



Vol. 1 No. 2

SEPTEMBER, 1972

NEWSLETTER

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (Inc.)

NEWS FROM DOMINION COUNCIL

SUB-COMMITTEES AND EXAMINING BOARD

Examining Board: Dr. J.S.Yeates, Professors J.A.Veale, T.M.Morrison, H.D.Gordon, Messrs. J.H.Watt, J.O.Taylor, J.S.Say, P.K.McCliskie, J.F.Living, G.Hyde, E.Hutt, J.E.Hume, G.G.Henderson, H.Gilpin, P.C.Gardner, I.D.Galloway, J.W.Bolton, R.J.Ballinger.

Finance: Messrs. J.F.Living, I.D.Galloway, E.Hutt, R.Syme, S.Desborough, H.T.Hall.

Plant Raisers' Award: Mrs O.D.DuPont, Messrs. H.J.Poole, Convenor; I.D.Galloway, V.C.Davies, W.R.Sykes.

Publications: Messrs. J.O.Taylor, I.D.Galloway, H.G.Gilpin, G.G.Henderson, L.J.Metcalf, A.J.Healey, K.Marcussen, Prof. T.M.Morrison, Acting Convenor; Dr. J.Parle, J.F.Gover, Editor.

Nomenclature: Messrs. J.P.Salinger, Convenor; A.L.Poole, P.C.Gardner, W.R.Sykes, R.H.Mole, L.J.Metcalf, H.B.Redgrove, J.F. Living (ex officio).

Associate of Honour: Messrs. J.F.Living, V.C.Davies, A.M.W.Greig, R.Syme, Dr. J.S.Yeates.

Judges Register: Deferred to next meeting.

Award of Garden Excellence: Miss J.M.Dingley, Convenor; Miss P. Bates, Mesdames M.M.Martin, K.Reynolds, Messrs. A.Farnell, P.J.Jew, H.B.Redgrove with power to co-opt.

Historic Trees: Messrs. A.M.W.Greig, J.F.Living, R.H.Mole, S.W.Burstall, J.G.Short, I.A.Frost, H.T.Hall, S.J.Shayle-George, L.J. Metcalf.

Preservation of Trees: Same as Historic Trees.

Plants Selectors' Rights: Dr. J.S.Yeates, Messrs. Salinger, P.C. Gardner, R.J.Ballinger.

Banks Lecture? Dr. J.S.Yeates, Mr J.P.Salinger, Mr J.O.Taylor, "Flowers for Shows": Mr I.D.Galloway, Convenor with power to co-opt others.

Environment: Mrs. R.H.Shepherd, Convenor; Messrs. R.H.Mole, H.T. Hall, R.Nanson, M.Martin with power to co-opt.

NATIONAL PARKS BOARD NOMINATION

Mr. H.G.Gilpin, Christchurch, was nominated for Arthurs Pass National Park Board.

PRESERVATION OF TREES

Correspondence from Mr F.B.Belcher was tabled. The Men of the Trees Society is concerned with the preservation of trees, especially historic and notable ones, and Mr Belcher has released his article on this as related to the Town and Country Planning Act. Some local bodies were registering historic and notable trees and it appeared that this would be sufficient under the Act to give protection if the trees are properly designated.

ERIOSTEMON MYOPOROIDES Var. 'Profusion'

THE N.Z. NURSERYMEN'S ASSOCIATION advised that clean stocks have now been distributed to nurserymen and it is anticipated that fresh plants should be available to the public in two or three years. Nurserymen are warned not to propagate from stock obtained from home gardens owing to the undoubted risk to the citrus industry through the spread of citrus canker.

CAREERS BOOKLET

Approximately 2,500 of these are still on hand for the use of Careers Advisers etc. The inserted salary scale has been updated.

DOMINION PRESIDENCY

Mr. John Living advised that he would not be accepting nomination for re-election at the 1973 Conference.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. A.M. Hale, BLENHEIM.

R.N.Z.I.H.

TO CELEBRATE GOLDEN JUBILEE.

THE JUBILEE DOMINION CONFERENCE

of the

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)

THE FIFTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE OF

DELEGATES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 50th Annual Meeting and Conference of Delegates of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture will be held in the Conference Room, The Town Hall, Christchurch, on Friday and Saturday 23rd and 24th February 1973, commencing at 2 p.m. on Friday 23rd February.

The ANNUAL BANKS COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE will be delivered by the Minister for the Environment at the same venue at 8 p.m. on Saturday 24th February. The subject will be "Horticulture in the Environment".

All members of the Institute and Delegates from affiliated bodies are especially invited to attend this landmark in the history of the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture.

Registration, Accommodation available, Conference Programme, Trips on Sunday 25th February etc. Every member should receive a copy of the special Conference Brochure with this Newsletter. If you do not receive your copy apply to Mr. N.W.Drain, C/- Parks & Reserves Department, Christchurch City Council, or to the Dominion Secretary.

K.J. Lemmon,
Dominion Secretary.

LODER CUP AWARD 1972.

This Award has been made to Mr Arthur Mead, formerly Chief Waterworks Engineer to the Auckland City Council, for his work in preserving our New Zealand indigenous flora.

A dedicated trapper and nature lover his duties daily brought him in close contact with the native forests of the Waitakere and Hunua Ranges adjacent to Auckland metropolis. He was particularly concerned to preserve for all time in their primitive condition these vital watersheds and in addition he was largely instrumental in the establishment of the Centennial Memorial Park of some 14,000 acres in the Waitakere Ranges.

The Citation to this Award will be published in the enlarged Journal to be published in December next but we are sure that in the meantime all members will join with us in congratulating Mr Mead on this well merited honour.

EASTWOODHILL ARBORETUM

LIST OF TREES AND SHRUBS 1972.

We are pleased to acknowledge receipt of the above catalogue from its author and compiler, Mr Robery Berry, of Tiniroto, East Coast.

Few realise that at Eastwoodhill there are approximately 2,000 species and cultivars of choice trees and shrubs, one of the most comprehensive and rare collections in Australasia. In case it is felt that this is not many may we remind you that our New Zealand indigenous flora comprises the same number of species. This collection was assembled by the late W.D.Cook over a period of fifty five years (1910-1965) and in the late 1930s Mr Cook commenced the importation of rare and choice species and cultivars that were not obtainable from New Zealand nurserymen. Consequently many trees and shrubs there are still unique in New Zealand's exotic flora.

Mr Berry who undertook the colossal task of locating, measuring, correctly naming and listing every shrub and tree in the arboretum first became interested in Eastwoodhill some twenty years ago and has become more and more interested in Eastwoodhill and its trees. He is prominent in the Farm Forestry movement and on his farm, "Abbottsford", Tiniroto, a few miles off the Gisborne - Wairoa inland road, he has a superb collection of exotic trees as well as carefully preserved areas of native bush.

Eastwoodhill is situated at Ngatapa twenty-two miles west of Gisborne and about one hundred and seventy acres are occupied by the arboretum the rainfall being about forty inches per annum with frosts to about twelve degrees fahrenheit (12^oC.). The collection includes numerous varieties of oaks, ash, juniper, ornamental conifers, prunus and a large collection of rhododendrons. It is unique through the great variety of Northern Hemisphere temperate plants not often found in the Southern Hemisphere. An attraction that draws many visitors in the early spring is the large plot of daffodils.

Copies of the catalogue are available at Eastwoodhill for the use of visitors and many interested people and organisations have been the fortunate recipients of copies. Leading botanists are studying it to sort out what is unique in New Zealand to Eastwoodhill and it will also enable checks to be made on the correct naming of species and cultivars in other parts of New Zealand and Australia.

In 1965 Eastwoodhill was sold to Mr H.B. Williams whose policy has been to maintain the arboretum and to eliminate competing vegetation and to control regrowth by selective grazing. The property was offered to the Institute as a trust but unfortunately the Institute's financial position precluded the possibility of accepting this generous offer. It is hoped that in time it will be possible to establish a trust to preserve this unique property for the benefit of the people of New Zealand for all time.

Members of the Institute, in fact all persons interested in trees and shrubs, are urged to make a point of visiting Eastwoodhill when in the Poverty Bay district.

NOTES FROM CANTERBURY

At the recent Annual Presentation of Diplomas and Certificates at Christchurch the highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Award of Associate of Honour to Mr. R.Sampson for his long years of service to the fruit industry. As a delegate to the Dominion Conference Mr. Sampson along with other South Island delegates was prevented by bad weather from attending and the presentation of his certificate had to be deferred.

Following the formal business the meeting was privileged to hear an illustrated address by Professor G.A. Know, "Problems of Environmental Pollution in New Zealand". Not unnaturally this talk laid considerable stress upon the local problem at the Estuary, the confluence of the Avon and the Heathcote Rivers. The audience was left in no doubt that here and in all other parts of New Zealand many ecological problems arising from pollution confront us.

FRUIT PRUNING: In June a well attended fruit pruning demonstration was held by the District Council at "Holly Lea". Mr John Oliver, CHTV3 Garden Expert, personally showed an interested audience the pruning of pip and stone fruit trees in detail.

Public demonstrations conducted by the Canterbury Horticultural Society in association with the Dept. of Agriculture were discontinued some years ago but it was evident from the patronage that there is a definite need for this instruction and it is hoped to continue these demonstrations next year.

WHANGAREI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Whangarei had the following speakers.

March: Mr & Mrs Dombrowski gave an illustrated talk on the Canadian Rockies.

April: Mr A.E. Esler, Botany Division, D.S.I.R., Auckland, spoke on "The Living Landscape".

May: Messrs. Tim Damerall & Grant Couchman of the Underwater Club gave an address on "The Underwater World of the Poor Knights".

June: Mr A.M.W.Greig, the recently retired Director of the Horticultural Division, Dept. of Agriculture, was the guest speaker and his subject "The Broad Aspects of Horticulture in N.Z.".

Mr Esler spoke of how man modified the environment the landscape being partly a carry over from the primitive vegetation and partly what man has superimposed on it. In towns little remains of the past other than architecture, street lay-out and remnants of early tree plantings. This scene is changing but not for the better.

What can be done to perpetuate the more desirable features? Nothing heightens a landscape more than plants do.

The Countryside: When man enters new country for agricultural purposes the environment is modified to suit his crop and pasture plants which have a narrow range of tolerances. He reduces the existing vegetation and to our pioneers the forest was his enemy. Only now is this attitude disappearing.

It is of concern that within fifty years the remnants of native vegetation on farmland will have disappeared, and our farmlands will be replica of those in other parts of the world. Some species may be saved by fencing but there are problems as for instance rank grass may be as suppressive as sheep and cattle. Scrubland is one of the best hopes for regeneration and gorse is the best nursery for native species providing shelter, humus and nitrogen.

Exotic Plants of the Landscape: With settlement new plants are introduced many by design, many by accident. The following horticultural escapes have altered our landscape: Hakea spp, Ligustrum spp., Melianthus, Eupatorium, Pennisetum, Briza major, Rhamnus alternus, Ipomea learii, Pampas, Dolichos lignosa, Lonicera japonica, Elder, Castor Oil Plant, Periwinkle, Buffalo Grass, Stinging Nettle, and the wild Sweet Pea. It is a matter for concern that few ornamental trees are being planted in the countryside. Many vacant pieces of land unsuitable for farm purposes could be made attractive with a planting of trees.

The Urban Scene: Many of the old gardens have gone and with them many fine trees of distinction. The diminishing size of city gardens and a decreasing list of plants available from the nurseries, lack of initiative and interest on the part of the public means a sameness in neighbourhood gardens and a less interesting landscape.

In conclusion Mr. Esler stressed the necessity to make the best of our opportunities now to improve the situation; action not talk was what was needed.

WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL

At the monthly meetings we have had the following speakers.

February: Mr T. Barton, "Fuchsias".
March: Mr H.R. Gilgen, "Pot Plants".
April: Mr R.T. Fear, "Gardens Overseas".
May: Mrs Joy Amos, "Progress in Flower Production".
June: Mr B. Rayner, "Aspects of Camellia Growing in America".
July: Mr P.J. Jew, "Botanic Gardens in the Twentieth Century".

Attendance has been good at all these meetings, and this is probably a reflection of the ever-increasing interest in Horticulture in the Waikato. In most towns but especially Hamilton many new houses are being built and obvious care is being paid to the gardens.

There are now several garden centres and nurseries in the district and these carry a much wider range of plants than was the case even a few years ago. It is most encouraging to see that nursery-men are catering for the needs of the garden owner. Even so only a small number of the many plants that will grow in the Waikato are as yet widely grown. This applies particularly to those generally known as herbaceous plants, many of which flower in the summer and autumn when colour is often lacking in the gardens.

Following the policy of the Institute the Waikato District Council has recently been instrumental in preventing the partial felling of a mature grove of trees near Morrinsville. In this case prompt action resulted in the retention of these trees for all to enjoy.

The Waikato has had what seems to have been an unusually wet winter. Actually rainfall has not been excessive but nevertheless there have been more wet days than usual. This was accompanied by a mild winter until July when some quite severe frosts were experienced. These caused a fair amount of damage to the more tender plants, but such damage soon vanishes when the spring growth takes place.

Camellias have been flowering particularly well this season and many of the newer cultivars planted over the past years are now sizeable plants.