



# ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

## Newsletter

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### Editor's Comments

It has been a personally challenging year when I look back over 2015 in my various roles as editor and webmaster of the RNZIH, and as manager of the New Zealand Plant Collections Register project.

The Plant Collections Register was officially launched by our Patron, Bev McConnell, at the 'Up the Garden Path' conference in March 2015, where I gave a talk about the development of this project. I later wrote my presentation up as an article for our journal (*NZ Garden Journal*, 2015, Vol. 18, No. 1).

Our main funder, TFBIS, signed off on a final report that was prepared in June 2015, and we remain very grateful for their support over three

years. Work on this project is ongoing, and I have created a working list of some of the cultivated plant collections held throughout New Zealand at [www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/plantcollections.html](http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/plantcollections.html).



It has been great to see a few keen individuals adopting their local botanic gardens to comprehensively document the plants growing there.

After the surprise of receiving the Peter Ingram Memorial Award at a NZ Biosecurity Institute conference in Dunedin in August 2015, I was kindly hosted by Margaret Barker of Larnach Castle to photograph and record some of the amazing diversity of plants growing in their grounds. This provided a most welcome and interesting break from routine.

In addition to the living plant collections work, in November 2015 I completed the upload of more than 180 historic Duncan & Davies Nursery Catalogues, spanning 70 years of



material. These are now online as PDFs at [www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/nurserycatalogues.html](http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/nurserycatalogues.html).

A Lottery Environment and Heritage grant provided the main funds for this project.

As a result of these commitments, timely publication of our Newsletters this year was neglected, and I sincerely apologise to our members for this delay. The backlog of 2015 Newsletters is being addressed and these will be deposited at [www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/news.html](http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/news.html).

The December Journal is usually circulated early in the New Year, and I will be working hard on finalising articles over the Christmas period.

Please do send me your contributions if you have content for our journal or newsletters during 2016.

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year!

**Murray Dawson**  
Editor, RNZIH

## Congratulations

Congratulations to **Sir Alan Mark**, Emeritus Professor, University of Otago, for receiving the Allan Mere Award for 2015. The Allan Mere is awarded by the New Zealand Botanical Society to outstanding botanists to acknowledge their contribution and work. Sir Alan wrote a large article for the June 2015 issue of the RNZIH Journal, based on his Banks Memorial Lecture that recounted his lifetime of environmental advocacy.

**Murray Dawson** won the 2015 Peter Ingram Memorial Award for the work he's done to help those in the field improve their identification skills in the area of weeds, as well as providing the platforms of increased 'citizen science'. The Peter Ingram Award is given to a member of the Biosecurity Institute who has successfully undertaken or enabled others to achieve, relevant to pest plant education, control or management.

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## New Members

A warm welcome to all our new members, including:

Terry Bowden	AUCKLAND
Prue Harper	ASHBURTON
Andrew Hatfield	WAIKATO
Paul Hooper	ROLLESTON
Alannah Lousich	TARANAKI
Nick Robinson	AUCKLAND
Quinton van Wyk	PALMERSTON NORTH
Christine Wildhaber	TAURANGA

## New Executive Members

Our new executive members were nominated during the RNZIH AGM held 18th July 2015 at the Friends of the Botanic Gardens Building, Auckland Botanic Garden. Two profiles are presented here:

### Dr Nancy Beck:

#### RNZIH Education Trust representative

Dr Nancy Beck is co-Director of West Coast Orchids Ltd in Auckland, a cut flower grower that currently produces cymbidium orchids for the export market.

Nancy has practical field-based skills in areas of greenhouse technology, plant protection, modification of environmental parameters to ensure high plant health, use of agrichemicals and alternate technologies, and botany.

Before managing her own business, she has previously worked at Unitec, HortResearch, and Crop & Food Research. Nancy has a successful track record of obtaining many horticultural research grants and belonging to a wide range of floricultural associations. Currently she is on the executive of the New Zealand Export Growers of Orchids (NZEGO). She has been a board member of the RNZIH Education Trust since 2013.



#### Qualifications

- PhD (Zoology)
- MSc (Botany)
- BSc (Entomology)

#### Industry & Professional Associations

- Board Member, RNZIH Education Trust
- NZ Export Growers of Orchids

### Chris Webb

Chris is a keen amateur horticulturist who has always enjoyed plants. For many years he was based in Auckland and will relocate to Thames from 2016.

Chris comes from a long line of keen gardeners. Some of his earliest memories are of his mother growing cuttings of pelargoniums and the *Prunus* 'Kanzan' and *P. nigra* in their Dunedin garden.

Another early memory which inspired his interest in plants and gardening was the huge apples that grew on their Peasgood Nonsuch apple tree, and having more than one variety of apple on trees that were grafted by his father.

Since owning his first small property in 1985, he has always developed and maintained a decorative garden containing a variety of plants of interest to him.

Chris has been a member of various horticultural groups such as Heritage Roses, Meadowbank Garden Society and the RNZIH.

In his new appointment on the National Executive, Chris is looking forward to making a greater contribution to the activities of RNZIH.

## RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust



### **2016 NZGT Conference:**

#### **'Le Beaux Jardins d'Akaroa' ('The Beautiful Gardens of Akaroa')**

Preparations are well underway for next year's conference and pre-tour from April 14–16, 2016.

The conference will be held in Christchurch for the night of April 14, and Akaroa for the two nights of April 15–16.

For the pre-conference tour on Thursday April 14, we go south of Christchurch to Broadfield NZ Landscape Garden, Trotts Garden and Otahuna. These are all magnificent 5 & 6 star gardens and will provide a most enjoyable day out.

We have block booked rooms at the Chateau on the Park Christchurch (cost \$155 per night). Anyone who wishes to take advantage of this booking needs to contact the Chateau on the Park and quote reference NZGT 1304.

On Friday April 15 we will be travelling to Akaroa and visiting gardens along the way including Ohinetahi, another 6-star garden. You will need to make your own arrangements regarding accommodation in Akaroa for the nights of April 15 & 16. The conference will be held at the Gaiety Theatre in the heart of Akaroa. Remember that this is the first week of the school holidays so accommodation will be in demand.

On April 16 & 17 there will be conference speakers as well as visits to 5-star gardens in the Akaroa district such as the garden at French Farm, the Giant's House, and Fishermans Bay garden.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Akaroa. All RNZIH members are welcome to attend this conference, if interested, please contact:

#### **Irene Collins**

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**Jill Simpson**

(Summarised from the newsletter of the New Zealand Gardens Trust, Sept 2015)

### **NZGT Garden Guide**

The Garden Guide is a comprehensive list of NZGT assessed gardens to visit. This guide provides a great resource for visiting more than 100 of the trust gardens, and is also being promoted by *kiwigardener* magazine. The guide is available as a four page PDF on the NZGT website at [www.gardens.org.nz/index.cfm/PageID/79](http://www.gardens.org.nz/index.cfm/PageID/79).

### **NZGT interview on Radio New Zealand**

On 30th October, Penny Zino and Jill Simpson were interviewed by Jesse Mulligan on RNZ. The interview came across very well and resulted in excellent exposure promoting the NZGT. This interview is available on the RNZ website: [www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/audio/201776746/garden-stories](http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/audio/201776746/garden-stories).

## RNZIH Education Trust

### The 2015 Young Horticulturist of the Year

The competition is a respected horticultural event which celebrates talented, emerging young horticulturists employed in the industry. During the eleven years the event has been running, it has brought the numerous sectors closer together as they work towards a common goal, supporting young people in horticulture.

Looking back over 2015, the RNZIH Education Trust is very positive and confident about the support the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition receives from the industry. Funding is always hard to secure but the industry happily comes to the party assisting with costs associated with the event. Our sincere thanks to the RNZIH for providing a grant this year, which was greatly appreciated.



The winner of the Young Horticulturist of the Year 2015 was Caleb Dennis, who competed with five other finalists, all under the age of 30, in the grand final competition held over November 11 and 12 at the Auckland Botanic Gardens in Manurewa, Auckland.

Representing one of the three major sponsors (AGMARDT, T&G, and Fruitfed Supplies), National Manager of Fruitfed Supplies, Max Spence, said that each year the high calibre of contestants reinforces his faith in the future of the horticultural industry in New Zealand.

“These competitors reassure myself and my colleagues that the future of our industry will be led by smart, resourceful and committed men and woman who understand the demands the markets will make on our industry.”

“Regulatory standards and consumer expectations will require constant change across all aspects of our industry, meaning that tomorrow’s leaders will need to be informed and visionary, with the right skills to ensure New Zealand horticulture is judged ‘best in class’ by targeted markets capable of providing wealth back to our producers,” Mr Spence said.

RNZIH Education Trust Chairperson Nicola Rochester said this year’s competition shows that horticulture is an industry that is far from boring.

“There are so many opportunities out there for personal and career development, and the 50 plus finalists that have been part of the ‘Young Horticulturist of the Year’ over the last 10 years are veritable proof, as they use their scholarships and prize money to travel and learn more about their industries and themselves.”

“With the produce from the horticulture industry estimated at \$6.6b now and exports at \$3.5b – and set to get to \$10b by 2020 – the hunt is on for young leaders now that will help shape the exciting horticultural future of tomorrow.”

“The judges had to make some tough decisions and came up with a worthy winner,” Ms Rochester said.

Finalists competed for a prize pool valued at more than \$40,000.

### 1st Place

In taking home the 'Young Horticulturist of the Year' title, **Caleb Dennis** from Hawke's Bay receives \$7,500 of 'study' travel and accommodation to a horticultural destination of his choice, \$1,000 worth of ICL Specialty Fertiliser products and 12-month subscriptions to two horticultural magazines.



Caleb Dennis, Young Horticulturist of the Year, 2015.

### 2nd Place

Runner up from the Rolleston region and representing the Nursery and Garden Industry of New Zealand, **Tom Ferguson**, takes home a \$5,500 Massey University study scholarship, \$750 worth of ICL Specialty Fertiliser products and 12-month subscriptions to two horticultural magazines.

### 3rd Place

Wellington based third place winner **Karl Noldan**, representing the New Zealand Recreation Association sector, earns a \$1,000 cash prize, \$500 worth of ICL Specialty Fertiliser products and 12-month subscriptions to two horticultural magazines.

### The AGMARDT Market Innovation Project Winner

**Kat Rennie** – representing Floristry NZ Inc and NZ Flower Growers Inc – wins the Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust (AGMARDT) Market Innovation Project prize for her idea of 'Forever Fresh', a floral display stand that is designed to improve the way we care for flowers, and increase hygiene standards. This challenge is designed to stretch contestants' abilities to come up future thinking that adds value to the industry, and the winner comes away with a \$5,000 cash prize.

Second place runner up **Karl Noldan** wins \$2,500 and third placed **Tom Ferguson** earns \$1,500. A consolation prize of \$500 is awarded to each contestant who completed his or her project.

### The T&G Best Practical Activities Award: Caleb Dennis

The finalist who receives the best overall score for practical activities in the Grand Final receives a \$3,500 travel scholarship.

### The Fruitful Supplies Leadership Award: Caleb Dennis

The finalist who demonstrates outstanding promise and leadership during the competition receives a \$2,500 scholarship towards a Leadership or Outward Bound course.

### The Bayer Best Practice Award: Tom Ferguson

The finalist who receives the highest score in a range of activities with a focus on crop management practices and sustainability during the Grand Final receives a \$2,500 scholarship.

### Primary ITO Career Development Award: Karl Noldan

The winner receives a \$3,000 scholarship, to assist with further study or to attend a conference, and is adopted as a Primary ITO ambassador to promote training and career pathways in horticulture.

### The Countdown Best Speech Award: Karl Noldan

The finalist who achieves the highest score for their speech receives \$500 cash.

**Elenka Nikoloff**  
Event Manager for the RNZIH Education Trust

## Duncan & Davies Nursery Catalogues Now Online

In November 2015, 184 historic Duncan & Davies nursery catalogues were uploaded onto our website at [www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/nurserycatalogues.html](http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/nurserycatalogues.html). This digital collection is free to access and currently comprises 70 years of catalogues (1925 to 1994) and 10,143 pages of scanned material.

A huge thank you to Annelien, Antje, Huong, Jenny, Kath, and Rachel for helping me carefully scan and process this content since the project began in mid-2012.

Auckland Botanic Gardens, Landcare Research, and the libraries at Plant & Food Research and Lincoln University kindly supplied copies of their nursery catalogues for scanning and digitisation. We also thank Stepping Stones Nursery Ltd, owners of the Duncan & Davies name, for providing their permission to digitise this catalogue collection for non-commercial use.

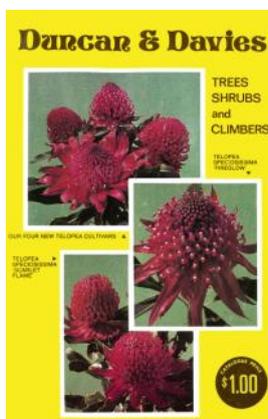
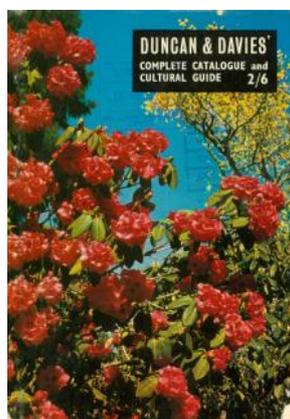
This project was made possible by funding from a Lottery Environment and Heritage grant, the Sir Victor Davies Foundation, the George Mason Trust, and a Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Scholarship.

As background, Duncan & Davies were founded in the late 1800s, based near New Plymouth, and were for many decades New Zealand's largest plant nursery. A history of this nursery was documented by Alan Jellyman in 2011<sup>1</sup>.

This new online resource makes the Duncan & Davies catalogue information available to horticulturists, garden historians, researchers and the general public. It provides a valuable resource for plant names, descriptions, building cultivar registers, tracing plant origins and dates of introduction, researching garden history, and reviewing horticultural trends. Knowing what is and what has been in this country will help allow better biosecurity decisions and conservation management of rare species and cultivars. Electronic access also reduces wear and tear on the rare and remaining print-based catalogues.

Higher resolution versions that have been manually cleaned and have a text layer will also be uploaded on the webpage. Please feel free to contact me for further information or if you have further catalogues to contribute to this new digital resource.

**Murray Dawson**  
New Zealand Plant Collection Register Project  
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<sup>1</sup>Jellyman, A. 2011. The growing world of Duncan and Davies: A horticultural history 1899–2010. Published by the Sir Victor Davies Foundation for Research into Ornamental Horticulture.

## RNZIH funding opportunities

The RNZIH has available two principal awards for funding those who are undertaking study or research opportunities in horticulture.

The RNZIH is New Zealand's most widely recognised horticultural organisation. Each year it has available awards from the Memorial Prize Fund and the Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Scholarship to support the promotion of and advocacy for New Zealand's native and exotic flora.

**The Memorial Prize Fund** has available up to \$3,000 annually to support RNZIH members, who are bone fide full or part time horticultural students, by contributing to the costs of attending seminars, conferences or workshops that are being held within New Zealand. There may be one or more awards from this fund at any one time. Applications should be submitted at least two months prior to the conference, seminar or workshop.

**The Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Scholarship** has available up to \$5,000 annually to support 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. There may be one or more awards from this scholarship each year. This award is open to anyone though preference is given to members of the RNZIH. To be eligible for this award you must be a New Zealand resident or citizen. Closing date 31st March 2016.

For further details about these awards see [www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/awards.html](http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/awards.html).



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