



# ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (Inc.)

## NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1. No.3

JUNE, 1973

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Member,

It is my privilege to write to you on a few topics of interest and concern. For the past few days we have been wondering about the changes occurring in horticulture, and in its numerous organisations. What then is the part to be played by our Institute? Dominion Council appointed a committee to study this question and make recommendations to Dominion Council. This was done early in May. Their report is now being sent to District Councils for their consideration and comment.

By the time you receive this Newsletter every financial member should have received a copy of the Annual Journal No.1, 1973. This is the result of much hard work done by the Publications Committee in Christchurch, for which the Institute thanks the committee members.

District Councils have been invited to appoint a local reporter for the newsletters; I invite you also to forward horticultural information of interest to Institute members. Horticulturists generally have wide interests in the living soil, the environment, aesthetic exotic trees and shrubs, or particular flowers, as well as our New Zealand flora and horticultural shows. The Newsletter should let members know what is coming up as well as what has already happened. May I also suggest to those kindly contributing District Council notes that when reporting on talks given they emphasise the significant parts of educational value and when referring to garden visits, they name some of the unusual plants, trees or shrubs seen. For instance where Mr Bob Burstall's local notable and historic trees can be found and identified would be of tremendous help to fellow members.

Wellington District Council has sponsored a slogan, "Plant a tree in '73, plant two more in '74. I commend this idea to members. Many parts of New Zealand have been recklessly denuded in recent years. If the Institute is to be effective it must learn locally what is about to happen; not just see and mourn what has happened. Waikato District Council's practical assistance in regard to trees at Cambridge is a respected example of what can be done through wise advice.

I am pleased the Auckland District Council is planning a visit to "Eastwoodhill", Gisborne, this spring. I hope members of other districts support Auckland in this and arrange a visit too to coincide with Auckland's visit. (Their secretary is Mrs R.M. Davidson, 7 Wapiti Avenue, Auckland, 3; write for details). However it is important that members should know that "Eastwoodhill" is private property. Groups should obtain permission to visit by writing to the owner, Mr H.B. Williams, Private Bag, Gisborne.

Today the significance of the environment is being recognised. Horticulture is an important part of the N.Z. environment. I look forward to the stimulation of new ideas. May we together make the Institute a vital organisation in the community.

Arthur M.W.Greig, Dominion President.

#### EXTRACTS

from

#### THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DOMINION COUNCIL for year ended 30/9/72

#### MEMBERSHIP

The total membership stands at 1629 (1509) including 46 Associates of Honour.

#### DISTRICT COUNCILS

In Gisborne, the Poverty Bay Horticultural Society has become local representatives of the Institute and will act in close liaison with the Dominion Council in matters of mutual interest and concern. This arrangement is an encouraging new development and will be followed with interest. We extend a welcome to the Society and its members.

The establishment of a District Council in Tauranga is being closely considered. Initial consultations and discussions have been very favourable. A district council in the Bay of Plenty area would be a distinct step forward for the Institute.

#### NOMENCLATURE

A member of the Committee, Mr L.J.Metcalf, was congratulated on his publication "The Cultivation of New Zealand Trees and Shrubs".

#### ASSOCIATES OF HONOUR

Messrs. A.Farnell, C.V.Holyoake and J.O.Taylor were nominated.

#### PLANT VARIETIES BILL.

Our Sub-Committee has given very detailed study to the Plant Varieties Bill (Plant Selectors Rights) and is submitting comments, on behalf of the Institute, to the Parliamentary Select Committee. The Bill is generally considered to be acceptable and satisfactory. Some of our earlier comments appear to have been noted in drafting the Bill.

#### CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT: Co En Co:

The Institute is a subscribing member of Co En Co. In addition, the Dominion Council has appointed a Sub-Committee with a 'watching' brief, to bring to the Dominion Council matters of conservation and environment which they deem to be of concern to the Institute.

#### HISTORIC AND NOTABLE TREES.

There have been further discussions with Mr Burstall and correspondence with the N.Z. Forest Research Institute, over the publication of the FRI Regional Reports, on Historic and Notable Trees of New Zealand (S.W.Burstall).

Pending the completion of all the regional reports, the Dominion Council considers it cannot proceed with publishing any of the material.

#### EASTWOODHILL ARBORETUM (GISBORNE).

The Dominion Council is grateful to Mr R.J.Berry for his comprehensive survey of the plantings at "Eastwoodhill".

#### METRICATION - in relation to Flower Shows.

The Dominion Council has been in correspondence with the Royal Horticultural Society over the conversion to metric measurement in so far as it affects Flower Shows, Show Schedules, etc. The National Dahlia Society has already put forward its proposals for conversion of measurement standards adopted for showing dahlias. The Institute is liaising with the N.Z. Metric Advisory Board.

## CONCLUSION

As Dominion President I once more express my sincere thanks to all members of the Dominion Council and of District Councils, the Dominion Secretary and all others who have worked throughout the year in the interests of the Institute and of Horticulture.

I will not be seeking re-election at the 1973 Dominion Conference. I look back on the past eleven years, during which I have been Dominion President, and beyond that, with considerable pleasure at the enjoyment this has brought to me personally, and to Mrs Living with me. During this period we have made many friends amongst the horticulturists of New Zealand and look forward keenly to maintaining these valued friendships throughout the years ahead. We both will continue to do what we can for the advancement of the Institute and of horticulture in New Zealand. My personal good wishes are extended to my successor in office.

This year the Institute celebrates fifty years of service to New Zealand horticulture. From a humble beginning it has passed through many varied experiences and today, although it may not have reached spectacular heights of glory, it does stand securely where it stood half a century ago, in the firm resolve for the continual advancement of horticulture in general and horticultural education in particular. Fifty years of progress in our Country have brought many changes indeed into commercial and social life of our people, but basically horticulture is still horticulture, the earliest of all human cultural activities, and its strong appeal remains alike constant with the professional horticulturist and the amateur whose home garden nowadays is ever diminishing in size under the pressure for more and more home building sites. But, nevertheless, in these days of scientific advances there is a pressing challenge in all horticultural pursuits to keep in step with these developments. There is a tremendous field of opportunity in horticultural research and technology, in production and marketing, in ornamental and architectural beautification of city and landscape, in artistic pursuits for pleasure and recreation. Where else can one find such a breadth of experience and outlet open to our natural abilities and desires, but in the science and the art and the practice of horticulture? Then may we, as an Institute, face this next era of our life's history with keen enquiry into what is our role in best serving the horticulture of the future, and having found that role, pursue it with the same determination and purpose that characterised the founders of the Institute, whose memory is revived in this Jubilee year.

J.F. Living, Dominion President.

## FLOWERS FOR SHOWS

This is now out of print. The Floral Art section has been reprinted as a separate booklet. The remainder of this valuable publication is being revised for re-publication.

### REPORT OF THE EXAMINING BOARD

#### Conduct of Examinations.

There were 127 candidates (42 under old syllabuses, 85 under new), 320 entries (84 under old syllabuses, 283 under the new, less 47 withdrawn or failed to report), sitting at 21 different centres.

Every endeavour is made to enable candidates to sit written papers in the town where they are working. In all, 30 examiners were appointed by the Examining Board for 53 papers in the written examinations.

Oral and Practical Examinations are conducted by a panel of three examiners appointed by the Examining Board, assisted by several other qualified persons co-opted by this panel. Oral and Practical Examinations for Horticultural Salesman's Certificate are conducted by experienced persons engaged in retail horticultural establishments by special arrangement as required. Similarly, the Oral and Practical Examinations for Apiculture are conducted by experienced beekeepers on established apiaries as required.

#### The following have completed the courses for their respective diplomas.

##### NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN HORTICULTURE (FRUIT) (New Syllabus):

Diploma Final.

G.V. Jensen (Auckland)            D.J.MacKenzie (Havelock North)

##### NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN APICULTURE

Diploma Final. G.M.Walton (Palmerston North)

##### HORTICULTURAL SALESMAN'S CERTIFICATE: (FINAL)

B.R. Jensen (Hamilton)            A.R.McLeod (New Plymouth)

#### ORAL AND PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The Oral and Practical Examinations for Intermediate and Diploma candidates were held in Christchurch again where the facilities are most satisfactory and conducive to the efficient conduct of the examinations for all concerned.

### Appreciations.

The Examining Board places on record its sincere appreciation of the long years of service given by Mr E.Hutt (Wellington) to the exacting requirements of the Oral and Practical examinations. For very many years Mr Hutt has been a member of the official panel of O & P examiners appointed annually by the Examining Board. He succeeded the late Mr M.J. Barnett of Christchurch as chief examiner in 1964. Mr Hutt retired from the panel this year, but continues as a member of the Board and of the committee of moderators. Mr Hutt's continuing assistance here is greatly valued.

### AWARDS.

J.A. Campbell Prize: D.S.T.Collins (Tauranga)

For the candidate completing the Intermediate or National Certificate examination for the National Diplomas in Horticulture with the best average marks, subject to certain conditions.

David Tannock Memorial Prize: G.A. Oliver (New Plymouth)

For the highest marks in the Oral and Practical III examination for the National Diploma in Horticulture.

Peter Skellerup Prize: G.F. Harris (Levin)

For the candidate completing the Junior Stage of the examinations for the National Diplomas in Horticulture with the best average marks, subject to certain conditions.

Junior Memorial Prize: W.P. Miller (Palmerston North)

For the highest marks in the Oral and Practical I examination for the National Diploma in Horticulture, subject to certain conditions.

### PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT.

A new schedule of approved types of horticultural employment has been adopted for purposes of the Examinations. A table of the skills required of candidates at the Oral and Practical examinations is being prepared to assist candidates.

### GOVERNMENT GRANT FOR EXAMINATIONS.

The Examining Board acknowledges with appreciation the capitation granted by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries for assistance to the Institute in the conduct of the examinations. An increase in this grant was received this year.

## HONORARY DIPLOMAS (WITHOUT EXAMINATION).

Under the provisions of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture Act 1953 it is intended to invite holders of the former Certificate in Vegetable Culture (CVC (NZ) ), both by examination and without examination, to apply for an Honorary National Diploma in Horticulture (Vegetable) (without examination). With regard to the other two new National Diplomas - the NDH (Fruit) and the NDH (Nursery Management) - it is considered that the case of those engaged in the Fruit Industry and the Nursery Trade has already been met, when Honorary National Diplomas in Fruit Culture (NDFC (NZ) ) and Horticulture (NDH (NZ) ) were issued, under previous Examinations Approval Notices, without examination.

## ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS.

Some District Councils are continuing to make special effort to assist examination candidates with coaching and regular educational lectures. This is appreciated. Some examiners are assisting by nominating recommended study books for subjects where tuition courses are not yet available to candidates.

In moving the adoption of the report Mr G.Henderson made a strong plea to District Councils and employers to guide and assist candidates to a deeper understanding of what is expected of them at Oral and Practical Examinations for far too many candidates were lacking in adequate preparation for these tests.

## DOMINION CONFERENCE 1973

Extracts from the proceedings of the 50th Annual Meeting and Conference of Delegates held in Christchurch, 23rd & 24th February, 1973.

### DOMINION PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Mr Living thought it appropriate, at this Jubilee Conference, to make reference to those who were mainly responsible for bringing the Institute into being, at a meeting in the Christchurch Y.M.C.A. Concert Hall on 25th January 1922. Prior to that, much concern had been expressed by prominent nurserymen and horticulturists for the improvement of the nurserymen's position and the standing of horticulture in New Zealand. Two men stood out, Mr George Green of Auckland, the first elected secretary/organiser, and Mr A.H. Shrubshall of Christchurch. It was in 1915 that a move was first made, and a Paper on "Education in Horticulture" by Mr Shrubshall, at the Ninth Conference of the N.Z. Association of Nurserymen in 1916, set in motion steps which



culminated in the N.Z. Institute of Horticulture being formed and later empowered to conduct examinations and award diplomas in horticulture. The first student to secure the diploma was Mr John Hipwell. Mr Living applauded Mr Hipwell, who was present at this Jubilee Conference opening. Mr Edgar Taylor the sole surviving member of the inaugural committee was also present at the official opening of the Jubilee Conference.

Thus, explained Mr Living, education in horticulture, and particularly the examinations, has been the most effective work accomplished by the Institute down the years.

Nevertheless, the Institute has applied itself to other avenues of service - forest preservation, highway beautification, Arbor Day Annual observance, nomenclature of plants, publications, formation of specialist societies and producers' council. District Councils play an important part in their respective areas.

Mr Living appealed to all to continue with the ideals that were held so dearly by the men responsible for the founding of the Institute and to do all possible to encourage and raise the status of horticulture in New Zealand.

### PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC TREES

The late Mr F.B.Belcher (Dunedin) spoke on his research into legal requirements and means of preserving historic and notable trees. He paid warm tribute to the work of Mr S.W.Burstall in collating the information and recording these trees throughout New Zealand. (An article by Mr Belcher appearing in the Institute's Annual Journal No.1 1973, sets forth the gist of his statement which emphasises existing powers under the Town and Country Planning Act for local bodies to designate and register single trees as well as areas of bush). To ensure preservation, however, it is essential for protected trees to be appropriately labelled. A pilot scheme for labelling could be undertaken, and if successful, it could be more widely adopted throughout the country. This the Dunedin District Council has agreed to undertake.

### REMITTS

No.1 Was carried in the following amended form,  
"That further consideration be given to ways and means of improving co-ordination between District Councils and the Dominion Council", with the approval of the Auckland delegates.



No.2 Mr P.J.Jew (Auckland) proposed an amendment to the remit, as follows:

"That the Dominion Council be asked to consider holding one of its meetings on the day before its Annual Conference".

The amended remit was adopted.

No.4 "That all registered students be granted free membership for the first year after registration and that they be invited to continue membership thereafter and pay the full membership fee. Registered students during the first year of membership shall be entitled to full membership privileges and receive all Institute publications distributed to members". Adopted.

No.3 was withdrawn.

#### OFFICERS.

Patron - His Excellency the Governor-General Sir Denis Blundell,  
G.C.M.G., K.B.E.

Vice Patron - The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon.  
C.J. Moyle.

Dominion President - Mr A.M.W. Greig A.H.R.I.H. (NZ.)  
(Mr J.F.Living did not seek re-election)

Mr Greig spoke appreciatively of the contribution which Mr Living had made to the progress of the Institute, during his term of office, and moved - "That this Conference expresses its deep appreciation of all that the retiring Dominion President, Mr J.F. Living, and Mrs Living, have done for the Institute, particularly during the past eleven years while serving as Dominion President". This motion was carried with hearty acclamation.

Mr Living suitably responded and spoke of the pleasure which he and Mrs Living had received during these years.

Mr Greig considered the Institute has been too reserved - people know little about it. District Councils should be free to speak out and express views on various issues. There should be greater co-ordination between the Institute and Horticultural Societies and Specialist Societies, on a regional basis. Languishing District Councils should be strengthened and where there are no district councils the affiliation of local societies should be enlisted. The Dominion Council could delegate more to regional District Councils.

#### IMPRESSIONS OF OUR JUBILEE CONFERENCE.

It was fitting that this should be held in Christchurch for fifty years ago the inaugural meeting was held there, and it was a

great pleasure to have present as Guest of Honour Mr Edgar Taylor, the only survivor of that historic occasion.

Following the opening remarks and welcome by our President, Mr Living, His Worship the Mayor of Christchurch, Mr N.G.Pickering, formally welcomed the delegates and friends to the city and opened the Conference. In doing so he spoke of the importance of horticulture, and in particular of organisations such as the Institute, to the future well being of mankind. He also spoke of the Institute's educational role, and deplored the diversion of funds provided by sub-divisions from their purpose of financing parks and reserves for the areas concerned.

At the opening well over one hundred were present including eighty five persons registered as Conference members. Upon completion of the formal proceedings "Horticultural Panorama", a selection of horticultural movies of national interest, was screened.

The venue for all functions, with the exception of Mr S. Challenger's address, was the Christchurch Town Hall, a new civic complex of which the citizens are justly proud. The latter address followed on the evening of Friday 23rd and took place in the Canterbury Horticultural Society's building, another source of civic pride. As befitting a speaker of Mr Challenger's fame this too was well attended, and the audience was not disappointed for our speaker is well known for ability to render palatable even the driest of fare. This time he spoke on a subject dear to his heart, "Landscape Change and Development over the Years in N.Z.". Our friend is Reader in Landscape Design at Lincoln College and his illustrated talk was well endowed with valuable information and humour. After referring to past writings and lectures on this subject he developed his theme upon the part played by immigrant gardeners, many of whom had trained and served on the large estates in Britain.

The morning and afternoon sessions of the 24th were mainly devoted to the formal business of the Institute but we must highlight the presentation of three Awards of Associate of Honour to Messrs. A.Farnell, C.V.Holyoake and J.O.Taylor.

The Bank's lecture is always considered to be the climax of our Dominion Conference and this year was no exception. This took place in the evening session and was further highlighted by two presentations; firstly a presentation of Mr L.Metcalf's book, "The Cultivation of N.Z. Trees and Shrubs", to Mr E.Taylor, our Guest of Honour, and an Illuminated Address to our retiring President, Mr John Living. The text of the latter is given separately. A sheaf of flowers was presented to Mrs Living.

Our Guest Speaker was none other than the former Minister of the Environment, The Hon. Duncan McIntyre, who spoke on "Horticulture and the Environment". This too was an address that will be long remembered for the effortless and good humoured manner in which our speaker made his points.. It will be remembered too for the value of the information imparted and the balanced view given of the environmental situation. It too is to be permanently recorded in our Journal. Following the address our guest speaker was the recipient of the book, "Country Houses in New Zealand (North Island)", Fowler, and a young container grown Acer hookeri.

The attendance at this function was over two hundred, and it formally completed the Jubilee Conference but on the Sunday members were privileged in being enabled to take part in the trips organised for the Parks and Reserves Administration Conference which followed immediately after ours.

These were to Arthur's Pass National Park and Banks Peninsula Summit Road to Akaroa, both all day trips, and an afternoon trip around the head of Lyttelton Harbour to Diamond Harbour. All were well patronised and the weather remained fine and warm. Hosts were provided by the organisers to inform the bus parties of points of interest. For those who went on the Arthur's Pass trip the highlight of a never-to-be-forgotten day was surely the breathtaking spectacle of the rata in full bloom just over the watershed; a sight that stole the show from the mighty peaks and the vista down the Otira Gorge.

So came to an end a Conference that must live on in the memories of those who participated, who came from as far as Whangarei in the Far North to Invercargill in the Deep South.

TEXT OF THE ILLUMINATED ADDRESS PRESENTED TO JOHN EREDERICK LIVING, A.H.R.I.H. (N.Z.), 24TH FEBRUARY, 1973.

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE, INC.

Members present their warmest greetings to John Frederick Living, an Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, who joined the Institute as a member in 1948, was elected a Dominion Councillor in 1952, has served as Chairman of the Finance Committee continuously since 1953 and has been our esteemed President since 1962.

At this Fiftieth Jubilee Conference and on the occasion of his retirement from the office of President which he served with distinction, members wish to pay tribute to the sincerity of his

purpose and selfless interest, to the generosity of his giving of service and time, to his dedication to the affairs and well being of the Institute, to his kindness and understanding which have been a hallmark during his term of office.

Members hold Mr Living in high esteem for his outstanding loyalty and devotion and on the occasion of his retirement express in this document their very sincere thanks. They convey to Mr Living their good wishes and also recognise the considerable assistance given to him by Mrs Living in the exercise of his extensive duties.

Signed this day, Saturday the Twenty-fourth February 1973 by A.M.W. Greig as President.

MESSAGE FROM MR & MRS F.P.KNIGHT

We send to all our friends in the Horticultural world in your lovely country our best wishes. We spent a wonderful two weeks last May with the members of the N.Z. Rhododendron Assoc. and visited all the best Rhododendron gardens in the U.K.

NERINE SPECIES AND HYBRIDS IN NEW ZEALAND.

by Herbert J. Poole N.D.H. (N.Z.) F.R.I.H. (N.Z.)

The Nerine genus to the home gardener is represented mainly by the hardy species fothergillii 'Major', (syn. curvilfolia) the beautiful scarlet gold-spangled variety which appears in gardens during February and March and bowdenii, the later the free-flowering hardy pink variety which fills florists' shops in autumn; also the still later flowering tall-stemmed form of bowdenii, known as 'Pink Triumph' and the pure white delicately crimped flexuosa alba. The above are all striking and beautiful with sufficient hardiness, floriferousness and freedom of increase to dominate commercial distribution and consequently accepted by the majority of gardeners as the chief representatives of the Nerine genus. Given a warm sunny well-drained situation these bulbs will soon establish themselves in any comparatively frost free situation, and having become established will appreciate being left undisturbed for a number of years when overcrowding will be the only reason to lift and divide again.

However, my chief interest in nerines over many years has been in the hybrid forms which from their inbred temperaments inherited from many difficult-to-grow species in their parentages, require a patient and connoisseur-like approach. The accepted method of cultivation overseas has been pot or container growing and this is the method I have mostly adopted. The chief advantage of this method is that when the bulbs are coming into flower they can be

taken indoors to obtain full perfection and escape the vagaries of any rough weather. Flowered in this manner the crop is long lasting and provides a splendid display. There are of course a number of mild-climate districts in N.Z. where nerine hybrids may be treated as hardy plants, so lack of greenhouse accommodation should not discourage attempts at cultivation.

My interest in these lovely flowers commenced at a very early age, chiefly through studying horticultural publications and poring over overseas catalogues, but the imagination was really fired when about 1943 I had the opportunity of acquiring a local stock of English varieties imported in 1937. Barr & Sons of London were the chief distributors of nerine hybrids about this time, and having dealt with this old and reliable firm for many years in buying daffodil novelties and other bulbs, I decided to obtain any nerines they had available and in 1944 was fortunate enough to receive a very comprehensive range from them. Apparently many of these English stocks suffered destruction during the war years and many varieties disappeared from commerce after this time. About 1949 I made a few further acquisitions of nerines from W.A. Constable Ltd. Tunbridge Wells; but this firm subsequently merged with Barr & Sons later to become Wallace & Barr, and I believe are now completely retired from business.

Public interest in nerines apparently declined after the war years but enthusiasts continued their work and hybridists to improve the family. The famous Exbury gardens produced many advances and with the introduction of the tetraploid 'Inchmery Kate' laid the foundation for greater improvements to come. In 1966 as a result of renewed interest in the flower, the Nerine Society was formed in London and a display at the Royal Horticultural Society's Show in October that year marked the Society's public debut. In 1967 a repeat performance at the R.H.S. Show was rewarded with a Gold Medal. Since its inception the Society has produced five bulletins containing valuable information from international sources as well as much data for those who are interested in the scientific approach. Quite naturally cultivation of nerines has been given prominence in the bulletins from well informed experts, and it may be said that the methods adopted are similar to our New Zealand requirements, with the exception that we are blessed here with generally milder seasons.

Common agreement can be reached on the point that nerine hybrids may be both rewarding and frustrating; rewarding in that a successful flowering season produces beauty not to be excelled by any other flower, frustrating in that nerines appear to be of most unpredictable behaviour in their flowering, sulking in some seasons and rejoicing in flower in others.

I mentioned at the commencement of these notes the hardy and free flowering types. There is another which I think should receive full marks for reliability, that is the winter flowering variety 'Manselli', a very old variety which Bailey's Cyclopaedia says is a result of a cross between Nerine flexuosa and Nerine fothergilli, a strong grower making large bulbs and producing tall stems with bold heads of satiny rose-pink flowers, a joy to florists.

An appealing quality of the hybrid nerines to the horticulturist is the freedom of their seed bearing abilities and the ease with which a stock may be raised by this method. Patience is required here for it may take five to seven years to flower the seedlings, but this first period will soon be forgotten if a succession is sown over the years. Results may be surprising and I have found that some of my finest types are home-raised stock. Reverting to cultural methods fresh air and sunshine are the principal requirements and here at Lower Hutt I only take flowering plants indoors, non-flowering plants remain outdoors throughout the year. I have only recorded one occasion when damage has occurred from frost and in such a year would take the precaution of covering the plants with scrim. Plants taken indoors naturally make a good deal of soft growth so that these plants would need to be kept inside until the danger of frost is past. Most plants are grown in 4" pots and left undisturbed until overcrowded. Plants potted on undisturbed to larger pots can produce some very satisfactory results. The best position outdoors for the pots is with a north-easterly aspect with wall shelter from the south; this ensures good drying from spring to autumn. These pots are allowed to dry completely, except for natural rainfall, and usually survive with a minimum of attention.

February to May will see new flower buds appearing when plants may be watered copiously and flowering period completed the circle.

#### RECOMMENDED NEW INTRODUCTIONS

The following are suggested for trial by Mr Trevor Davies of Duncan & Davies Ltd., as outstanding new releases:

<u>Acer</u> 'Shin Deshojo	<u>Aucuba</u> 'Sulphur'
the new named Ilam Hybrid	<u>Azaleas</u> <u>Calluna</u> 'Blazeaway'
<u>Camellia</u> 'Clarise Carleton' (particularly because of its early	
<u>Ceanothus rigidus</u> 'Snowball'	flowering)
<u>Cornus mas aurea</u> (for a very sheltered garden)	
<u>Cytisus praecox</u> 'Gold Spear'	
<u>Feijoa sellowiana</u> 'Variegata' (as an ornamental; fruiting quality	unknown)

Gleditsia 'Sunburst'  
Grevillea lavandulacea 'Red Cloud'  
Magnolia grandiflora 'Samuel Sommer' & 'Picture'  
Nerium 'Sorrento' The new named cultivars of Pieris.  
Pyracantha 'Brilliant' Rhododendron 'Coronation Day' & 'Saffron Queen'  
Juniperus media 'Blaauw'  
Juniperus taxifolia 'Lutchunensis' Podocarpus lawrencei  
Corokia 'Little Prince' The new double flowered Leptospermums  
Metrosideros kermadecensis 'Red and Gold'  
Pittosporum tenuifolium 'Tom Thumb' Pseudopanax lessonii 'Sabre' & 'Trident'  
Wistaria 'Royal purple'

#### HIGO IRISES

Mrs Phyllis Kokich of Pakuranga has registered two new Higo irises in the U.S.A. and is taking plants of these to be grown in the International Iris Gardens in Florence.

Mrs Kokich has been elected to the 'Judges' Panel' judging irises in these International Gardens and is at present en route to Italy. After this she and her husband plan to visit Hamburg Exhibition which only occurs once in ten years.

Their love for irises will take them to many private and Botanic Gardens in Europe and they hope also to search for irises in the wild. It will be August before the Kokiches return to N.Z. and iris lovers can hear about these plants as shown and grown in Europe.

#### NORTH ISLAND CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW

NATIONAL CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY'S ANNUAL NORTH ISLAND SHOW SPONSORED BY AND IN CONJUNCTION WITH HUTT VALLEY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S AUTUMN SHOW was held on Thursday and Friday April 26th and 27th.

This Show provided the finest display of chrysanthemums ever staged in Lower Hutt. The feature of the Show was the large attendance of exhibitors and friends drawn from areas throughout New Zealand wherever the chrysanthemum cult is pursued. A magnificent display of cascade, decorative and exhibition chrysanthemums which occupied the full length front stage earned a Royal Horticultural Society's Silver Medal for Messrs O. & F. Geerling of Otaki.

Mr C.J. Hansen of Nelson with a wonderful display of giant container-grown cascades and decoratives was awarded the Hutt Valley Horticultural Society's Challenge Trophy for most meritorious Exhibit.



The competitive benches were well filled with every type, giant exhibition, reflex, incurved, single right down to pompons. In the Hutt Valley section, Mr T.A. Fox of Stokes Valley was the principal winner.

A notable contribution to this Show was made by the Garden Circle of the H.V.H.S. who in addition to a splendid and informative display of "Garden Treasures" made a special feature of plants awarded "Garden Excellence" by the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture.

Mr H.J. Poole of Lower Hutt, staged an outstanding display of Nerine hybrids showing the wide variation of form and colour to be seen in these popular flowers.

Additional interest was provided with exhibits of orchids, house plants, cut flowers, horticultural books and therapy work, altogether a comprehensive Show with excellent public attendance.

#### NOTICES

The Institute is the New Zealand distributor for the International Code of Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants.

Copies of the 1969 issue may be purchased from the Dominion Secretary. Price \$1.20. (Cash with order)

Dominion Conference, 1974: Wanganui, 1st & 2nd March.

#### OUR AWARD OF GARDEN EXCELLENCE

This is not an Award of Merit for though many plants listed will more than do themselves justice on the show bench many are not suitable for competitive exhibition, cut flowers or floral art. No, we have here a list of good garden plants; plants that should succeed and bring satisfaction in most average home gardens throughout New Zealand.

Nevertheless there are some limitations. Some need a warm frost-free situation, some prefer the colder climates, others abhor an exposed coastal situation, a few may actually like wet feet whilst others require sharp drainage and so on. The cream of them will succeed practically anywhere.

Despite these limiting factors favourable microclimates and situations maybe found in generally unfavourable areas for otherwise unsuitable plants. In cases of doubt the home gardener should seek and be guided by the advice of experienced local horticulturists.

Dominion Council has confirmed the following list of plants recommended by the sub-committee to the Dominion Council to receive the award for 1972.

Alectryon excelsus - an indigenous species suitable for specimen planting (proposed by Auckland District Council).

Chimonanthus praecox 'Luteus' - a winter flowering shrub more suitable for planting in cooler districts. (proposed by Dunedin Horticultural Society).

Convallaria majalis - herbaceous perennial suitable for ground cover. In warmer districts it should be planted only in cold shady positions and in light soil (proposed by Dunedin Horticultural Society).

Cotoneaster horizontalis (proposed by Dunedin Horticultural Society)

Hardenbergia violacea - a climber or sub-shrub suitable for planting in sheltered positions only, in the colder parts of New Zealand, excellent in frost free areas. Plants should be cutting grown and propagated from stock plants which are free flowering and of good colour (proposed by Auckland District Council).

Euonymus radicans 'Silver Queen' - a dwarf variegated foliage shrub which provides an effective ground cover in cooler climates (proposed by Dunedin Horticultural Society).

Strelitzia reginae an excellent herbaceous plant for dry sunny positions - only suitable for frost free areas but can be used as a tub plant in cooler districts (proposed by Auckland District Council).

Thalictrum dipterocarpum - a desirable herbaceous plant grown for both foliage and flowers - suitable for most areas in New Zealand (proposed by New Plymouth Parks and Reserves).

#### WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Horticulture continues to make considerable progress in the Waikato both commercially and privately. Because of the many new gardens being developed domestic horticulture has received a considerable impetus in recent years. The district now has several very good garden centres and nurseries to meet this demand. It is encouraging to see that the range of plants being offered is increasing, and this includes many hitherto unavailable.

A style of garden planning appears to be evolving which tends to be individualistic. The influence of trends elsewhere in the world can certainly be seen but these are not being slavishly copied but are being in most cases adapted with skill to local conditions. Most new town sections now tend to be smaller than in former years and the growing of fruit and vegetables has declined in favour of ornamentals. In the Hamilton City Council Garden Competition last Spring the judges were faced with a difficult task in picking the winners from many very good gardens entered. Overall the maintenance of private gardens is on a high level and as the newer ones mature they will do much to enhance the city. The Parks and Reserves Dept. is also carrying out a large development programme and is responsible for many fine displays of flowers. The replacement of the former forest of parking meters in Garden Place by a most attractive garden with fountains has transformed this area. Similarly in other Waikato towns horticultural development is proceeding rapidly and throughout the whole area there is very obviously a great interest in horticulture.

### WHANGAREI

From a horticultural point of view the garden tour of November 1972 was a tremendous success. The programme, though a full one was well balanced and in no way bustled or crowded. The gardens visited were varied, each having its own special attributes of interest and beauty. All were typically Northland. The tour also included a view of the world famous collection of Clapham Clocks.

### NATIONAL FLOWER SHOWS

National Chrysanthemum Society: 1974: N.C.S. Championship Show, Blenheim, 25th & 26th April; N.C.S. North Island Show, Otaki, 3rd & 4th May. 1975: N.C.S. Championship Show, Hamilton, 25th & 26th April; N.C.S. South Island Show, 1st & 2nd May.

The Dahlia Society of N.Z.: 1974: North Island, Feilding, 28th February and 1st March; South Island, Christchurch, 27th & 28th February.

N.Z. Gladiolus Council: 1974: South Island, Christchurch, 30th & 31st January; North Island - not yet known.

N.Z. Lily Society: 1974: Christchurch, 8th & 9th January (Tentative dates only)

National Rose Society of N.Z.: 1973: National Spring Show, Nelson, 14th & 15th November; 1974: National Autumn Show, Dunedin, Mid March; National Spring Show, November. Rotorua.

N.Z. Camellia Society: 1973: Wanganui, 13th & 14th September. 1974: Hamilton, 6th & 7th September.

### NATIONAL FLORAL ART EXHIBITION

The next National Exhibition organised by the Floral Art Society of New Zealand will be held in 1975 to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Society's founding. The date and venue have yet to be decided.

### PHORMIUM 'SMILING MORN' TRIUMPHS

Many members have admired this beautiful cultivar of our N.Z. Flax and look forward to the day when it will be generally available to the horticultural public. Among those who would like to cultivate P. 'Smiling Morn' are the many dedicated floral artists who are coming to realise the infinite possibilities of cultivars and species of our native flora as floral art material par excellence. Accordingly it is with delight that we have to advise that the use of this cultivar brought to a Christchurch flower arranger the Floral Art Society of N.Z. Award of the Flower Arranger of the Year 1972.

A simple arrangement of P. 'Smiling Morn' leaves on pink Hanmer marble with accessories of driftwood and polished pebbles displayed to the full the simple beauty of this N.Z. Flax.

'Smiling Morn' was raised by the late Mr W.B. Brockie in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens some thirty years ago but it is to be seen at its best at Otari Native Plant Museum where Mr Brockie was later Curator. His successor, Mr Ray Mole, has taken a great interest in this cultivar which is a leading feature of Otari. P. 'Smiling Morn' gained Mr Brockie the Plant Raisers' Award in 1969 and it also of note that he was the 1945 winner of the Loder Cup (vide Journal of the R.N.Z.I.H., Sept. 1969).

