



Chairman's Comments

While the year started on a positive note for most of the Institute's activities the loss of Ron Flook, who died suddenly in early January, was a shock to us all. Among his many contributions, Ron was a past chair of the executive committee and almost single-handedly managed our Notable Trees New Zealand scheme. Our thoughts go to his wife, Cindy, and family. We have a personal tribute to Ron from his good friend Frank Buddingh in this newsletter, a full obituary will be published in the *New Zealand Garden Journal*.

With Ron's passing the future of Notable Trees NZ was raised and the executive were unanimous in their support of a proposal to investigate setting up a trust or foundation to continue Ron's valuable work. We have already had messages of support from the NZ Arboricultural Association and several individuals. If you feel you can help in any way don't hesitate to contact any member of the committee.

New Zealand Gardens Trust

Late last year assessors for the trust completed their round of visits to member gardens. As a result there are a further ten assessed as Gardens of National Significance and nine Gardens of Regional Significance. I recently met with a group from the American Horticultural Society in one of the newly assessed Gardens of National Significance and they were suitably impressed with the wide range and excellent quality of plants that we can grow in our gardens here. NZGT is holding its annual conference in Auckland from 5-7 May which I am sure will draw

garden owners from around the country to exchange views and ideas and listen to some exciting presentations.

AGM and Banks Memorial Lecture

The 2006 annual general meeting of the institute will be held earlier than usual this year, in conjunction with the NZGT conference, on Friday 5 May at the Barrycourt Hotel in Parnell, Auckland. The AGM will be followed by the 2006 Banks Memorial Lecture. The notice of meeting and agenda can be found on page 3.

RNZIH Education Trust

The trust has signed a new contract with the NZ Horticultural Training Organisation for 2006. Many of the services to be carried out by the trust remain unchanged from previous years. There will be further Oral and Practical exams and accreditation and moderation of training providers. A major initiative this year is the symposium on Horticulture, Education and Training to be held at Lincoln, Canterbury in August. With many sectors of the industry suffering a shortage of well qualified, skilled staff and many training providers unable to attract good numbers of trainees, horticultural training could be said to be in crisis. The aim of this symposium is to attract all those with an interest in training; employers, industry groups, universities, polytechnics, schools etc, to get them all together and take a long hard look at the problems and try to come up with what I call a blueprint for the future of horticultural training in NZ. For further details about the symposium contact National training

Manager, David Pufflett, 09 236 3043, email rnzih@ps.gen.nz.

The final for the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition last November was an outstanding success and arrangements are already well in hand for this year's competition. Some sponsorship has already been promised with many of last year's sponsors keen to again support this great way of encouraging and acknowledging excellence as well as promoting horticulture as a promising career path. Last year's competition, won by Fruitgrowers Federation finalist, Dean Astill, from Hastings, was televised for Rural Delivery's Saturday morning show, featured on National Radio's Country Life programme and received lots of attention in the press. This year, with more sectors keen to put forward candidates, we are looking at possibly seven in the finals to be held in November. For more information on how you can become a sponsor or how to enter the competition contact Elenka Nikoloff, email elenka.nikoloff@xtra.co.nz.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Auckland in May.

Andrew Maloy
Chair RNZIH Executive Committee.

New Look Newsletter

You may have noticed that the front page of this newsletter has new graphics – we hope that you like the new look!

This is part of a new RNZIH graphics suite that we are starting to roll out. It began last year with updating our publicity brochure, which was many years out of date. The new brochure better reflects the current activities of the Institute and was completed in time for the Ellerslie Flower Show in November 2005, where the RNZIH and NZ Gardens Trust held a display.

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New logos, letterhead, business cards, and advertisements are also being prepared. We have been lucky enough to enlist the services of Kirsty Cullen (kirsty@charlottesweb.co.nz), a graphic artist based on the outskirts of Christchurch.

Kirsty has also designed new graphics for the Institute's Education and Garden Trusts, as well as the cover for the 2003 urban biodiversity proceedings, currently in press. We owe her many thanks for doing such beautiful work.

Murray Dawson

RNZIH 2006 Annual General Meeting

**The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, 5 May 2006 at 5.00pm
in the Discovery Room at Barrycourt Suites Hotel and Conference Centre,
10-20 Gladstone Road, Parnell, Auckland**

Agenda

1. Apologies/In Memoriam
2. Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2005 AGM
4. Chairman's Report
5. Statement of Accounts for 2005 and budget for 2006
6. Branch Reports
7. Election of Officers, Patron, Vice Patrons, President, National Executive, Auditor and Hon. Solicitor
8. General Business:
 - 8.1 Subscriptions
 - 8.2 Notable Trees
 - 8.3 Publications
 - 8.4 NZ Gardens Trust
 - 8.5 RNZIH Education Trust
 - 8.6 Annual Conference 2007
 - 8.7 Other
9. Presentation of Institute Awards will be prior to the Banks Memorial Lecture to be held at 6.00pm at the same venue. Sue Scheele will be speaking on the cultural uses of native plants, including flax (harakeke)

NZGT Conference – Maintaining the Magic

5–7 May 2006

**Barrycourt Suites Hotel and Conference Centre
10-20 Gladstone Road, Parnell, Auckland**

The afternoon of Friday, 5 May will be spent visiting Auckland Regional Botanic Garden with a tour led by Jack Hobbs, the curator of the gardens. That evening will be the RNZIH AGM followed by the Banks Memorial Lecture – all in the Discovery Room at the Barrycourt Hotel and Conference Centre.

The conference will begin on Saturday with lectures in the morning and then a bus departs at noon for a picnic lunch at Ayrliès – Bev McConnell's Garden. In the afternoon we will be visiting the private garden of Geoffrey Marshall and John Hayward, a small city garden. The conference dinner that evening will be at Kings Plant Barn.

On Sunday morning the bus departs for Woodbridge Garden for morning tea and on to Totara Waters. We will return back to conference centre for lunch followed by afternoon lectures and a wrap-up session.

For more information see the News and Events Page on the NZGT website www.gardens.org.nz or contact Liz Morrow - email: lizmorrow@actrix.co.nz mobile: 021 227 4150.

Education Trust News

2005 Annual Report

The 2005 Hort ITO/ RNZIH Education Trust annual contract was signed at the end of 2004. Within the contract was a range of projects that were to be implemented by the RNZIH Education Trust throughout 2005. The projects included the following service schedule:

- Implementation of oral and practical examinations for ITO National Certificate in Horticulture Level 4 graduates.
- Implementation of the Horticultural Trainee of the Year Award.
- Accreditation and moderation services on behalf of the ITO.
- Preliminary work to organize a Symposium on Horticultural Training in 2006.
- Research projects on the following:
 - Development of a model for a national standardized contract for the provision of off-job training with regional polytechnics who teach horticulture
 - Determining the training needs of self-employed horticulturists and mechanisms to deliver the training

Oral and Practical Exams

During 2005 there were three oral and practical one day exams held for apprentices who had completed their National Certificates in Horticulture Level 4.

Sector	Dates	Venue	Results
Fruit Production	7 July	Hastings	1 Distinction; 14 Merit
Amenity Hort	14 July	Hamilton	6 Merit
Nursery Production	11 August	Auckland	1 Distinction; 3 Merit

The exams were organised by industry sector committees in association with the Hort ITO Regional Managers using local growers and horticulturists as examiners. Throughout the day a range of oral and practical activities needed to be achieved to pass the exam. The exam has two grades; a merit pass is 65% - 84% and distinction is 85%. The certificates for those who had completed the RNZIH Education Trust Oral and Practical exams were presented at the Young Hort of the Year Grand Final event.

On reflection it was disappointing that there were not more entrants. It is hoped that during 2006 a marketing plan can be implemented in conjunction with the Hort ITO to attract more apprentice graduates to sit the exam.

Unit Standards Review

This project commenced in 2004 and continued into 2005 with the completion of production

horticulture and landscaping unit standards. All of the units standards were reviewed and sent to NZQA for validation. In October they were returned to the Hort ITO with minor comments and changes. During the latter part of the year the revised unit standards were critiqued by the RNZIH Education Trust and will be sent back when completed in early 2006. It is envisaged that they will be available on the framework in August 2006.

Model for Off Job Training at Polytechnics

During 2005 the RNZIH Education Trust initiated four meetings to discuss the possibility of developing a funding and academic model to run apprenticeship off job training at polytechnics throughout New Zealand. Mike Finlayson, CEO, Hort. ITO presented a paper outlining how he would like to see this achieved. The initial meetings resulted in identifying how a polytechnic academic could fulfil the Hort ITO suggestions however with time and further discussions a resolved agreement was met by the end of the year. To date there are 4 polytechnics that are supporting the agreement and it is felt that further providers will come on board in the next few years.

Young Horticulturist of the Year

One of the highlights during 2005 was the inaugural YHOTY competition. The RNZIH Education Trust managed this event for the Hort ITO. The Trust appointed Elenka Nikoloff at the beginning of 2005 as the Event Manager. Having had some previous experience and the Trust's vision of what was needed to be achieved at the competition, Elenka managed the event part time during 2005. The event was held in November and heralded as an outstanding success. It brought together many sectors of the horticulture industry and in particular provided an excellent platform for furthering the importance of horticulture training and education. The competition will be held again in 2006. The competition is based on the Young Farmer of the Year event and in 2005 competitors were selected by their respective industries. The competition was reviewed at the end of the year and minor changes are being suggested for the 2006 competition.

Hort ITO Moderation Workshops

At the end of 2004 planning of the moderation process started with the Hort ITO staff taking on the role of organising workplace assessor moderation workshops throughout the country. Complementing this, private providers and schools also organised their annual moderation workshops around the regions throughout the country. Many of these workshops had already been held in the past and it was obvious that most providers had a good grasp of what was required. The co-operation from providers and the Hort ITO staff was great and by February of this year 35 workshops had been arranged throughout the year. At each provider/school workshop there was a coordinator who had had some experience with horticulture moderation and they were more than willing to assist in coordinating their regional moderation workshop. PIPTA continued to hold their moderation workshops in the North and South Island as well as a final wrap up moderation workshop at their December conference in Dunedin. A full report on this project has been completed and will be sent to the Hort ITO in early 2006.

Also during the year a National Moderation Panel was inaugurated that brought together providers Hort ITO staff and workplace assessors to discuss moderation and assessing of achievement standards. This proved to be a worthwhile exercise a further meeting is planned for early 2007.

Accreditation

During 2005 seven accreditation visits were made to schools and private training institutions

that wished to extend their horticulture accreditation and apply for horticulture accreditation. The visits involved mainly viewing their resources and matching the facilities up with the unit standards they wished to teach. There was also a range of schools that applied for accreditation on specific units that required a written letter from the Hort ITO after my recommendation.

Horticultural Symposium

Considerable work was completed on the horticultural symposium to be held in August 2006, details of which follow this report. This involved discussing with Hort ITO, providers workplace assessors and other interested parties the conference details and timetable. At the end of 2005 Conference and Event Management Ltd, an event management company was chosen and the contract signed for them to manage the event in 2006.

Training Needs for Self employed Horticulturists

Informal meetings have been held with a range of people involved in the Horticultural Industry ranging from university staff, growers, providers and apprentices. A list is being compiled as to assess what training needs are required in the horticultural industry at the present time. Due to the diverse range of sectors involved in horticulture it does appear that the training needs may need to be specific to 2-3 sectors rather than generic courses. This project will continue as a 2006 project where discussions will be held with Farmsafe staff and other ITOs on how they run such programmes.

Other areas

During 2005 many of the projects took me to different conferences and meetings. These included Nursery and Garden Conference in Hamilton, Fruitgrowers Conference in Rotorua, Hort ITO Board Meetings, Hort ITO Conference, Horticultural Teachers Conference in Hamilton, Polytechnic Conference in Dunedin, and the Botanic Gardens Conference in Auckland. At many of these meetings I was given the opportunity to speak on RNZIH Education Trust projects. Also 11 RNZIH Education Trust meetings were held throughout 2005.

Administration

Administration of the contract is based at home where adequate facilities and services are available to run an effective office. All work is kept on computer and backed up on files. The 2005 projects have resulted in at least 30 hours average per week on the computer along with meetings, flights and travel. This has resulted in a busy year with an average week being around 50-60 hours.

2006 has started off being another busy year and with two big events taking place RNZIH will again be showing the flag. The Young Horticulturist of the Year will be held on November 17 at the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens and the Horticulture Education and Training Symposium will be held at Lincoln University on 15, 16 and 17 August. See further details of the symposium in this newsletter.

Conclusion

It has been satisfying to have another successful year and look forward to 2006 when many of the 2005 projects will be continued.

David Pufflett

National Training Manager

Horticulture Education and Training Symposium— growing together 15–17 August 2006 Lincoln University, Canterbury

Introduction

For some time now there has been a need to bring together horticulturists, horticulture providers, horticulture secondary school teachers and university staff who are involved in teaching and lecturing in horticulture. Throughout New Zealand there is presently a wide range of horticulture providers offering full time and part time programmes with local and national qualifications as well as community based courses.

The plethora of horticulture training and education can be complex especially for those seeking a career in the Horticulture Industry. The NZ Horticulture Industry Training Organisation has taken a leading role in ensuring that all sectors of the horticulture industry have the opportunity for their staff to be trained and qualified as well as those who wish to make a career in this exciting industry.

The Horticulture Industry over the past five years has had increasing issues with not enough trained staff. Throughout New Zealand horticulture employers have excellent employment prospects for suitably trained staff but unfortunately we are not seeing enough qualified horticulturists graduating at university, tertiary institutions and apprenticeship level.

A recent Berl report to the NZ Horticulture ITO Board suggests we need 340-560 graduates/year being trained in horticulture to satisfy existing trained staff in the horticulture workforce. Although we may not be far off the pace with these figures we still have a severe shortage of trained horticulture staff in specific horticulture sectors. How can we rectify this situation?

On the other side of the coin why do we have a problem with recruiting horticulture staff? We have heard recently of florists being recruited from Europe, seasonal fruit workers from Zimbabwe and horticulture lecturers and teachers from Australia and England. We also have a problem with low numbers of students entering degree and diploma qualifications at university and polytechnics. How can we raise the profile in these and other similar areas?

With the excellent resources, passionate educationalists, fantastic employment opportunities and a thriving horticulture industry now is the time to talk through some of these issues, understand the complexity of the problems and attempt to have some positive outcomes that can provide a blueprint for horticulture training over the next 10 years.

The Horticulture ITO and the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture Education Trust have taken the initiative to organise a three day Horticulture Education Symposium at Lincoln University from the 15-17 August 2006.

Delegates to the symposium will include secondary school teachers, polytechnic tutors and lecturers, private training horticulture tutors, industry personnel, Hort ITO staff, and anyone else involved or associated with horticulture training in New Zealand. Invitations will also be extended to overseas delegates who may be interested in this symposium.

Symposium Outline

The objective of the symposium is to address four main issues facing the horticulture industry at present and over the next decade.

The four areas are:

- To provide seamless training pathways for school leavers, horticulture staff, tertiary students and horticulture employers from apprenticeship training through to degree qualifications. It is crucial for providers at all levels as well as the Horticulture ITO to work together and develop an integrated education framework to meet the needs of the industry it serves
- To predict where the horticulture industry will be and what educational training needs will be required over the next ten years. Also outline a blue print of how educational providers and the horticulture industry can tackle some of these potential issues
- To create and market the excellent employment opportunities available in the horticulture industry for school leavers
- To be informed on new technology being used by providers in delivery of horticulture training and educational programmes

Expressions of Interest

The RNZIH Education Trust in conjunction with the Hort ITO would like to extend an invitation to as wide a field as possible to be involved and participate in this symposium.

The following Expressions of Interest are welcomed:

Guest Speakers

Educationalists, horticulturists, training organisations and servicing groups are invited to speak for up to 30 minutes on a topic based around one of the four issues outlined above.

The presentation should outline clear issues to add to the debate. Following the presentation speakers will be expected to answer questions.

Workshops

Teachers, tutors and lecturers who are using electronic delivery material will be able to demonstrate the programmes they have found useful in the delivery of horticultural topics. The workshops will be set up in a separate lecture theatre adjacent to the main symposium lecture rooms.

If you have any professional content enquiries and/or would like to participate in the professional programme of the symposium, please contact David Puflett, National Training Manager, RNZIH Education Trust, 61 Patumahoe Road, RD4, Pukekohe. Email: rnzih@ps.gen.nz or mobile: 021 745 210.

For more information, visit the symposium website: www.confer.co.nz/hortsymposium/index.html

In Memoriam

**Ronald Flook Dip LA (Glos), MLI(UK), PPNZFILA, AHRIH
1932–2006**

Ron Flook passed away on the ninth of January, earlier this year.

Waking up in New York and finding a message on my phone that my dear friend had passed away, prompted me to join Ron's family and friends to pay my last respects.

On my twenty hour flight to Nelson I had plenty of time to reflect back on this remarkable man with whom I not only shared a deep and longstanding friendship but also worked with and shared many professional tasks that touched horticulture, landscape architecture and arboriculture.

Ron was the ultimate trait-d'union in New Zealand between these three different disciplines. During his quest for unification of like minded people he gave devotion and hospitality that was unique and of outstanding quality.

He was outstanding in his undertakings because he had extensive first hand experience in landscaping and tree planting contracting that later was integrated in his landscape and design studies. This combination gave him a deep understanding how to create a landscape design that is in symbiosis and harmony with the people that make use of the open space.

Trees, being the largest plant structures in a landscape design, have always played a major role in his creations. You can say that he actually fell in love with trees and gradually he devoted more of his time to these wonderful plants that because of their lifespan are witnesses of history.

When I introduced the new flagship arboricultural for the New Zealand Arboricultural Association some ten years ago, it was quite clear that it should be named after Ron. I could not think of a better way of honoring Ron for his achievements during his life and he has ever since been closely involved with the annual award process.

Notable Trees and NZSTEM are synonyms for Ron. Currently efforts are made to bring this legacy under in a New Zealand Notable Trees Trust under the auspices of RNZIH, but where hopefully representatives of all three different disciplines as mentioned before will be actively involved.

Ron Flook, A Man To Be Remembered: please plant a tree.



Frank Buddingh',
a friend.

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**Greening the City:
Bringing Biodiversity Back into the Urban
Environment**

Proceedings of a conference held by the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture in Christchurch, 21–24 October 2003.

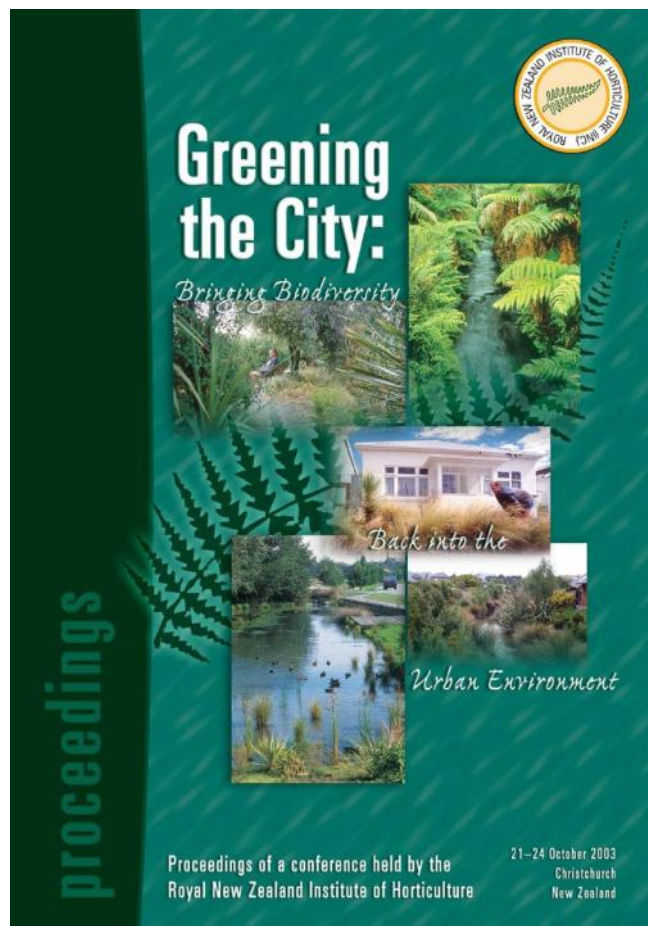
These proceedings, edited by Murray Dawson and published late 2005, contain papers from a highly successful conference on urban biodiversity covering a broad range of topics including:

- The important role of cities as a repository for biodiversity
- Social aspects of biodiversity in the urban environment
- Restoration and revegetation projects throughout New Zealand
- Trees in the urban environment
- Using plants to create healthy environments

These proceedings will be relevant to a wide audience, including conservation groups and trusts, academics, ecologists, social scientists, students, conservation educators, horticulturists, landscape architects, town and city planners, greenspace managers, tangata whenua, and conservationists.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Canterbury Community Trust, we are able to offer this 310-page publication including colour plates at a heavily discounted rate.

New Zealand: NZ\$42.20 including p&p
Overseas: Australia NZ\$47.80 including p&p
– Europe and USA NZ\$58.80 including p&p



To order your copy of the proceedings, please forward contact details, number of copies required, and remittance to:

The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, PO Box 12, Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand.

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