



Chairman's Comments

Summer has finally come right with, can you believe it, days on end without a breath of wind in Wellington! The Wellington Botanic garden, thanks to the late rains, has held up well with strong floral displays surviving much later than usual.

The New Zealand Gardens Trust Conference is coming up in early May 2007, so ensure you have made your bookings. Not only of interest to Trust members, the wider discussions and site visits have universal horticultural interest. As with last year the NZGT Conference is preceded by the RNZIH Annual General Meeting and the Banks Memorial Lecture. This year the lecture is to be presented by the highly regarded and respected botanist Dr Peter Heenan. Entitled "Discovery and description" of the New Zealand flora: a contemporary perspective, Peter will be reflecting on rekindled interest in taxonomic research and the fact that 156 new species have been named since the early 1990s. Spanning research, conservation and DNA it will be a fascinating insight into botany in New Zealand today.

Advice of the RNZIH AGM is in this Newsletter so be sure to have those nominations completed, and your travel to Christchurch booked early.

Thanks again to Murray Dawson and Andrew Maloy for their impressive December issue of the RNZIH journal. Not only is it a good informative read but it was

also a particularly smart and well presented issue.

Michael Ayrton has indicated his desire to retire from the RNZIH seat on the board of the New Zealand Horticulture Industry Training Organisation. We will be nominating a new person to take up that role shortly. In the meantime I would like to extend the thanks of the RNZIH to Michael for a long stint and his active advocacy for the industry on the Board.

Planning is well underway already for this year's Young Horticulturalist of the Year Award. Remember, if you employ staff who meet the age and experience criteria, start planning now for their entry into the competition. This is an opportunity, like no other in New Zealand horticulture, to excel and to demonstrate the quality of people and businesses in the horticultural industry.

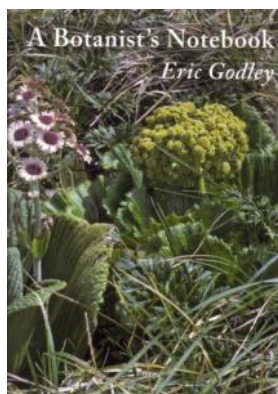
Looking forward to seeing you in May!

Regards

David Sole
Chairman

A Botanist's Notebook by Eric Godley

December 2006
ISBN 0-9582399-4-X
Manuka Press in
association with The
Caxton Press, 233 pp.,
\$25



A fascinating collection of more than 70 essays by Dr Eric Godley, who has used his broad knowledge of botany to encourage public interest in plants through regular contributions to magazines such as *The New Zealand Gardener*, from which most of this book's essays are sourced.

These essays cover topics as diverse as native mistletoes, why plant names change, pohutukawa and rata, flowers and pollination, fruits and seeds, related plants in South America, plants of our southern islands, naturalised plants, and Maori words in plant names.

Accompanied by carefully chosen illustrations, each article will give the reader a fresh insight into the botanical world.

Dr Eric Godley has made a sustained and distinguished contribution to New Zealand botany. He spent most of his career as the Director of the Botany Division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Under his leadership, the Division became New Zealand's principal centre for research on native and naturalised plants.

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New Members

We warmly welcome the following new members who joined the RNZIH since December 2006:

Mr J Perham	WELLINGTON
Mr G Logan	TARADALE
Ms R Johnston	DUNEDIN
Miller Library	SEATTLE, USA

RNZIH 2007 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, 4 May 2007 at 6.30pm in The Tower Room, Chateau on the Park, Kilmarnock Street, Christchurch

Agenda

1. Apologies/In Memoriam
2. Minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2006 AGM
4. Chairman's Report
5. Statement of Accounts for 2006 and budget for 2007
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 2008
 - 8.7 Other
9. Presentation of Institute Awards will be prior to the Banks Memorial Lecture to be held at 7.30pm at the same venue.

Banks Lecture 2007

“Discovery and description” of the New Zealand flora: a contemporary perspective
P. B. Heenan

New Zealand has a rich history of botanical discovery and description of its flora, with the first voyages made by Captain Cook including naturalists such as Joseph Banks, Daniel Solander, Johann Forster, and Georg Forster. Plants collected by these naturalists formed the backbone of the early floras of New Zealand, including *Florulae Insularum Australium Prodromus* by G. Forster and the *Handbook of the New Zealand flora* by J. D. Hooker. The more recent New Zealand flora's have relied much more extensively on plant collections and research by botanists resident in New Zealand, including T. Kirk, T. F. Cheeseman, and the authors of the five volume *Flora of New Zealand* series published between 1961 and 2000.

The flora treatments provide the latest information up to the time they are published, but subsequent field work, plant collections, and detailed study of character variation and plant distributions frequently provides new

insights into relationships among plants.

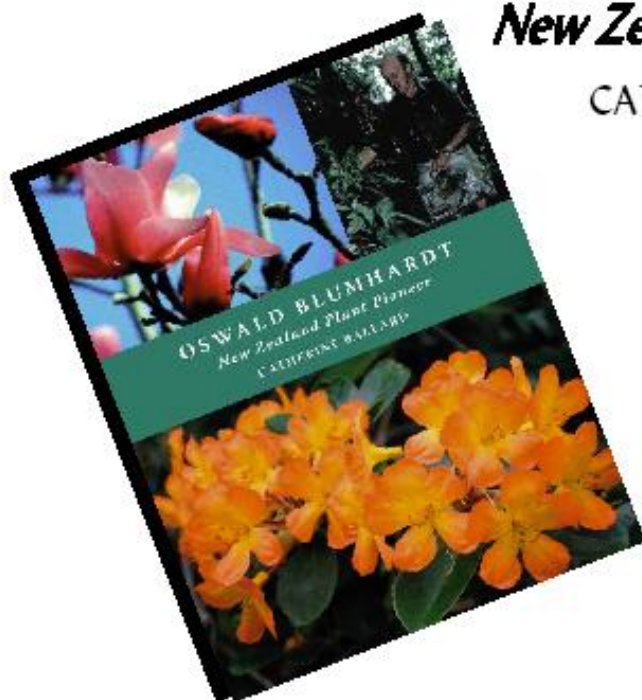
Taxonomic research on many groups of New Zealand plants is an ongoing process, and the “discovery and description” of the New Zealand flora is far from complete. Although more than 2000 indigenous New Zealand plants have been named it is estimated that about another 15% (c. 300) have yet to be formally named and described.

Since the early 1990s there has been a renaissance in flowering plant taxonomy, and from this time more than 156 new species, subspecies, and varieties of New Zealand plants have been named. Much of this recent research has been on grasses, threatened species, and species-rich genera which lacked a modern taxonomic treatment. In this talk I will provide an overview of some of this taxonomic research including aspects biogeography, conservation, the role of DNA sequence data.

OSWALD BLUMHARDT

New Zealand Plant Pioneer

CATHERINE BALLARD



240 x 185mm, 136pp,
b/w and colour photographs,
paperback with flaps.

October 2006
ISBN: 1-877378-11-9
NZ\$40.00

The fascinating story of Northland's Oswald Blumhardt and his legendary Koromiko Nursery. Os had a lifelong interest in plants, in collecting, propagating and hybridising. To this end, he travelled extensively through Borneo, Thailand, Vietnam, New Guinea and Fiji camping in the lush, high mountains and collecting seeds and other plant material to grow and hybridise in his nursery back home.

Honoured by a number of plant societies before his death, Os was able to develop many of the camellias, magnolias, rhododendrons, vireyas and other plants that are now familiar features in New Zealand and overseas gardens.

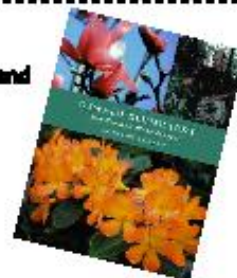


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RNZIH Education Trust

Annual Report 2006

Outlined below is the annual report for the 2006 Horticulture ITO projects contracted last year to the RNZIH Education Trust.

Moderation

This continues to be an effective way of ensuring that the Hort ITO has national horticultural qualifications that are being taught on and off the job at the same standard. During 2006 a total of 45 moderation workshops were run throughout the year and at the same time evaluations of the workshops were completed at the end of most workshops. This information has been useful to ensure that the moderation workshops are effective in the academic process. The WorkPlace Assessor (WPA) workshops were organised by the Hort ITO regional staff with, in most cases good numbers attending. The moderation process is an annual process and will continue next year. The outcomes of the moderation workshops in 2006 have continued from the previous year with more consistency and both providers and WPAs having more confidence and direction in what is required to achieve national parity of assessment throughout the country.

The main points that can be highlighted from the workshops this year are:

- WPAs and providers are more aware of what is required to assess horticultural unit standards
- Providers and WPAs are bringing to the workshops more evidence through photos, videos and written material relating to their horticultural assessments
- Old Hort ITO assessments were accepted in any of the workshops
- WPAs and providers had a much better idea and direction of what was required for moderation compared to the previous year.

- The biggest and most satisfying outcome for me is that those attending have gained confidence in knowing their standard of assessment. Some go away knowing they are assessing to the correct level, others know they are below or above the bar.
- Some of the workshops had too few numbers to make it economic. Although this was not a Hort ITO staff problem it did create difficulty to generate discussion among horticulturists.
- The National Moderation Panel will provide a useful review of horticultural training at a national level.

Accreditation

There have been a number of new training providers seeking horticulture accreditation and extension of accreditation throughout the country. Many of these accreditations required a site visit to ensure the providers have the resources, tutors etc and can provide training and education up to the industry standard. To date this has proved to be a successful way of ensuring providers know what standards are required by the horticulture industry. The RNZIH Education Trust sends its accreditation recommendations to the Hort ITO for final approval. During 2006 six private providers, one school and one polytechnic were accredited with horticulture accreditation at their respective levels.

Horticultural Symposium

The Horticulture Symposium was held in August 2006 and from all accounts proved to be a successful three days. I guess the highlight must have been the opportunity to discuss freely the issues that face our industry and a vision of where we want to go in the future. The outcomes from the Symposium as outlined in Appendix 2, have given the Hort ITO direction on what the Industry and

providers would like to see horticulture training go in the next decade. From the evaluations filled out at the end of the event there was a general consensus that a further Symposium be held in another two to three years.

Hortfertplus Young Horticulturist of the Year 2006

This competition has proved to be winner not only with the public but also the horticultural industry. The 2006 competition has been a little easier to organise than the previous year but with 9 finalists and a 60% increase in sponsorship and expenses it is expected that the competition will at a small loss. My main role in the competition has been in organising the judges, writing the questions and answers for the National Final and assisting Elenka Nikoloff in the managing of the national competition. Elenka has done a great job in pulling it all together and I am sure it will be another successful event next year.

Oral and Practical Exams

These exams did not happen in 2006 but the RNZIH Education Trust have made a commitment at least to have another exam in Auckland during 2007.

Level 5,6,7 Unit Standards

This project has been completed with a review of all upper level horticulture units. I have had discussion with Massey and Lincoln Universities and other providers on the content of their programmes and where possible duplication has been eliminated by removing some of these upper level units. Considerable time was spent on reviewing the units and selecting units that should be eliminated, clustered or retained. A full report has been presented to the Hort ITO.

Farmsafe Programmes

Last year I attended and discussed with a range of growers and Farmsafe tutors, the Farmsafe programmes. The project involved writing a report on whether the Hort ITO should be involved with these types of

programmes and what other options are available for the Hort ITO to pursue. It was recommended that the Hort ITO not be involved with Farmsafe programmes. A copy of the report can be obtained from Head Office.

Conclusion

The year has been busy and challenging. From my point of view it has given me more of a focus on my role and the priorities that need to be addressed throughout the year. The position has also given me the opportunity to come in contact with a wide range of people and organisations that on the whole are passionate about horticulture education and training. I would like to thank the RNZIH Education Trustees in particular Andrew Maloy for their support and direction in the 2006 contract and the Hort ITO staff for their assistance in achieving many of the project outcomes.

David Pufflett
National Training Manager

Notable Trees news

In the last RNZIH newsletter, David Sole mentioned that we are establishing a new trust to continue the important work of the late Ron Flook.

Although the newly established committee has yet to meet formally, the work of the notable trees continues on.

The draft Trust document has been circulated around the RNZIH executive members for comment and feedback. It is currently due to be signed by the Trustees and filed. Frank Buddingh' is in New Zealand at the moment and I have been waiting on his signature.

With the demise of the website for Notable Trees it has been agreed to develop a new website with Landcare Research through Murray Dawson, and am very grateful to him for his support with this.

The main issue is the cost of creating the new site, and I am applying to the Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Scholarship for financial support.

I have spoken with Ralph Ballinger, the RNZIH vice-patron and a supporter of Notable Trees New Zealand. He has expressed an interest in providing additional support, pending formation of the trust and opening of a bank account.

There continues to be a steady stream of requests for trees to be included on the tree list or to be removed from the list. I have inspected trees in Arrowtown and Wellington in regard of this.

David Glenn

