and 'Tussix' (the garden of Diane Sixtus). The RNZIH AGM and Banks Memorial Lecture will be held in Blenheim that evening.

On Friday 15 April there is a visit to Tamara Lodge for morning tea followed by a visit to 'London Hill

Gardens' (the garden of Dennis and Barbara Burkhardt). Lunch is at The Store followed by a tour of 'Winterhome' (the garden of Richard and Sue McFarlane). The afternoon tour concludes with wine tasting and afternoon tea at 'Barewood' (the garden of Carolyn and Joe Ferraby).

Saturday and Sunday (16–17 April) will be the conference presentations and a visit to 'Upton Oaks Garden' (the garden of Sue and Dave Monahan) and 'Hortensia' (the garden of Huguette Michel-Fleurie).

Further details and the full programme will become available on the RNZIH and NZGT websites and in the NZGT Christmas 2010 Newsletter.

Information compiled by Murray Dawson from the NZGT Spring Newsletter and other sources

RNZIH Education Trust

The Young Horticulturist of the Year 2010 competition

The RNZIH Education Trust is pleased to announce that Stuart Dudley of Blenheim is the 2010 Young Horticulturist of the Year. Stuart, a viticulturist at Delegat's Wines Estate, represented NZ Winegrowers at the Auckland final of the competition on 3–4 November. Dave Harris of Nelson representing the Nursery and Garden Industry Association came second. Gareth Holder of Napier representing the Vegetable sector of Horticulture NZ was third.

Along with Stuart, Dave and Gareth the other sector finalists taking part were Marc Higgie of Wanganui representing the NZ Arboricultural Association, Jonathan Newby of Hawkes Bay representing the Fruit Sector of Horticulture NZ, Jessica Mills of Hawera representing FLONZI (floriculture), Alex Stewart of Auckland representing Landscaping NZ and Leigh Harrison of Hamilton representing NZ Recreation Association (Amenity Horticulture).

As the winner, Stuart took away prizes worth over \$15,000, including professional development travel overseas, horticultural products, magazine subscriptions and outdoor clothing.

Dave's second place prizes valued at over \$10,000 include a Massey University study package, a personal development grant, horticultural products, magazine subscriptions and outdoor clothing.

Gareth's third place prizes are worth over \$3000.

The Young Horticulturist of the Year is a two-day event with the focus on practical horticultural skills. Stuart competed against seven other finalists from around the country who represented a range of sectors of the horticulture industry and had reached the finals by winning their respective sector competitions. This year the competition adopted a new look for the practical activities day which included twelve 20-minute generic practical activities and a computer-based exercise for all finalists. They also presented their pre-prepared marketing projects to a judging panel in a section of the competition supported by the Agriculture and Marketing Research Trust (AGMARDT). They also had an in-depth interview with the three main judges and presented a three minute speech to an audience of more than 200 at the final awards dinner.

Other individual awards to the finalists were announced at the awards dinner, including:

- The FMG Award for Outstanding Skills and Leadership shown during the competition awarded to Dave Harris. Dave won a 12 month Leadership NZ course to the value of \$16,000.
- Best AGMARDT Market Innovation Project, worth \$5000 to Stuart Dudley.
- Second equal AGMARDT Market Innovation Project, worth \$2000 each, to Leigh Harrison and Gareth Holder.
- The NZ Horticulture Industry Training Organisation Best Overall Practical Activities Award to Gareth Holder.

- The Bayer Best Practice Award to Leigh Harrison.
- The Turners & Growers Best Overall Speech Award to Stuart Dudley.

The awards dinner was attended by the Hon. Phil Heatley who, standing in for the Hon. David Carter, gave the opening speech. Barry O'Neill, deputy Director General of MAF Biosecurity also attended as did many dignitaries and personalities from the horticulture industry, sector associations, sponsors and suppliers, employers, friends and family of the individual finalists. The culmination of the evening was the awards ceremony and announcement of winners for the numerous awards.

The Young Horticulturist of the Year 2010 competition is possible due to the generous support received from numerous sponsors.

Partnering sponsors:

The NZ Horticulture Industry Training Organisation, Fruitfed Supplies, FMG, AGMARDT and Turners & Growers.

Supporting sponsors:

Massey University and NZ Gardener magazine.

Affiliated sponsors:

Treescape, Mission Estate winery, Scotts the Osmocote people, Swazi Apparel, Bayer, Leadership NZ, Yates NZ, Cornwall Park Trust, Rainbow Park Nurseries, Auckland Botanic Gardens and Parkland Products.

In addition the 2010 competition received a funding grant from the Trillian Trust. The 2010 competition was underwritten by AGMARDT.

The RNZIH Education Trust would like to take this opportunity to again thank all sponsors for their generous support of young people in the industry and for their contribution to funding this year's competition.

Elenka Nikoloff, YHOTY Competition manager
Andrew Maloy, Chair RNZIH Education Trust

RNZIH Notable Trees Trust

Notable Tree Notes

In each edition of the Newsletter we will feature a tree from the New Zealand Notable Trees Trust database. The idea is to highlight a specimen with outstanding attributes and/or an especially interesting history.

ACR/0753 – *Araucaria heterophylla* Norfolk Island pine

This tree is one for the enthusiast. It's off the beaten track – and not easily accessible – but the reward is a chance to ponder on a specimen of awesome proportions and an intriguing history.

Driving down Hamilton Road, a quiet byway through the Mahurangi back-blocks outside Warkworth, the tree comes into view at a distance – across the farmland as you approach the road-end. The tree is on DOC land – but inaccessible without striking out across the fields. It would be courteous to first obtain permission from the Wade family, the landowners who have farmed this area for a century. Their house – an original homestead from the late 1800s – lies back off the road, partly hidden by many mature trees – a tranquil place in its own right.

Gateways through muddy paddocks and pastures bring you to stand before the behemoth – a towering trunk on massive buttresses. This is not the finest, most elegant, Norfolk Island pine you'll see – but it is amongst the most awe-inspiring. The top was damaged during the Second World War when a girl who was helping out on the farm was dared to climb to the top. To prove she had she broke off the tip. Several lower limbs have

been unceremoniously ‘pruned’ at the browse-line and livestock damage is visible around the base. Overall, however, one’s impression is of a mighty tree. The trunk is broad and solid – the buttresses flare down to the ground like giant stabilisers. Despite its scars the tree stands proud. It’s enough to make you feel humble. You may see better – but you will not see bigger.

The historical account of this place and its earlier inhabitants tells us that, in 1853, Captain Hugh Grange, who owned and ran a coastal schooner called *Tattycorum*, bought 200 acres on the banks of the nearby Mahurangi River. Capt Grange built his house on the southeast corner of this property, where there was easy tidal access to a branch of the Te Whau (or Dawson’s) Creek.

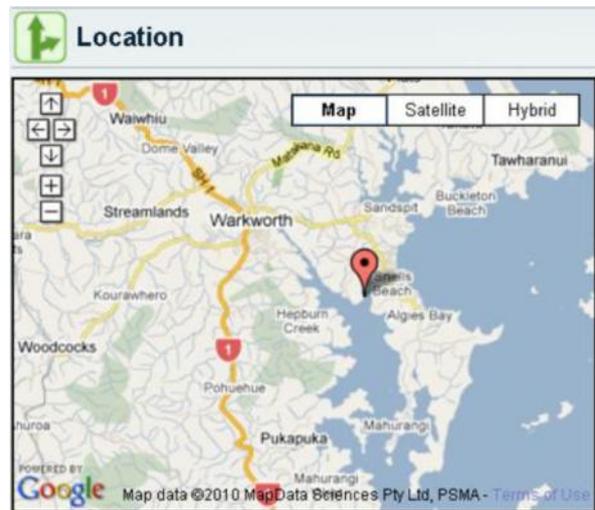
The only access to the property, until 1912, was from the river. The original house was named ‘Harbour View’ as, at that time, there was a clear vista down to the river mouth from the homestead. Harbour View was later dismantled and taken to Lilburn Street in Warkworth, where it was re-erected for Hugh Grange’s widow.

Early on, after settling at Harbour View, Capt Grange planted an English oak and a Norfolk Island pine – perhaps as tokens of his former homeland and new colonial life – adjacent to the house, beside the gate to the homestead. The oak was reputedly a ‘giant’ when it collapsed in a gale in 1982. A few rough-sawn planks lie scattered beneath the canopy of the Norfolk – the remnants of an attempt at planking from long ago – and an echo of the old hulk. A young replacement was obviously planted soon afterwards, since a fine new oak tree – around 25–30 years old – now stands near the original Norfolk Island pine.

They make a complementary pair. Measurements taken in 2009 by visiting American Robert Van Pelt show the Norfolk Island pine to have the largest known girth of this species in the world. It’s a champion. All things being equal Grange’s homestead tree will continue to stand alongside its oak partner for many decades to come, as witnesses to the past 160 years and as markers from afar for all those who feel inclined to explore the peaceful Mahurangi countryside.

Bryan Gould
Trustee, New Zealand Notable Trees Trust

The New Zealand Notable Trees Trust manages a free public database containing verified details of the most notable and significant trees in this country. The database is constantly being updated. New trees may be registered at any time – together with any contributions of information or support. View online at www.notabletrees.org.nz



RNZIH Newsletter Archive

Starting from March 2010, this Newsletter was mainly distributed to our members by email (with a few hard-copies still distributed to those without internet access and to libraries).

We are now archiving previous issues of the Newsletter on the RNZIH website at www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/news.html. These issues have been backdated to 2006 and are now easily accessible from the one webpage.

Murray Dawson, Webmaster RNZIH

Subscriptions and GST

As you will all know, due to Government legislation, there was an increase in GST from 12.5% to 15% on 1 October 2010. The Executive carefully considered this increase and the effect it has on the operation of the Institute, and reluctantly decided to pass on the GST increase of 2.5% to its members. Please note that this is not in effect a change in the subscription rate but an operational or tax increase. You will see this change reflected in the subscription notices which will be sent out. The usual discount of 10% will still apply to all subscriptions paid on or before 31 January 2011.



Seasons Greetings to all and best wishes for 2011