

# Newsletter

Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)



1989  
No.1

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The 1989 Conference has come and gone. Joan Swinbourne and her team did a great job and even organised for the "Bay" to live up to its "winterless north" reputation. Points of interest to emerge from The Annual General Meeting included:

- Subscriptions for 1990 will remain at the same level as for 1989 (except that the Government requires another 2 1/2% by way of GST).
- The "Sir Victor Davies Award" has finally got off the ground with a large donation from Trevor Davies and a number of other donations during the weekend. The inaugural award will be made to a plants person at the Conference in Nelson next year.
- Two members of the Executive retired at the AGM. Ian McDowell of New Plymouth and Brian Buchanan of Auckland were both thanked for their contributions to the National Executive. The two new members of the Executive are Peter Woolley of Auckland and Des Riach of Christchurch.

- The Institute's finances for the 1988 year showed a welcome "turn around" with a surplus of income over expenditure being achieved after two years of deficits.
- The possibility of setting up a Garden Plants Conservation Scheme in New Zealand will be considered by a task group convened by Mike Oates.
- A working party has been set up to look at future directions for the Institute. This group will meet in Blenheim to formulate a submission to be presented to the 1990 AGM. To assist this group convened by Alan Jolliffe, a survey of members opinions will be conducted in conjunction with the request for payment of 1990 subscriptions in October this year.
- The Government's policy to restructure education will have a substantial effect on the Institute's role as an examining authority in horticultural education, but it is still too soon to tell exactly what that effect will be. Members will be kept advised as more information comes to hand.
- The 1990 Conference and AGM will be held in Nelson from 4-6 May. Further details are available from Jude Petheram, 24A Examiner St, Nelson.

*Dave Cameron*  
Executive Officer



## ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, MAY 1989 Members of the RNZIH

In 1988 the National Executive introduced the changes relating to student membership agreed at the last Annual General Meeting. It was with concern for the students and the changes that the Government could force upon us that the Executive proposed those changes. The change involved removing the compulsory membership of the Institute for those registered for our examinations.

I am pleased to report that nearly 500 students took advantage of the reduced membership subscription available to them. It shows the value these young people place on holding membership of this Institute. You will recall that the Executive estimated that our total membership would fall to about 600 if no students took out their membership.

Today we have about 1100 committed members of this Institute.

That is a membership we can be proud of. If we are to go from strength to strength in the future we need to increase our membership and promote, in every quarter, the value of horticulture in all its branches to the public of New Zealand. To politicians, to professionals in all walks of life, to children, to teachers and every one who will listen.

### Finance

You will have all noticed with delight that we had a surplus of \$20,877 this year. However please note that we had a deficit of \$21,524 last year so we are just about even. This healthy state was brought about by good financial management by our Executive Officer and the number of students who took out our Student Membership subscription.

I must once again ask members to pay subscriptions as early as possible so we can accurately determine our cash flow for the year.

## EDITORIAL



The RNZIH has changed the format of its publications. Instead of the annual journal and three bulletins, there will now be two journals and four newsletters each year.

As editor of the "newlook" newsletter, I have had to make a few decisions regarding layout in this first issue. It is a trial run, and I'll appreciate any comments you may have.

By producing newsletters, we hope to maintain the previous high standard of publications, include as much "newsy" information as possible, and also keep costs to a minimum. This time around there is an extra insert; the newsletter will normally be just four A4 sides. You'll be surprised how much information will fit into this layout.

A bit about myself. I graduated from Massey University in 1983 with a degree in environmental horticultural science. I worked for 3 1/2 years in the planning, landscaping and maintenance of the gardens and horticultural areas at New Zealand Heritage Park in Auckland. Unfortunately the park has had financial difficulties; the concept was brilliant; the tourist theme park had a main emphasis on New Zealand's nature, culture and agriculture. Native plants and particularly alpine, are one of my keen interests. I am also a fan of cottage gardens.

I travelled abroad during 1986-88. I visited many famous gardens in Europe, trekked in North India and Nepal (rhododendron time, of

course), and spent some time working at the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley in the U.K.

I have been associated with the Canterbury Horticultural Society as editor of its publications over the past year.

Membership of an organisation such as the RNZIH is important for the valuable information link, and for supporting ongoing education and research. District council activities, public lectures, field trips and practical demonstrations can be a good time for learning and meeting like-minded people. The Institute has an important role in protection and preservation of NZ's flora, notable and historic trees; its role is also to represent horticultural interests in amateur and professional matters.

The RNZIH has recently sent submissions on the Pesticide Report as part of the Resource Management Law Reform being considered by the government - the main points of these submissions are outlined in this newsletter issue.

Membership of the Institute is diverse; ranging from students, botanists, commercial and professional horticultural people, through to garden enthusiasts and amateur gardeners. This makes it difficult to determine an overall level of content in publications, so you'll have to give me some ideal of what you want!

The next issue is due in 3 months, copy should be sent by 15th September - either to the

RNZIH head office, Lincoln College,  
or direct to me at  
110 Geraldine St, Christchurch 1.  
Phone (03) 799-856

*Jean Grierson*

### District Councils

The National Executive is so concerned about the future of District Councils and their activities that it has this year introduced a newscheme.

Each District Council has this year been given the chance to bring one representative to the AGM and Conference with a subsidy of a one way airfare by the Institute.

The Executive has set aside some time to get together with these people to discuss their concerns and to listen to their ideas about the Institute. A session at the conference has also been set aside for all members to discuss this.

### Notable Trees

Once again a small dedicated group has continued to run this part of the Institute work. Ron Flook and his team will present a separate report but I take this opportunity to express our thanks to them on behalf of us all.

### Publications

The 1988 Annual Journal was brilliant. Our thanks go to Mike Oates and all those who contributed to it.

In this year the Executive considered in great detail the future of its publications. The objective of having our own publications was determined as being the most important way we could service our members who live in all parts of New Zealand. It was eventually decided to change the format of both the Journal and the Bulletin to best serve our members.

In 1989 you will receive 2 Journals and three or four typeset newsletters. You will have already had your first Journal in a new form. I believe that members will be better served with this format and that you will eagerly await the next one to read the many fine articles in it.

The newsletter will I am sure keep you up to date with current events and information.

Thanks must be expressed to Pamela Gibbons and Nick Owers for their valuable contribution to the Bulletin over the last few years. Without their enthusiasm we would not have had such a good publication.

### Garden History

A small group of dedicated people continue to follow up this valuable work and produce learned articles in our publications. One of our members Mrs Winsome Sheperd had her excellent book on the history of the Wellington Botanic Gardens published recently. It was hailed as a masterpiece.

### Awards and Honours

The National Executive has again finalised awards to be presented at the Annual General Meeting in Tauranga. Nominations are called each year for awards but if you want to you can nominate people at any time and they will be considered at the right time.

### New Education Policy

The Government has produced several reports this year about education and the future likely structure of education. We are caught up in this change through our examining role. The Institute through its Examination Board has been making submissions to the Minister on this issue to get the best result possible for all our students and other students in horticulture. It will be some months yet before we know what is being proposed and how we can fit into the new system. We will keep you informed.

### Thanks

I wish to express my thanks to everyone who serves this Institute in various capacities. I particularly wish to thank Brian Buchanan and Ian McDowell who served as Executive members for a number of years and who made a valuable contribution to this Institute.

Alan Jolliffe Chairman, National Executive.

## Awards & Honours

The following Awards & Honours were presented at the 66th Annual General Meeting of the RNZIH in May of this year:-

### Associates of Honour of the R.N.Z.I.H. (A.H.R.I.H.)

Mr Peter Taylor - Alexandra  
Mr Ray Mole F.R.I.H. - Wellington  
Mr Hugh Redgrove F.R.I.H. - Auckland  
**Fellows of the R.N.Z.I.H. (F.R.I.H.)**  
Mr Ian McDowell - New Plymouth  
Mr Alf Harland - Lower Hutt  
Mr Ken Nobbs - Te Kauwhata  
Mr Trevor Davies - Auckland  
Mr Robert Scott - Dunedin  
Mr George Fuller - New Plymouth  
Mrs Laurie Skipper - New Plymouth  
Citations for Associates of Honour will be published in full in the first 1990 annual journal.

## THE NOTABLE TREES COMMITTEE



It is our reports that it has had a very successful year since the publication of the RNZIH, "A Tree Evaluation Method for New Zealand".

This booklet has caused a great deal of interest. Requests for copies are being received from government agencies, local authorities, valuers, lawyers and other professionals. Even private tree enthusiasts regard the booklet as a ready "do it yourself kit" for listing trees in their local areas. We have also been able to do a field exercise for Greytown Borough Council. 77 Trees have been listed for their revised District Scheme and to date the published results have had negligible objections and many residents have expressed pride in having a listed tree.

This has surprised the Greytown officers and councillors and delighted the firm of planning consultants who commissioned us. Greytown has a very active Beautification Committee, who are impressed by our tree assessment method, in spite of several trees on their private list being regarded as unsuitable by us for the District Scheme. The booklet is available from RNZIH Notable Trees Scheme, Box 11-379, Wellington. Price \$25 (includes GST and postage).

## Bulbs & Perennials

Hugh Redgrove, is currently revising Harrison's Handbook of Bulbs and Perennials. He would like Institute members to help him, by sending in lists of plants they think should be included in the revision. These lists may include bulbs and perennials that have become more commonly grown in gardens over the past few years.

Please send this information to Hugh at 753 West Coast Road, Oratia, Auckland 7.

The Institute would like to thank Joan and Jim Swinbourne of Tauranga who compiled the comprehensive index of past Journals which appeared in the 1989 Annual Journal.

The RNZIH notes with regret the passing away of a Fellow of the Institute, Mrs Phyllis Laureen Romas Hammer, who died on 27 January, 1989.

# RNZIH

## EXAMINING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT TO 1989 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Examining Board has an important role in horticultural education in New Zealand. The Board met three times during the year, and its Executive Committee met to consider finances and oral and practical examinations. Board members contributed much to the decisions and actions taken.

With 798 students examined in 1988, Mr Cameron and his staff were extremely busy. Without the computer they would not have been able to cope. The organisation and moderation of written papers and oral and practical examinations was greatly facilitated by the computer. The Board is grateful to examiners for the setting and marking of scripts, and for the voluntary input by many people into the oral and practical examinations.

The following aspects are deemed to be of special interest to the Institute.

### 1. Submissions to Government

During October and March, two discussion documents were studied and the Board's responses forwarded.

The first was on the Hawke Report. On 25 October 1988, we forwarded a three page submission. We stressed the need for qualifications in horticulture to be of a national standard and portable, and in certain cases to be linked to industrial awards. The importance of national, oral and practical examinations was emphasised as a means of ensuring competency on-the-job.

In February, the Government released "Learning for Life" which was their response to the Hawke Report. "Learning for Life" covers all aspects of post-compulsory education and training. This was studied by the Executive and a submission sent to the Associate Minister of Education on 5 April, 1989. It is proposed that a National Education Qualifications Authority (NEQA) be established. With respect to horticultural education, we have suggested that the RNZIH would be the appropriate organisation to advise NEQA on teaching and assessment standards. This Institute has had a long and successful involvement in establishing qualifications and maintaining standards in written, oral and practical examinations. It is important that qualifications continue to be of national standard and portable. The Board has expressed its concern for existing students, so that they are no way disadvantaged during the transition to new training pathways. In addition we offered our full services and co-operation to achieve new goals.

### 2. Horticultural Sales Certificate

This qualification was reviewed in 1988 and the conditions modified. The main changes are that the qualification now requires only one year of approved practical experience, and is assessed by means of two written papers, and an oral and practical examination, each of three hours duration. Thus it is possible for candidates to complete the HSC in one year. These modifications are an attempt to encourage more persons in garden centres to study for the HSC.

### 3. Publications

"Student Handbook 1989"

This was prepared and printed in March 1989 and has been distributed to all students. Both John Taylor and Dave Cameron were involved in its production. The booklet is aimed at keeping students fully informed about examination procedures.

#### 4. 1988 Examinations

A total of 798 students were examined for the Institute's various qualifications in 1988. 667 of these sat examinations for the NCH/NDH, HSC and CHM qualifications (including 80 candidates for oral and practical examinations). A further 131 students sat oral and practical examinations for the Certificate in Parks Practice and Certificate in Horticultural Practice.

Written examinations were again conducted in 22 different centres and oral and practical examinations at 15 venues. This involved the appointment of some 75 examiners for written papers and nearly 150 oral and practical examiners.

The examination administration ran smoothly and efficiently largely due to the increasing use of the computing facilities, which were fully operational for the first time in 1988.

The Board would like to acknowledge the large input to the examinations operation from many people in the horticultural industry. This assistance allows the Institute to continue to offer practical examinations to a professional standard despite reductions in Government funding.

A paper setting out the full details of the number of students sitting examinations and completing qualifications in 1988 is appended to this report, with data from 1987 being included for comparison. When the information for each of the past ten years is considered, the national trend in general is a stable number of candidates in each of the qualifications.

#### 5. Student Membership

In 1988 the requirement for all students to be members of the Institute was deleted from the constitution. It is gratifying to note that as at 24 April 1989, 434 students have decided to become student members of the RNZIH.

#### 6. Financial

The 1988 Examinations Account show a surplus of \$14,000 as compared to an accumulated deficit over the previous 2 years of \$6000. This was produced largely as a result of decreased expenditure on printing and stationery and increased use of the computer resulting in a saving in staff salaries.

It is pleasing to note that it has been possible to hold the 1989 Examination fees at the same level as 1988 (except of course for the increased 2 1/2% to cover the new rate for GST of 12 1/2%).

The Government support for the Board's activities will in future come from vote Education (rather than MAF) but the level of support is not yet known. In fact the whole future of the Board's activities is somewhat uncertain pending the implementation of policies set out in "Learning for Life". However it is expected that funding will continue at least for 1989.

#### 7. Acknowledgements

The voluntary assistance and support received by the Examining Board throughout the year is very much appreciated. Without the help of the following organisations and individuals, the Board could not have conducted its examinations:

- All Examiners for written and oral and practical papers
- A.R.A. Botanic Gardens, Manurewa
- Lower Hutt City Council
- Christchurch City Council
- Twiglands Garden Centre, Lower Hutt
- Trentham Memorial Park, Upper Hutt
- Wellington City Council
- M.A.F. Research Station, Pukekohe
- Redwood Orchard, Mill Road, Christchurch
- Sarita Orchard, Ripponvale Road, Cromwell
- Tairawhiti Polytechnic Orchard, Gisborne
- McMikens Orchard, Hamilton
- Pernel Orchard, Pakowhai Rd, Hastings
- Korupak Packhouse, Tetley Rd, Katikati
- Horticultural Research Centre, Kerikeri
- D.S.I.R. Research Station Richmond
- Horticultural Unit, Waikato Polytechnic, Hamilton
- Mr Alan Hyde, 904 Norton Road, Hastings.

*Ronald Close*  
CHAIRPERSON  
May 1989

#### RNZIH EXAMINATIONS 1988

National Certificate in Horticulture (NCH) and National Diploma in Horticulture (NDH) The NCH consists of 14 subjects, one of which is an oral and practical examination and is completed over three to four years of study and "on the job" training.

The NDH follows on from the NCH and is gained by completing an additional six subjects, again one of which is an oral and practical examination.

The NDH (Hons.) is gained by the submission and successful examination of a thesis on an approved topic, after the student concerned has completed the NDH qualification.

Within the NCH/NDH programme there are five Schedules (or industry options), note that in brackets are the data for 1987.

##### SCHEDULE I Amenity Horticulture

235 students sat examinations (218)  
22 completed the NCH (18)  
19 completed the NDH (21)

##### SCHEDULE II Fruit Production

70 students sat examinations (65)  
4 completed the NCH (3)  
2 completed the NDH (4)

##### SCHEDULE III Vegetable Production

12 students sat examinations (14)  
1 completed the NCH (4)  
2 completed the NDH (1)

##### SCHEDULE IV Nursery Production

98 students sat examinations (81)  
10 completed the NCH (8)  
3 completed the NDH (6)

##### SCHEDULE V Floriculture

7 students sat examinations (6)  
1 completed the NCH (2)  
1 completed the NDH

#### CERTIFICATE IN HORTICULTURAL THEORY (CHT)

This consists of 9 subjects and is completed over a two to three year period.

201 students set examinations (200)  
17 completed the CHT (26)

#### HORTICULTURAL SALES CERTIFICATE (HSC)

This consists of two papers, plus an oral and practical examination and is completed over a one year period.

9 Students sat examinations (8)  
5 completed the HSC (3)

#### CERTIFICATE IN MANAGEMENT (CHM)

A two year programme, which requires students to pass an internal assessment programme

covering nine modules, and then pass a final six hour written examination (sat in two parts).

35 students sat examinations (38)  
20 completed the CHM (19)

#### CERTIFICATE IN PARKS PRACTICE (CPP)

Groundskeeping Option

This Certificate was introduced in 1986. Students are required to pass a two year course of study which is internally assessed by the teaching institution, and then present themselves for the final oral and practical examination.

7 sat the oral and practical examination (16)  
7 completed the CPP (12)

#### CERTIFICATE IN HORTICULTURAL PRACTICE (CHP)

This is a three year programme, in which students gain knowledge from a study programme and practical experience from "on the job" training. There is then a final oral and practical examination.

116 students sat a total of 124 oral and practical examinations spread across 7 options. 110 certificates were completed.

(121 students sat a total of 157 oral and practical examinations. 106 completed a total of 136 certificates).

## Notes from the District Councils...

### NORTH TARANAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Annual Report for 1988 of the North Taranaki District Council of the Institute in the 53rd year since its establishment in New Plymouth.

#### Membership

There has been a significant drop in members locally to 70 with 17 people resigning hopefully to rejoin this season as "Friends of the Institute" at \$15.00 membership category decided by your Committee late last year.

The executive is very pleased to report that of the 800 student members who were given the option to retain student membership, over half have done just that recognising the significance of upholding the professional status that the Institute has. Let's hope that in all District Councils they will take a more active role, become elected on to the Committees and take a leading part in shaping the Institute's future. It is interesting to note that the New Plymouth Horticultural Society is celebrating its 50th Jubilee year and currently has a membership around 200.

In 1988 there were 400 new registrations to take the Institute's exams, showing no fall off in numbers from the previous year.

The Institute responded to Mr Goff's Hawke report with a three page report. One possible scenario for 1990 is that there will be internal assessment of the Institutes' exams by the local polytechnics with the RNZIH becoming the validating authority with respect to horticulture, to be paid for its services similar to the Accountants Courses.

#### Meetings

Nine evening meetings, a public lecture, and a Social with after dinner speaker were held during the year. Four trips, participation at the National Conference, Lincoln College and at

the first Taranaki Rhododendron Festival composed the basic programme of events drawn up by your Committee.

I would be very pleased if student members would have more representation on the Committee to promote a mutual improvement group, tramping, botanising trips or tuition for exams.

#### Notable & Historic Trees

The National register now has 173 numbered registrations, many are for groups of trees. The "Tree Evaluation Handbook" has been adopted by several City Councils for use in evaluating trees included in their district scheme planning.

Tree registration officer Mr George Fuller met together with the Convenor of the RNZIH Notable Trees Scheme, and Mr Shigo, a world authority on trees when they attended a seminar on tree maintenance in Wellington on 29 January.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support in the past year. I have decided not to stand for re-election as President of this branch next year as I feel there should be new ideas, and I would like to propose that the position be held for no longer than three years in future to ensure a more stimulating leadership. I especially am grateful to Mrs Alena Rydon for her assistance as Vice President, knowing of her input into the Camellia Society and untiring effort in the newly formed Rhododendron Group. To all members of the Committee including Jennifer Gleeson for her sound advice and secretarial work, thank you for your commitment to horticulture and your personal support and assistance. My aim for this year is to continue to encourage the young members to participate and help put some effort into the aims and objectives of this National organisation.

C.I. McDowell  
President

NORTH TARANAKI BRANCH RNZIH.

### WELLINGTON DISTRICT COUNCIL

#### COMING EVENTS:

Recently the N.Z. Institute of Landscape Architects and our District Council combined to organise a seminar on the needs and form of open space in downtown Wellington. As a follow on to this seminar there will be several early evening addresses. These will deal with various aspects of the inner city landscape. The June topic was "Geology, Earthquakes and Civil Defence". Dr Graeme Stevens, Geological Survey, DSIR, and Mr Doug Bent, Civil Defence Commissioner.

On Tuesday, July 25, the topic of the address is "The Late 19th Century and Edwardian Landscape of Wellington and its Public Gardens". The speaker is garden historian Walter Cook, of the Turnbull Library. This illustrated talk will give an overview of the landscape that developed after the removal of the native bush and the planting of exotics on the town belt.

The final address of this series will be held on WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16. It is titled "Design of Open Space for Wellington". The speakers are Brett McKay, Senior Planner, Wellington City Council, Frank Boffa of Boffa Miskell Partners, and Dr. Clarence Aasen, Urban Designer and Architect, Victoria University.

The venue for these addresses is the SHELL THEATRE at SHELL HOUSE, 96-102 The Terrace, Wellington. The addresses will go from 5.30 to 6.30pm. If you need any further information contact Ross Jackson at 845-708 (work),

285-567 (home); or Mike Oates 666-189 (work).

#### RECENT EVENTS:

The IAN GALLOWAY MEMORIAL LECTURE was held on March 7th. The lecture was given by Mr Martin Herbert, an arborist who teaches arboriculture at Waikato Polytechnic.

He stressed we need a more positive attitude towards the cultivation and preservation of trees. In urban U.S.A. there are four trees dying or being removed for every one that is planted. Trees have the potential to modify the "greenhouse effect" provided we have enough of them. We must ensure a succession of trees by carefully managing our existing trees, and continuing to plan for and plant trees in our urban areas.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr Ray Mole who has been made an Associate of Honour of the Institute, and to Mr Alf Harland who is now a Fellow of the Institute. These awards were announced at the Institutes AGM at Tauranga. Donn Estcourt, Newsletter Editor, Chairman: Denis Hicks, phone 676-826. Secretary: Mike Burtenshaw, phone 675-895.

### AUCKLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Newsletter, May 1989

**From the North Shore District Noxious Plants Authority's leaflets:** Environmentally damaging plants, not yet declared noxious but a threat to parks and native bush include:

Black wattle (*Acacia decurrens*); Cape Ivy (*Senecio* spp); Climbing dock (*Rumex sagittatus*); *Eleagnus pungens*; Giant reed (*Arundo donax*); Honey-suckle (*Lonicera japonica*); Moth plant (*Araujia sericifera*); Pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata*); Privet (*ligustrum* spp); Wandering Jew (*Tradescantia fluminensis*); Ginger (*Hedychium* spp).

And a couple of interesting items about gorse. The brown bark on mature gorse prevents herbicides from being absorbed. To a lesser degree so too does the wax on leaves and young stalks.

Gorse seed can build up to (Wait for it!) 6,000,000 seeds per hectare! A large proportion of each year's crop of seeds is coated with a hard, water resistant surface coat enabling 60 years plus viability.

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JULY 18th:** "BREEDING AND SELECTION OF GARDEN

### CANTERBURY SECTION

The RNZIH Canterbury Section is association with the Canterbury Horticultural Society spent a glorious autumn morning on April 1st looking at notable and historic trees around Christchurch.

The tour was led by Mr Walter Fielding-Cotterell, who is the arboriculturist for the Christchurch City Council.

#### Notable Trees

These represent the very best specimens or groups of trees, growing in their particular situation on land not owned by the Council. They are selected for protection because of their scenic, recreational, scientific, historic, landmark or functional value, or because of their specific public interest. Council's consent is required for removing a protected notable tree, or for carrying out major pruning.

#### Significant Trees

On the other hand, are identified as such only when subdivision, development or other construction activities are to be carried out. Planning controls are designed to prevent any work

## TAKE A JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF A TREE OR "ANYONE FOR JELLYBAGS"

Dr Alex Shigo visited Wellington and the Basin Reserve on a fine Monday in January (Jan 30) courtesy of Treescape Ltd. There was no cricket on so we all experienced a fabulous "Journey to the Centre of a Tree". Dr Shigo - Shigo he calls himself - is one of those people full of vital information, good stories and a wonderful way of putting it across. If you only heard his sayings and quotations your education would have increased dramatically.

This Journey we embarked on started with a session on Tree Biology where we were introduced to Jellybags, energy living cells, mass energy ratios, cellulose and the list goes on. Shigo treated us with his observations, experiments and knowledge so that we become immersed in this journey.

Moving on we covered the topic of compartmentalisation. The reaction zone and barrier zone were explained. In addition we were convinced of this effectiveness of compartmentalisation (a Shigo addition to the



PLANTS" speaker JACK HOBBS

Jack is the Curator of the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens and has been involved in the breeding of ornamental plants for over 10 years. He has worked with *Hebe*, *Leptospermum*, *Dahlia*, *Leucadendron*, and polyanthus.

His talk will cover the results of this work up to the present and its future potential. The main research work undertaken at the Garden has related to the evaluation of plants suitable for Auckland. It includes collecting and assessing the garden merits of a range of plants and publishing the results in a series of advisory leaflets. Establishing extensive plant collections has brought together possible parents of interesting and good plants; Jack's work was already revealed enormous potential. St Paul's Methodist Church Lounge, 12 St Vincent Ave, Remuera, 7.30pm.

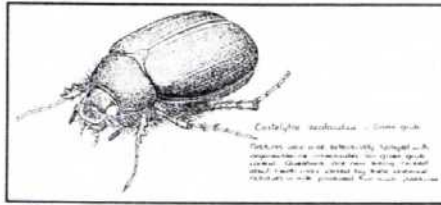
commencing on any site until the Council has been notified, and until Council officers have assessed which trees on a site are specimens worthy of protection. Significant trees usually have aesthetic value, adding to the amenities of the site because of their landscape qualities, screening, wind protection, soil stabilisation, etc.

For those interested, a public register of notable trees showing site locations and botanical details is held in the Town Planning Division. Significant trees are not identified in the City Plan in the same way, but locations of some may be found from property and subdivision records. To assist the public and developers, the Council has placed orange and black tree protection symbols on most notable trees in the city.

The AG, of the Canterbury Section was held on 13 June, followed by an interesting lecture on the flora of Banks Peninsula, given by Dr/Mr Hugh Wilson.

Coming Up: Saturday, August 26th - a trip to Victoria Park. Saturday, October 14 - bus trip to Castle Hill and Craigieburn, to look at a rare *Ranunculus*.

# PESTICIDES REPORT



Hazardous substances, their use, and management are a major concern in the Government's Resource Management Law Reform, which is being co-ordinated by the Ministry for the Environment.

The Ministry published a discussion document entitled "Pesticides: Issues & Options for New Zealand" in May of this year, and asked for public input to the issues.

Sadly, the date for submissions regarding pesticides and the options proposed in the report was brought forward to 14 June, 1989, not allowing sufficient time for the wider public response.

Pesticides are widely used here in New Zealand for cost-effective protection in arable and pastoral agriculture, horticulture, and forestry. The pesticides provide benefits by controlling weeds, fungi, and vertebrate and invertebrate pests; widespread use of pesticides is a recent phenomenon (post World War II).

On average, 3500 tonnes of pesticide active ingredient are applied annually in New Zealand. This involves the use of over 900 pesticide products and about 270 active ingredients. Over 75% of this use occurs in the North Island and is concentrated in regions with major horticultural industries.

Efforts to understand the balancing of competing interests between the current requirements for export agriculture and consumer health were the impetus behind the pesticide study, which was prepared by Lincoln College researchers.

Two submissions were made on behalf of the RNZIH, the first (I) was by H.J. Williams (National Executive) and P.E. Smale (Chairman, Nelson District Branch, RNZIH), and the second (II) was by Judith Petheram, also a member of the RNZIH National Executive.

Key points raised in these submissions were as follows:-

(I)

New less toxic chemicals are becoming available, eg. synthetic pyrethroids - vital to achieve registration for commercial use of these as quickly as possible.

Disposal of unwanted chemicals has been an ongoing problem for many years - still unresolved - steps should be taken to clear the way for authorised disposal procedures.

Lack of control over chemical usage on pro-

duce consumed within NZ is a major worry - disciplined procedures need to be introduced urgently to safeguard the public - important role for the Department of Health.

Insufficient recognition was made in the report of progress being achieved with integrated control programmes of insects harmful to produce, and the use of pheromone baits for disruption of the mating habits of insects.

Insufficient regard was made in the report of the realities of producing for commercial markets - although there is a growing slot for organically produced fruit and vegetables this only caters for a small segment of the market. Most consumers still demand high quality, cosmetically well presented produce - this requires control of pests and diseases through the application of spray chemicals.

Greater care needs to be taken to keep unwanted pests and diseases out of NZ - the introduction of these would need additional sprays and stop NZ from exporting to many export markets.

Strongly support initiative to promote greater care in the application of chemicals - suggest regular blood checks for heavy users and better and more informative labelling of chemical products.

(II)

One controversial point raised in the Report is the focus on "off label" use of pesticides. Mrs Petheram pointed out that in her experience "off label" usage (i.e. using pesticides for other than specified on the label) is not only common, but the acceptable norm. Other mentioned practices of not following manufacturers instructions and not following re-commended safety procedures are also common, as is smoking and handling pesticides, and not observing withholding periods. Lack of informed instruction and also lack of adequate provision of safety equipment and storage is common in her experience, as is use for retention of outdated pesticides.

In establishing Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) levels, there is no reference to the relationship between body weight and the ADI, although it is conceded that people will have different sensitivity levels.

Children have smaller bodies and it should be noted that they consume a lot of milk which has shown to have been contaminated on various recorded but unknown other occasions. Children also consume a lot of fruit juice and apples.

Although the ADI calculations are international, there is no mention of children in the consideration.

Consider the need for Government interven-

English language) in controlling decay in trees.

After an excellent Basin Reserve lunch we viewed slides of various aspects of Shigo's work. No one went to sleep!

Next we got down to basics. How to cut the branch off, where to cut the branch off and why.

We now know that "branches are not structurally attached to a tree", but are attached by a series of collars. We know what a branch bark ridge is and also a branch collar, a trunk collar, a branch protection zone and a stem bark ridge.

If that list doesn't get you interested then nothing will.

The opportunity arose late in the afternoon to ask Dr Shigo questions about anything to do with trees and pruning and anything else. I think even he was surprised at the quality of the questions. There are some bright people out there.

Congratulations to Treescape Ltd and Managing Director Edward Chignell for having the courage, foresight and confidence to bring to New Zealand Dr Alex Shigo. Thank you for the opportunity to see and hear Dr Shigo in action. He is an enthusiast and he knows his stuff. For those of you who did not go, all I can say is - bad luck and get in first next time.

## Queens Service Medal for Associate of Honour

A life-long love of gardening contributed to the award of the Queen's Service Medal for community service to Mrs Barbara Cave of Dunedin.

Mrs Cave's achievements and contributions to the horticultural world are extensive. She has been a member of the Dunedin Horticultural Society for 30 years, serving as president from 1969-73. She was national president of the Floral Art Society of New Zealand from 1979-81, and is a teacher, demonstrator and examiner of the art. For many years she has contributed a gardening column to Otago newspapers; Mrs Cave is also a freelance writer specialising in horticulture.

Mrs Cave came from a keen gardening family. In recent years, she has had more time to devote to her other love, painting. She paints flowers but also enjoys a variety of subjects.

Mrs Cave became an Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture in 1986.

## A Plant Conservation Scheme for New Zealand

At the May meeting of the National Executive Mr Mike Oates tabled a report and spoke about a Plant Conservation Scheme for New Zealand. He reported that the British National Council for the Conservation of Plants & Gardens (NCCPG) is holding a conference in England later this year to look at garden plant conservation internationally. The RNZIH has been invited to submit a paper to be read at the conference.

Tony Lowe, General Secretary of the NCCPG is visiting Australia in October and has expressed interest in visiting New Zealand for a

few days. He would be prepared to help the RNZIH initiate a similar scheme here and also talk publicly on the role of the NCCPG.

There has been feedback from many people on the need for a co-ordinated plant collections scheme here. David Given has suggested that the RNZIH & DSIR work together and prepare a joint proposal.

Mr Oates recommendations were considered and it was agreed:

That a task group be established to look at the feasibility of setting up a Plant Conservation scheme for New Zealand. The group would

comprise Mr Oates (convenor), Dr David Given and Mr Chris Gill.

2. That a visit by Mr Lowe be supported in principle, preferably around 11 October 1989, to coincide with the "Trustbank Garden World" to be held in Hamilton at that time. Mr Gear agreed to investigate the possibility of Trustbank Garden World sponsoring the visit.

3. That a workshop be held to coincide with Mr Lowe's visit.



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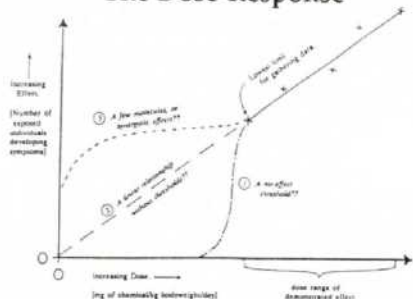
- Public health and environmental protection
- Development and dissemination of low and no pesticide using alternatives such as integrated pest management (IPM)
- Labelling, education and training of pesticide users to be extremely important and the crux of the Report.
- Recommend that any new Pesticides Regulation should be tied to, or come within the jurisdiction of the Ministry for the Environment, as the whole issue is one of the environment in which humans are but a part of the whole.

Summarised by commenting that if the real price of using pesticide were reflected in the price of the goods produced, organically grown or IPM-produced goods would become much more competitive than they presently are.

The submissions state that the contents of the report are an accurate and reasonable summary of the real situation regarding pesticides in New Zealand. The report is both timely and worthy of considerable consideration.

The NZ Weed & Pest Control Society Conference is being held in New Plymouth, August 8-10th. There is most likely to be some debate on issues roused in the pesticide report.

### The Dose-Response



Pesticide toxicological testing is based on relatively short term exposure of test animals to relatively large doses. The long-term effects of exposure to small doses is not really known.

The graph shows three possible results from small doses of pesticide exposure (below the lowest limit for gathering data).

No one can know if the extrapolation from high doses to low doses is scientifically valid, because the necessary experiments will never be done. The costs of testing in this lower range are really too high to be acceptable for people trying to register new pesticides.

- reproduced from "Pesticides Issues & Options for New Zealand"

Published by Ministry for the Environment, P.O. Box 10-362, Wellington.

## INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROPAGATORS' SOCIETY YOUNG PROPAGATORS' AWARD INTRODUCTION

The New Zealand Region of the IPPS has established a young propagator award which is designed to encourage young people to develop interests and skills in the fields of plant propagation and production. The award is open to people aged 28 years or less and who are actively involved in some aspect of plant propagation or plant production either as a student studying for a relevant horticultural qualification from a Polytech or a University, or as a person employed as a nursery worker. Applicants for the award do not have to be IPPS members.

### THE AWARD

The winner of this prestigious award worth up to \$500 will be offered free membership of the IPPS for one year plus a choice of: either attending the next Annual New Zealand Conference of the International Plant Propagators' Society with some travel expenses paid or a book prize plus a travel voucher to supplement travel costs to an Annual IPPS Conference within two years after the award was first made.

The winner will be required to prepare a short report on their work. This report may be presented at the conference or printed in the IPPS Newsletter. The winner will be presented with a commemorative scroll to celebrate the event.

### THE PROJECT

Applicants for the award will be required to submit a written report up to 6 pages in length based on either of the following options:

- A project undertaken through a place of work in the nursery industry describing some relevant aspects of plant production.
- A project on plant propagation or plant production produced for a formal educational course.

The project does not have to be of a very advanced nature, but must be relevant to the general field of plant propagation and nursery production.

Applications close 30 August.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from:

C. Bruce Christie  
Chairperson, IPPS Young Propagator Award Committee  
Department of Horticultural Science  
Massey University  
Palmerston North

## Baby Red Kiwifruit

Mr Ken Nobbs, of Te Kauwhata has bred a hybrid *Actinidia* which has a red hairless skin, and traces of red in the orange flesh. Although it belongs to the kiwifruit family, the small red fruit bears little outward resemblance to the brown furry "Hayward" variety.

Mr Nobbs's vine has so far produced seven fruit, which are about the size of a large gooseberry, cylindrical in shape, and sweeter than the Hayward Kiwifruit. It has a brix reading of 20.3 (test of sweetness); it has no appreciable core, and above all, the bright red skin is quite edible. Mr Nobbs suggests that the fruit could be marketable in punnets, like berries.

He says that a green variety of this miniature fruit "augutra" is already known in a number of countries; and some NZ farmers are already producing small quantities of the green variety on vines purchased from Mr Nobbs.

The fruit "...tastes unbelievably delicious with raspberries and cream", says Mr Nobbs.

The plant is a hybrid of *Actinidia cordifolia* x *A. melanandra*.

## Can Anybody Help?

Ferenc Kiss jr., Horburgstr. 4  
4057 Basel, Switzerland

Dear Sirs

It will sure surprise you to obtain a letter from an unknown person from Switzerland. I'm writing you because hoping to find a person or an institute in your country which may can help me. I'm 20 years old and Perennial Gardener. Since 2 years I collect conifer cones. That's my unusual hobby! If you know addresses of persons or institutes, I request you to send me their addresses. Maybe it's too obtrusive to ask you that, but if you would have the possibility to collect yourself, uninjured cones, tagged them and to send me, that would be wonderful. I take the liberty to send you a list of my cones too. You can see what and how much I have. There is no problem with the import to Switzerland, the cones must only be dry. Of course, I'll take over the expense for the package. My last request is the simplest, please write me back. My apologies for my English and the very best regards from me.

Yours sincerely  
Ferenc Kiss

(I have a copy of the extensive cone collection list if anyone would be able to help Ferenc. - ed.)

# Newsletter



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