



## ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

# Newsletter

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## Editor's Comments

For obvious (COVID-19) reasons, 2020 was an unusual year – ‘unprecedented’ to use the word so favoured by media.

Just before the nationwide lockdowns began (from 25th March 2020), the RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust (NZGT) held a conference in Palmerston North (13–15th March). Congratulations to the organising committee for such a successful event, held in the nick of time.

The RNZIH NZ Education Trust (NZET) was not as lucky – they had to postpone their 2020 Young Horticulturist competition, after 15 years of continuously running the competition. The NZET has three new board members, and we wish their team every success managing the competition in 2021.

Similarly, the International Plant Propagators' Society – NZ (IPPS–NZ) had to cancel their 2020 conference, which was to be held in Invercargill. For 2021, the IPPS conference will be held in Hamilton (6–9th May), and marks 50 years of IPPS in New Zealand. I strongly encourage you to attend – IPPS–NZ has again extended an invitation for RNZIH members to join them and we have very much enjoyed participating in their conferences of previous years.

The RNZIH Annual General Meeting was held for the first time by videoconference, on 30th September 2020. The event was successful despite the challenges of using this technology. Although some members were unable to join us, those who did had the advantage of not needing to travel to a physical venue. We achieved a quorum, and the National Executive wishes to thank those who participated.

Our 2021 Banks Memorial Lecture, award presentations, and AGM will be held alongside the NZGT conference in Christchurch, 16–18th April. It will have been five years since we formally joined with the NZGT, also in Christchurch, and we are looking forward to reconnecting. Further details are in this newsletter.

Barbara Wheeler will be speaking at the forthcoming NZGT conference, on her public garden leadership experiences arising from completing the Longwood Gardens Fellows Program in the USA, and we also welcome Barbara as our newest member on the RNZIH National Executive.

Recognising horticultural excellence is an important and rewarding role of the RNZIH. We are seeking nominations for our 2021 national awards: Associate of Honour (AHRIH), Fellow (FRIH), Plant Raiser, and Garden History Awardee. Please contact us if you know of a worthy recipient.

Our newsletters are mostly circulated to our members by email (and archived on the RNZIH website). However, libraries and some members without email still receive this publication in print form. This year we will be posting print versions of all three 2020 issues of the newsletter at once. This contrasts with our journal which is produced twice a year and is sent to all members in print form.

Best wishes for 2021 and let's all hope for more stability despite the ongoing pandemic.

Murray Dawson  
Editor, RNZIH

## RNZIH Awards: Seeking nominations for 2021

1. Associate of Honour (AHRIH): "Persons who have rendered distinguished service to horticulture."
2. Fellow (FRIH): "Members who have made a significant contribution to horticulture by their activities or interest in or service to horticulture."
3. Plant Raisers' Award: "Any nominated individual or organisation who has raised in New Zealand a cultivar considered to be sufficiently meritorious."
4. Garden History Award (Award in Horticultural History and Conservation): "Any nominated individual or organisation within New Zealand making distinguished contributions to horticultural history and conservation."

Please contact our office ([office@rnzih.org.nz](mailto:office@rnzih.org.nz)) if you know of an outstanding horticulturist who may be a worthy recipient for one of these awards. Do not approach the person being nominated.

Further details are at [www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/awards.html](http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/awards.html), which includes funding opportunities through the Memorial Prize Fund and the Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Scholarship (deadline 31st March).

### New Executive Member



Barbara Wheeler,  
Collections Supervisor  
at the Dunedin Botanic  
Garden.

Welcome to **Barbara Wheeler** who has been co-opted onto the RNZIH National Executive.

Barbara is Collections Supervisor at the Dunedin Botanic Garden and has worked in public horticulture for nearly 30 years.

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Associated Trusts	
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Brad Cadwallader FRIH (New Zealand Notable Trees Trust)	33 Cropp Place, Richmond, Nelson 7020 Email: nzntt@cropp-place.nz Website: www.notabletrees.org.nz

## New members

We warmly welcome our new members:

Doff Tombleson	TAPUWAE (ex NZGT)
Donna Pervan	AUCKLAND
Kerry Page	AUCKLAND
Leon Hendren	CHRISTCHURCH
Richie Hill	GREYTOWN

Barbara received her initial apprenticeship training at Dunedin Botanic Garden before further training at Longwood Gardens in the International Gardener Program, and later

completing a Practical Diploma in Horticulture at the Royal Horticultural Society's Garden, Wisley.

In 2019–2020, Barbara returned to Longwood Gardens to complete their prestigious Fellows Program. The experiences that Barbara has gained will prove invaluable in her role on the RNZIH National Executive.

## 2021 RNZIH Banks Memorial Lecture and Annual General Meeting

Our 2021 Banks Memorial Lecture, award presentations, and AGM will be held alongside the NZGT conference based in Christchurch.

**2021 Banks Memorial Lecture (a free public lecture)**  
**'Plant breeding: Before and after genetic engineering'**  
**By Professor Emerita Paula Jameson FNZIAHS**

**Venue:** The Great Hall, Christchurch Arts Centre.

**Date:** Friday 16th April 2021.

**Time:** 6.30 pm, followed by the award presentations at 7.30 pm.



**Biography:** Paula Jameson is a plant physiologist. She began her research career at Otago University, and served as head of department at Massey University. Prof Jameson completed her BSc (Hons) and PhD at the University of Canterbury and returned there to become head of their School of Biological Sciences in 2004. She is Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science and life member of the New Zealand Society of Plant Biologists, and in 2018 she was awarded the Roger Slack Award by the NZSPB. In 2019, the year of her retirement from Canterbury University, Prof Emerita Jameson was awarded the Marsden Medal by the New Zealand Association of Scientists, in recognition of her "lifetime of outstanding service to the cause or profession of science".

**Abstract:** A major consequence of an increasing global population is the requirement to provide food, forage, fibre, and fuel in ever-increasing amounts while recognising the need for sustainable production methods operating within a changing global environment. In this talk I will cover some of the older and some of the more recent technologies used in plant breeding – hybridisation,

mutagenesis breeding, genetic engineering, gene editing. I will discuss the arguments we hear against genetic engineering in relation to technologies that have been used for many decades, as well as discussing relevant New Zealand legislation.

### RNZIH Annual General Meeting

**Venue:** Quality Hotel Elms, 456 Papanui Road, Christchurch.

**Date:** Sunday 18th April 2021.

**Time:** 8.15 am.



### AGM Agenda:

1. Apologies / In Memoriam
  2. Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting
  3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2020 AGM
  4. Presidents' Annual Report
  5. Statement of Accounts for 2020 and Budget for 2021
  6. Branch Reports
  7. Trusts and BGANZ Reports
  8. Election of Officers
  9. General Business.
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### 2021 NZ Gardens Trust conference

**'Rebuild, Renew, Reimagine'**

The focus of the conference is on the rebuild and renewal that has occurred in and around Christchurch post-earthquakes and COVID-19.

The conference is based at the Quality Hotel Elms, 456 Papanui Road, Christchurch.



The conference is open to all RNIH members, and a full programme and registration form will be circulated.

### Summary programme

#### Friday 16th April

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 9.30 am:      | Garden visits to Hurunui Gardens, Flaxmere, Loch Leven, Coldstream.                            |
| 5.30–6.30 pm: | Conference opening cocktail party, Christchurch Arts Centre.                                   |
| 6.30–7.30 pm: | RNIH Banks Memorial Lecture, The Great Hall, Christchurch Arts Centre (see above for details). |
| 7.30 pm:      | RNIH Awards, The Great Hall (see above).   |

#### Saturday 17th April

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 8.20 am:       | Christchurch Botanic Gardens for a behind-the-scenes tour.   |
| 11 am–4.30 pm: | Garden visits to: Selwyn Gardens, Dalkeith, Broadfield, Stoneycrop, Casa Rossa.  |
| 6.30–10.30 pm: | Conference Dinner and guest speaker Barbara Wheeler – "A Journey to Public Gardens in the USA: From Pennsylvania to Colorado to Chicago", Christchurch Club. |

Sunday 18th April

- 9 am: Conference presentations at Quality Hotel Elms including:
- Barbara Wheeler – “Public Garden Leadership: my top leadership and horticultural lessons inspired by the beauty and magnificence of the public gardens of the USA”
  - Robert Watson – “The direction of landscape architecture in NZ”
  - Ben Conway & others – “The Roundup/glyphosate conundrum”
  - Janet Cubey – “My role in the plant world – what is in a name?”
  - Jan Woodhouse – “Key insights and ideas from the 2020 Garden Assessments.”
- 12 noon: New Zealand Gardens Trust meeting and discussion
- 1 pm: Conclusion of conference followed by lunch.

Enquiries: Mel Haskell  
Email: casarossagarden@gmail.com  
Phone: 03 342 3722 / 022 078 7260

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## 2021 IPPS Conference

**‘Past, Present, Future’**  
**6–9th May 2021**  
**Novotel Tainui, Hamilton**



2021 marks 50 years of the International Plant Propagators’ Society – NZ in New Zealand so put the 6–9th May on your calendars for a great time in Hamilton. Planning is well underway and registration forms will be out in February.

There will be a pre tour on Tuesday 6th May taking in the iconic Hamilton Gardens including a behind-the-scenes tour.

The conference will be opened on the Friday morning by a well-known Waikato identity. We have some great speakers lined up for the sessions on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings with afternoon field trips on the Friday and Saturday taking in nurseries and other well-known Waikato attractions. The Friday night dinner will be at a well-known tourist attraction while the formal dinner, auction and awards will be held at the conference venue. The conference will close with lunch on Sunday.

Come along, catch up with old friends, make new ones and see how everyone is getting on. Keep an eye on the IPPS website for further information early in the New Year.

Enquiries: Shirley Ogilvy  
Email: shirley@bruntwoodnurseries.co.nz  
Website: <http://nz.ipps.org/events/conferences>

## RNZIH Education Trust

### New Trustees

The RNIH Education Trust has confirmed three new board members for 2021. Christopher Thompson (Karaka), Shaun Trevan (Pakuranga), and Jo Woolley (Drury) are based in the wider Auckland area.



Chris has management, horticultural, and engineering skills, accumulated over a diverse career. Since June 2017 he has worked for Bio-force, leading a team producing beneficial insects for horticultural and agricultural pest protection.



Shaun has a horticultural background, and has worked at Cornwall Park since 2000, becoming an arborist there since 2005. He has been an Amenity Sector judge for the Young Horticulturist competition.



Jo has spent the bulk of her career in horticulture, agriculture and education sectors. She has extensive governance and business management experience, and, since May 2019, is the Managing Director of the Mayfield Group.

Their wealth and breadth of experience are certain to make a valuable contribution to the NZET and the Young Horticulturist competition.

**Elle Anderson**  
**Chairperson, RNIH Education Trust**

### Notable Trees Notes

*In this newsletter we regularly feature trees from the New Zealand Tree Register. The idea is to highlight a specimen or group with outstanding attributes and/or an especially interesting history.*



#### In search of big South Canterbury tōtara

For us Mt Peel has always been a favourite spot for viewing big tōtara. A number of huge tōtara short in stature but stout in girth can be found on the flat land and flanks of Mt Peel. These mighty trees are a remnant of a forest that once extended throughout South Canterbury. This article is about some of the remaining bigger trees hiding in remnant bush reserves or standing as solitary sentinels in paddocks now grazed around Mt Peel.

On a trip early this year to South Canterbury a number of large tōtara were measured and added to the NZ Tree Register (NZTR). This was in part to solve a mystery found in the 2017 book *Tōtara: A natural and cultural history* written by botanist Philip Simpson. Two photographs in Simpson's book, which are reproduced below, seemed to show two enormous trees (Fig. 1 and 2) and so began our quest to find them.



**Fig. 1** Mystery tree #1; from the book by Philip Simpson.



**Fig. 2** Mystery tree #2; and further distant tree; from the book by Philip Simpson.

While it was not clear in Simpson's book, we later discovered that these trees are actually the same giant tōtara individual subsequently measured and entered in the NZTR as CR/1617. The second large tree Simpson refers to in his notes seems to be CR/1618, which can be seen to the right background in Fig. 2.

We were able to locate both these trees on farmland on Totara Estate farm off Blandswood Road, Mt Peel, during an initial binocular survey. Permission was subsequently sought and granted to measure the pair from landowner Mr Graham Carr. The tree CR/1617 was found to be a fusion of two stems and has a combined girth of 981 cm and a diameter at breast height (DBH) of 312 cm. The smaller tree CR/1618 is located around 100 metres from CR/1617 and has a girth of 816 cm which corresponds to a DBH of 260 cm. Both trees are now thankfully fenced off from livestock now (Fig. 3 & 4).

Pleased to be off to a good start and following a tip from the Mt Peel store owner we next set off to find another tree. This trail led us to another huge tōtara situated on the Bradley family farm nearby. Entered as CR/1619 in the NZTR this tōtara has a 908 cm girth and sits in a beef cattle paddock on Mr and Mrs R and S Bradley's farm (Fig. 5).

Whilst in the area further permission was granted by Peel Forest Estate to visit and measure several other large tōtara in a paddock full of invasive European sycamore trees. Two trees, a 34.6 m tall tree entered as CR/1623 and a 803 cm girthed tree entered as CR/1622 (Fig. 6) were subsequently measured. Other paddocks with large tōtara were closed due to farming activities; they await another trip but we are certain that several huge tōtara with girths in excess of 8.0 metres await discovery.

In our time in South Canterbury we were able to visit, measure, and locate 10 impressive tōtara. Eight are found near Mt Peel (Fig. 7 & 8), one was at Raincliff (Fig. 9) and a further one at Talbot Forest in Geraldine. They are listed in order of girth/diameter in the following table. Further images can be viewed by using the NZTR number to search the online register.



**Fig. 3** Kevin Barker beside CR/1617.  
Photo: Olga Brochner.



**Fig. 4** Olga Brochner beside CR/1618.  
Photo: Kevin Barker.



**Fig. 5** CR/1619. A, habit. B, Kevin Barker standing beside tree for scale. Photos: Olga Brochner.





**Fig. 6** Tristan Boot and Olga Brochner beside CR/1622.  
Photo: Kevin Barker.



**Fig. 7** Olga Brochner beside CR/1010.  
Photo: Kevin Barker.



**Fig. 8** Olga Brochner beside CR/1616.  
Photo: Kevin Barker.

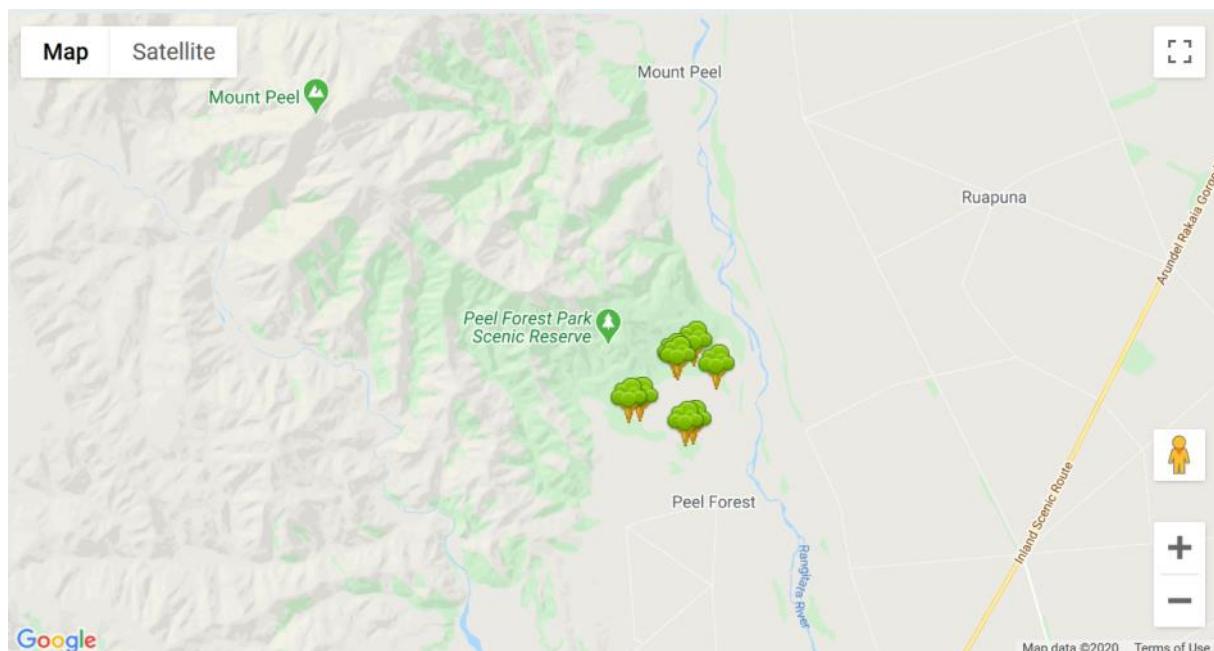


**Fig. 9** Olga Brochner beside CR/1608.  
Photo: Kevin Barker.

Table showing big South Canterbury totara, from the New Zealand Tree Register (<https://register.notabletrees.org.nz/>).

NZTR Ref #	Girth/DBH (cm)	Height (m)	Figures	Champion Tree Points
CR/1010	1070/341	21.3	See Fig. 7	505
CR/1616	981/312	20.8	See Fig. 8	Fusion of two stems
CR/1617	930/296	22.6	See Fig. 3	Fusion of two stems
CR/1619	908/289	22.4	See Fig. 5	445
CR/1009	865/275	26.0		440
CR/1618	816/260	21.8	See Fig. 4	405
CR/1622	803/256	23.4	See Fig. 6	405
CR/1592	696/222	22.8		362
CR/1608	644/205	31.0	See Fig. 9	368
CR/1623	635/202	34.6		375

This list is however not exhaustive as a number of significant tōtara trees still lurk in Mt Peel forest, Blandswood's Dennistoun Bush, and on farmland and bush near Peel Forest Estate and Peel Forest Lodge. There are certainly enough to further pique our interest for future visits and exploration.



Peel Forest tōtara from the New Zealand Tree Register (<https://register.notabletrees.org.nz/>).

**Kevin Barker & Olga Brochner**

*The New Zealand Notable Trees Trust manages a free public database containing historical records and 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](http://www.notabletrees.org.nz)*

## Congratulations

### 2020 Ronald Flook Award

The Ronald Flook Award went to arboriculture industry leader **Rick Jobbit**, who has been a prominent mentor in the industry many years.



Rick Jobbit, recipient of the 2020 Ronald Flook Award.

Here are some quotes from the many who nominated him:

“Being in the presence of Rick is always a morale booster.”

“A true passionate soul who always brings a positive spirit to the NZ Arb industry and community.”

“He does a lot of work within his community and far beyond like planting days with children to grow passion for our trees and urban ngahere.”

“His relationship building with industry peers, contractors, labourers, digger operators, engineers, builders, architects, peculiar council employees, social climbers, real climbers, unreal climbers, the barking mad, utter saps, and many others to promote a better understanding of trees and how thoroughly they are rooted or not as the case may be.”

“Rick is an absolute stalwart to this industry; he has a heart of gold and always makes time for

everyone. He is without doubt, the ‘glue that holds all together’. We cannot think of anyone more deserved of this award this year.”

“A guiding beacon of where I aim to be in my profession. He is the glue that binds many of us together.”

“Everyone I have trained under in Aotearoa traces back to Rick in some way, and I already had some reverence for his standing in the community, without having ever met him.”

“What precedes him is an incredible mana tangata that I am proud to be in the presence of.”

“A wise old tōtara soul; he exemplifies being strong, supportive and caring.”

“Put simply. He is our kaumātua.”

These quotes demonstrate that Rick is a fitting choice for this esteemed award named in the honour of Ronald Flook. Ron was a Nelson-based landscape architect renowned for his tireless contribution to arboriculture in New Zealand through the Notable Trees Scheme and the development of the Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM).

The Ronald Flook Award is an accolade given by the New Zealand Arboricultural Association Inc (NZ Arb) to elevate and recognise high standards of practice in arboriculture, including tree raising, tree health and management, and amenity tree protection or design. The recipients have demonstrated exceptional management of trees, whether functional or aesthetic in any stage of development.

### International Rose Trials

Congratulations to Palmerston North rose breeder **John Ford** for scooping the main awards at the New Zealand Rose Society International Rose Trial Grounds in Palmerston North in late November 2020.

His selection ‘Bright Eyes’ won the Gold Star of the South Pacific for the highest scoring rose on trial, the Silver Star of the City of

Palmerston North for the highest scoring rose by a NZ amateur rose breeder and the Nola Simpson Novelty Award for the most novel rose in trial. John Ford, who is the Chairman of the Trial Grounds Committee said he was 'blown away' with the success of his selection which has clusters of light mauve blooms with a dark pink 'eye' in the centre of the blooms.

The New Zealand Rose Society trials are now into their 50th year and test new selections from NZ and international rose breeders and are judged over a period of two years by a panel of 20 judges. They assess the roses in areas such as freedom of flowering, health, plant quality, flower quality and fragrance.

At the conclusion of each trial, those roses which have gained an average of 70% are recognised with awards and reflect the consistently high performance that they have achieved during trial.

Although 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of the trials, COVID-19 has meant many of the

events to celebrate this have been postponed to 2021, including the hosting of the National Rose Show and the publication of a book on the trials history. However, the anniversary was marked by the cutting of the 50th anniversary cake by John Ford and Palmerston North Mayor Grant Smith.



John Ford, with his winning rose 'Bright Eyes'.



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