

# Newsletter



1990  
No. 2  
June

## Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

### FROM THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As many of you may have heard, by the time you receive this newsletter I will have left my position as your Executive Officer. I have accepted a post with the Waikato Polytechnic and hence I will be moving to Hamilton in June.

I appreciate that the future of the Institute is a source of concern for many of our members, and the National Executive at the present time and that my leaving has perhaps added to those concerns. However, it's an ill wind that blows no good, and the Institute will now, of necessity, have to look at the structure and organization of its Head Office, and in a time of changing government initiatives in education, this might be no bad thing.

I wish Mike Oates and his Executive every success in the future as they take the Institute through the 90's and I am sure I will maintain contact with the many friends I have made within the Institute during the last five and a half years.

I would like to place on record my appreciation of the way many members of the Institute, and the members of the National Executive and Examining Board in particular, have gone out of their way to assist me in carrying out my duties of Executive Officer. While the National Executive (with the exception of Ian Gear!) may be sorry that I am leaving, they have all wished me well as I move into the somewhat complicated world of polytechnic administration.

I wish my successor, Sheryll Wilson, every success and I can assure her that in Enid Reeves and Vicki Black, she will have two of the most willing and able assistants that it has been my pleasure to work with. As I said to the National Executive at the last meeting, some of the things that we have achieved in the Institute's "engine room" in recent years, and for which I have tended to receive the credit, simply would not have happened without the sterling work put in by Enid and Vicki.

Best wishes to you all.

*Dave Cameron*

*May 1990*

### NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER

National Executive has great pleasure in announcing the appointment of Sheryll Wilson as Executive Officer of the Institute. Sheryll replaces Dave Cameron who is leaving to take up the position of Academic Registrar at Waikato Polytechnic.

Sheryll comes to us from Christchurch Polytechnic where she was Administration Officer in the Department of Business Studies. She has wide experience in educational administration as well as a strong background in finance and computing. The appointment is initially for twelve months.



*Sheryll Wilson,  
new RNZIH Executive Officer*

National Executive would also like to acknowledge its gratitude to Dave Cameron for his work over the past five and a half years. He has had a great influence on the overall running of the Institute from overseeing the development of the Institutes' examining role through to the computerization of head office. His experience was particularly

valuable over the past two years as we negotiated with various organizations about our future role in horticultural education. The Canterbury District Council hosted a farewell function for Dave at which Mike Oates, Chairman of the National Executive presented him with a horticultural book, "Visions of Paradise". Perhaps a reference to Waikato fogs?!

### RNZIH (INC) PRIZE WINNERS 1989

**J.A. Campbell Memorial Prize** for the candidate completing N.C.H. in Schedule I or IV with the highest average mark in subject numbers 10 to 14, awarded to:

Ms Ruth McLean - Auckland

**David Tannock Memorial Prize** for the candidate gaining the highest mark in subject No. 20 In Schedule I, awarded to:

Mr Duncan A. Burns - Nelson

**Junior Memorial Prize** for the candidate gaining the highest mark in Subject No. 14, awarded to:

Ms Ruth McLean - Auckland

**Rita M. Skellerup Memorial Prize** for the candidate completing N.C.H. in Schedule II or III with the highest average mark in subjects numbers 10 to 14, awarded to:

Ms Deborah J. Duncan - Havelock North

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# ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.) AGM NELSON 1990

*Alan Jolliffe, Chairman National Executive*

## *Introduction*

For the last 6 years I have served as Chairman of the National Executive. I have enjoyed every minute of it even the times one ends up in the "hot seat". In particular I have enjoyed the interaction between people from all parts of New Zealand who have a wide range of horticultural interests.

This will be my last annual Report and one which I am proud to write. There have been many changes and highlights during those 6 years.

## *Highlights and Achievements*

Some reflection over past years is a licence I am going to take because it is important to realise the changes that have taken place.

## *Computerization*

This Institute can boast a successful computerized administration built up over several years. While it has cost it has also been our saviour. The savings were evident in salary savings in the last two years and the speed of service has been increased.

## *Annual General Meetings*

Sometimes the numbers attending disappointed me, but the enthusiasm for the Institute and Horticulture has not. We have had excellent conferences in recent years offering a great deal of variety for all horticulturists.

## *Elections for National Executive*

I've always encouraged people to stand for election and am pleased that so many capable people put themselves up for election to serve on the National Executive.

## *D.D.Baker Bequest*

The Institute was pleased to receive this Bequest as it was its first one. The funds were provided over 3 years as the Estate was managed with the final total being over \$50,000. This fund and its interest will enable the Institute to further its goals.

## *Government Submission*

Members have been active in providing submissions to the Government and its various changes.

## *Education*

Major changes in the way the Education System operates in New Zealand have taken place in the last 12 months. We are very much affected on the examining side. This has been and is being dealt with by the Examining Board.

## *Examinations*

Student numbers have remained high as our qualifications are well sought after. They are recognised as being of high national standard.

The NDH was reviewed and today we are seeing the first students enjoying these qualifications. It is pleasing to note the numbers of students presenting these for the NDH (with Honours).

## *National Executive*

In the last year the Executive has met to discuss the affairs of the Institute. The Executive resolved this year to publish attendance at these meetings for the information of members.

Between 15 May 1987 and 22 February 1990 there have been 9 meetings of the National Executive.

Executive members who have been eligible to attend all 9 meetings, ie current members appointed prior to 15 May 1987 have attended as follows:-

NAME	NO. OF ATTENDANCES (total 9)	SUSTAINED APOLOGIES
Jolliffe	9	0
Mander	9	0
Oates	9	0
Flook	8	0
Taylor	8	1
Bagley	7	1
Williams	6	2
Ex Bd Chair(Close)	6	3
Gear	5	3
President(Ballinger)	4	1
HOD Massey	3	3
Nanson	2	4
HOD Lincoln	0	1

Other present executive members appointed since May 1987:

Riach - attended 2 of possible 2

Woolley - attended 1 of possible 2

Petheram attended 5 of possible 6

The Executive Officer has "attended" all 9 meetings.

My thanks go to the National Executive who without their interest and devotion to duty your Institute would not function.

## *Examining Board*

Thanks must be expressed to Ron Close and his Board for the excellent work in this area at a time of great change.

## *Garden History*

The Garden History Group continues to grow in enthusiasm and importance. Their well researched articles make fascinating reading.

## *Publications*

The introduction of the Newsletter along with 2 journals a year has greatly improved our publications. It is cost-effective, efficient and modern.

Mike Oates, Jean Grierson and Pamela Gibbons have all contributed to the success of our publications in the last few years.

## *Notable Trees*

Ron Flook has convened this group for a number of years. His dedication to trees has enabled the registration of over 250 trees to be completed. Not only that but also the

introduction of a Tree Evaluation method has stimulated even more interest in our trees. This method is accepted by Local Councils up and down the country.

### *Loder Cup*

Once again the Institute is administering "in house" the Cup. Over the last few years one of our previous secretaries the late Keith Lemmon administered it on our behalf.

### *Plant Conservation*

Mike Oates has been leading a group of people in this valuable area of horticulture. The aim is to conserve and preserve plant collections of National Importance.

### *Awards and Honours*

Once again the Institute will honour men and women who have served horticulture and the Institute. I firmly believe in the value of our Awards and encourage people to make nominations.

Congratulations to all those who have had awards presented to them.

### *Conclusion*

I cannot finish without thanking Dave, Edith and Vicki for running our office for us. Especially Edith and Vicki who covered for Dave during his running holiday overseas and his broadcasting stint at the Commonwealth Games.

Finally I wish to thank all the members of the Institute for their support of the National Executive. I have enjoyed being Chairman and hope that in some small way I have helped you, the members of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture, to step forward in this modern world.



### *The following awards were made at the Nelson Conference*

#### **ASSOCIATES OF HONOUR (AHRH)**

Leo Clark  
George Rainey  
Garrick Chambers

#### **FELLOWSHIPS (FRIH)**

John Adam  
Cliff Donaldson  
Alby Elwood-Smith  
Gus Evans  
Ross Ferguson  
Cornelius Fluit  
Walter Gibson  
Peter Grundy  
Andrew Petheram  
Judith Petheram  
John Williams  
Robert Williams

#### **PLANT RAISERS**

John Hobbs

#### **SPECIAL MERIT AWARD**

Wilf Watson

#### **SIR VICTOR DAVIES AWARD (inaugural)**

#### **NEWS FLASH!!!**

##### **LODER CUP**

The 1990 winner of the Loder Cup is Dr Brian Molloy, a scientist at DSIR Division of Land Resources. The announcement was made recently by the Minister of Conservation, Mr Woolaston. Mr Woolaston said 'this prestigious award goes to a man whose work has led us to a better understanding and appreciation of our botanical world.'

The cup will be presented at the Plant Conservation Symposium in Tauranga in August.

#### ***RNZIH National Executive 1990/91***

*From left to right:*

*Front row: Mike Oates (Chairman), Ralph Ballinger (President), Jude Petheram*

*Middle row: Ron Close (Chairman of Examining Board), Frank Buddingh', Graham Mander*

*Back row: David Shillito, Alan Jolliffe, Ron Flook, Des Riach*

*Absent: John Taylor, Richard Nanson, Ian Gear*

## RNZIH EXAMINING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT TO 1990 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE RNZIH

In continuing its important role in horticultural education in New Zealand, the Examining Board met twice during the year. Its Executive and Examinations Committee met from time to time to consider finances, oral and practical examinations, and the written examinations. Board members contributed much to the decisions and actions taken.

It was with much regret that the resignation of Mr Ellaby Martin, representing the New Zealand Nurserymen's Association, was accepted. Mr Martin had been on the Board for over ten years and had contributed a great deal especially on policy affecting students.

The Executive Officer and his staff of two again managed to administer efficiently all of the oral and practical as well as written examinations. The Board and this Institute does appreciate the work of examiners in setting and marking of scripts, and for the voluntary inputs by many persons into the oral and practical examinations.

The following aspects are of interest to members of the Institute:-

### 1. 1989 Examinations

A total of 784 students were examined for RNZIH qualifications in 1989, 653 sitting written examinations and a further 131 sitting only oral and practical examinations for the Certificate in Parks Practice and Certificate in Horticultural Practice.

The National Certificate in Horticulture (NCH) and National Diploma in Horticulture (NDH) programmes involve both written and oral and practical examinations. In 1989 the total number completing an NCH was 54 (38 in 1988), and NDH 20 (27 in 1988), and NDH (Hons) 3. These are overall figures for all schedules. The numbers indicate that there continues to be a demand for the qualifications. Being vocationally oriented they still appear to be value and appreciated by students and industry groups.

Written examinations were conducted in 22 different centres and oral and practical examinations at 12 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 and very few problems were encountered.

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.

### 2. Horticultural Education in the Future

The National Educational Qualification Authority has now been established, and will clearly have an impact on the exam-

ining role of this Institute. The chairperson of NEQA is Sir James Stewart, and the Chief Executive Officer is David Hood.

The RNZIH could well play a part in assisting NEQA in its operation. The aim is to establish a rapport with NEQA so that they have a clear understanding of our examinations programme, and the expertise available within and through our Institute.

### 3. 1990 Examinations

These will be held as in 1989 with the important difference that most of the funds for the examination programme will come direct from the Ministry of Education. In other words we have been contracted for 1990 to operate our national examinations.

Thus students will complete examination entry forms in July in the same way as previously but in most cases will not pay examination fees as this is now covered by their standard tuition fees paid by students to their teaching institutions. Current students have been informed of these new procedures. New students, i.e. beginning a course of study in 1990, will be required to register with the RNZIH but also will not pay examination fees, and will be told this on registration.

Conservation takes many forms. Today there is a growing realization that it is as important to record and catalogue the variations created in plant material by humans as it is to record and preserve wild plants. The pioneering work carried out over the last decade by the "National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens" in Britain is gaining momentum and is being taken up in other countries including New Zealand.

"Dahlias in New Zealand 1990" lists those cultivars of dahlia believed to exist currently in New Zealand. For each cultivar, an indication is given of the size, shape and colour of bloom, to-

gether with the name of the raiser, country of origin and year of introduction. Such information will be of interest to home gardeners, parks department staff, nurserymen, garden centre operators and plant breeders. In addition, definitions, judging standards and a glossary are provided which will be of especial interest to exhibitors, judges and show organizers. For the latter, a list of nationally recognised judges is included.

The book has been compiled by DSIR scientist, Dr Keith Hammett in Association with the Classification Committee of the National Dahlia Society of New Zealand.

Price: \$7.50

## Dahlias in New Zealand



1990

Orders to: Mrs Val Burrell, Secretary,  
National Dahlia Society of NZ, 78  
Cameron Rd, Te Puke.

#### 4. Financial

The 1989 Financial statements for the Institute show the Examination Account and the General Account in an amalgamated form, as many items of income and expenditure relate to both aspects of the Institute's operation. The major items of Examinations Income (CHP, Exam Entries, and registrations) show a total decrease of approximately \$7,000 from 1988 as a result of slightly reduced student numbers but this is offset by a similar decrease in expenditure on the overall examination operation.

The Government Grant was \$29,000, up \$2,000 on 1988 but this was as a result of the Ministry of Education's new financial year which now commences in July. Hence our grant was actually \$24,000 plus \$5,000 for the three months April - June. We expect the 1990 Grant to be further reduced to \$20,000.

#### 5. Acknowledgements

The voluntary assistance and support received from many individuals and organizations is very much appreciated.

With the emphasis in education moving more and more towards a "user pays" system it is gratifying for the Institute to experience receiving continuing voluntary assistance from over 200 people which ensures that the examination costs to the students can be kept to a minimum. These people include private growers in various branches of the industry, horticultural tutors, university staff, MAF personnel and private citizens with an interest in promoting horticultural education. They provide equipment, expertise, transport, and most of all their time free of charge sometimes for days on end. Without this assistance the cost of running the annual examinations would amount to at least twice the 1989 expenditure figure of \$116,000.

*Ronald Close, CHAIRPERSON  
May 1990*

### *The New Zealand Tree Programme Tu Kakariki*

In many places all around New Zealand our land and landscapes are becoming sadly impoverished, simply because there are not enough trees.

People are becoming much more aware of this decline, and now too of the larger global environmental issues. Increased public concern gives additional impetus to conservation priorities.

The Department of Conservation is establishing a New Zealand Tree Programme: Tu Kakariki, a flexible advocacy programme which will encourage the planting and conservation of trees. The Tree Programme will provide a national focus for tree work in New Zealand, and will help to energise a wide range of specific tree-related projects. Its objectives are:

(1) to promote co-ordinated action by community groups, individuals and official agencies to conserve and plant trees,

(2) to undertake national advocacy and information campaigns to develop public awareness of the value of trees and associated vegetation, and

(3) to encourage the use and conservation of indigenous plants.

The Tree Programme will work with a small advisory group and a co-ordinator in the Department's Head Office in Wellington; there will also be a representative in each of the Department's Regional Conservancy offices around the country for local liaison and project work. Priority will be given to Whakaruruhau, the marae planting scheme, and other tree-related conservation issues. These include:

- \* urban open space and trees
- \* rural trees and farm forestry
- \* threatened species recovery
- \* school and community nurseries
- \* demonstration projects
- \* support for the Notable and Historic Trees scheme.

#### **The Issues:**

There is a major task of ecological restoration in New Zealand. Many individual species are nationally or locally threatened - ti kouka or cabbage tree, for example, a popular native tree, has been attacked by a mysterious disease, and many other plants suffer from neglect, introduced animals or aggressively competitive exotic species. And on a

#### **PRIZE WINNERS (cont.)**

**Peter J. Skellerup Prize** for the candidate gaining the highest average marks in subjects numbers 1 to 9, awarded to:

Ms Barbara Louise Ward - Auckland  
**NZ Vegetable & Produce Growers' Federation No. 1 Prize** for the candidate with the best overall record for a first year student in schedule III, awarded to:

Ms Cornelia HM Van Ryen - Ohaupo  
**NZ Vegetable & Produce Growers' Federation No. 2 Prize** for the candidate, other than a first year student, with the best overall record in Schedule III, awarded to:

Mr Grant J Douglas - Upper Moutere  
**NZ Nurserymen's Association Prize** for the candidate with the best record for the year in Schedule IV, awarded to:

Ms Barbara Louise Ward - Auckland  
**F. Cooper Award** for the best record for a student completing the Horticultural Sales Certificate, awarded to:

Ms Helen K Eaves - Rangiora

wider scale there are whole ecosystems which need careful rehabilitation and re-establishment to maintain the country's ecological health and diversity. Coastal and lowland forests are particularly uncommon and fragmented. Riparian and hill country erosion demands reforestation on a major scale.

Another central issue which needs to be understood by all New Zealanders is the matter of appropriateness. The key points here are maintaining genetic purity for native plants, and selecting suitable native species according to the original vegetation patterns of the region and the local landscape. These ecological factors are fundamental to the success of many tree planting projects.

The Department of Conservation would be interested to hear of your ideas for trees and landscape in New Zealand. Groups and individuals who would like to become involved with planting projects in their community should contact the Tree Programme representative at their local DOC office, or Ronda Cooper, Tree Programme Co-ordinator, Department of Conservation, PO Box 10420, Wellington.

## THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

*Mike Oates, Chairman of National Executive*

For me, the 1990 conference in Nelson was one of the most exciting and successful I have been to. There was a feeling of cautious optimism about the future of the Institute and its role in New Zealand horticulture. This was in no small part due to the presence of members of the New Zealand Arboricultural Association, a new organization that has formed close links with the Institute. Their presence helped focus attention on trees and their importance to us all. It was appropriate that the two hundredth tree registration should take place at conference with the unveiling of the plaque on the *Eucalyptus globulus* at Nelson Girls College by Ralph and Pat Ballinger.

The Conference also provided me with a personal challenge: being elected as Chairman of National Executive. I am aware of the honour bestowed on me and mindful of the responsibility I have to guide the RNZIH through the next twelve months.

If the Institute is to survive and flourish into the next century it needs to look at the important issues facing horticulture today and focus its attention on areas where it can achieve results.

Important areas are I believe, our role as a national horticultural organization, education, trees, plant conservation, and garden history.

### *National Horticultural Organization*

The Institute is a national organization with members from all sectors of the industry. While it doesn't represent any industry sector it has an important role to play. We need to improve our effectiveness as a lobby group and comment on important issues affecting horticulture. We are already making submissions on important legislative changes and this needs to increase.

We also need to look at our role as a professional body. The NZ Arboricultural Association now has close links with us and we are looking at encouraging other groups to come under the Institute's umbrella.

### *Horticultural Education*

The Institute's role as an examining authority for horticultural qualifications will change over the next twelve months. Our funding base for this has already changed with the money to run the exam system now coming from the Ministry of Education rather than from student exam fees. From the 1st of July, the National Education Qualifications Authority (NEQA) comes into being. We are still unclear what our role will be in relation to this organization. The Trade Certification Board and other examining authorities have already been absorbed into NEQA. We are likely to be contracted by NEQA to carry

on with our examinations work in the short term. Because of the uncertainty surrounding our role as an examining authority our new Executive Officer will be appointed on a twelve month contract. By that time our future role in horticultural education will be clearer.

### *Tree protection*

The Notable Trees Scheme has achieved a tremendous amount in the last 13 years. It was fitting that the 200th notable tree registration (representing over 1000 individual trees) should take place at the Nelson Conference. This work has been achieved on a shoe string budget and it is now time to look at ways of putting it on a more professional footing. The formation of the NZ Arboricultural Association and their close ties to the Institute means that we can work in partnership on tree issues and benefit from each others strengths. We must still press for adequate protection for trees and ensure that the Resource Management Law Reform and revised Historic Places Legislation includes adequate provision for tree protection.

### *Plant conservation*

One of my personal priorities over the next twelve months will be to work towards the establishment of a NZ Plant Collections Scheme. I am currently convenor of a small steering committee that is putting the structure in place and we hope to have the scheme up and running by the end of the year. The RNZIH has been very supportive of the proposal and I hope we can work closely with the Scheme. Our regional network and horticultural expertise will be invaluable to this new organization.

### *Garden history*

The establishment of the RNZIH Garden History Group in 1985 helped us to focus attention on our historic gardens and landscapes and the need to identify and preserve them. The group has remained a loose association of individuals and has not achieved as much as was originally hoped. However, spin-offs include the work to establish a NZ Plant Collections Scheme which will focus to an extent on heritage plants, and the formation of the Auckland Garden History Society under the guidance of John Adam. The Institute needs to raise the public's awareness of this important part of our heritage and encourage organizations like the NZ Historic Places Trust to allocate resources in this area.

We need to devote time and energy, in particular to these five areas. We need to ensure that the work we carry out is done thoroughly and professionally. The danger of getting involved in too many issues is that we will spread ourselves too thinly as we've done in the past. It's far better to concentrate on a few things and do them well.

The final question we need to answer, and in some ways it should be the first is - who are we? We stand between the amateurs and professionals and sit uncomfortably with both. The professional people already belong to groups such as the Society of Horticultural Science, and the New Zealand Nurserymen Association. On the other side are the so called "amateurs" who on a local level are members of garden clubs and horticultural societies, and at a national level are members of specialist societies like the NZ Camellia Society. We cannot hope to compete with these organizations. We need to offer something different and have a role people can easily identify with. Otherwise we will yield little influence and ultimately lose membership.

I believe by concentrating on a few areas we can make a positive contribution to horticulture. This will enable us to target new members and clearly show them what we can offer as a national horticultural organization.

To achieve this however, I need your help. That's because without your help and input we don't have an Institute. You, the members, are the most important resource the Institute has. Let me know if you are prepared to give your time and expertise in any of the areas mentioned. I believe the Institute has an important role to play over the next few years. For that to become a reality requires a commitment from us all.

## NOTABLE TREES - RECENT REGISTRATIONS



*The unveiling of the plaque on the Eucalyptus globulus at Nelson Girls College during the 1990 Conference. Peter Smale (right) Chariman of the RNZIH Nelson District Council addresses delegates after the President of the RNZIH Ralph Ballinger (left) had unveiled the plaque with his wife, Pat. A member of the NZ Arboricultural Association looks down on the proceedings.*

A fine specimen of kanuka, *Leptospermum ericoides*, which has been growing in the Waikawa area of Picton for over one hundred years, has just been registered by Tree Registration Officer Alby Elwood-Smith, recently honoured as an RNZIH Fellow. This tree, over 18 metres high with a canopy spreading to 13m, is the sole survivor of many which once covered the beach frontage of Waikawa; historically it provided a sheltered meeting-place for visiting Maori.

Details on three other old trees planted in the late 19th century at Spring Creek near Blenheim were also submitted by Alby for registration. All of these trees are mentioned by S.W. Burstall in his Forest Research Institute Mensuration Report No. 21 (unpublished) and one is included in Burstall and Sales "Great

Trees of New Zealand". The Himalayan Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*), a Bunya bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) and a Southern Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) are all attractive amenities at the Spring Creek Holiday Camp, part of the original homestead property of the Redwood family - early settlers of Marlborough.

Designated THE "Notable Tree of the N.Z. Sesquicentennial Year" is the *Eucalyptus globulus*, growing near the main entrance of Nelson College for Girls. Documentation for the registration of this great Tasmanian Blue Gum was effected by Peter Grundy, Treasurer of the Institutes's Nelson Branch. As far as is known, the tree was planted in 1847 by Mrs H Adams, wife of the original owner of the property. The form for this Registration No. 200 representing a

Notable Tree Committee documentation of well over one thousand trees throughout New Zealand shows that this Blue Gum has a massive trunk girth of 9500mm at 1400mm above ground level, a height of 30.7 metres and a canopy spread of 30 metres. Truly an impressive tree and well-worthy of the fine plaque unveiled on its impressive buttress during the Conference by President Ralph Ballinger and Mrs Ballinger.

**Wilf Watson, Tree Registrar**

### Footnote:

A Special Merit Award was made to Wilf Watson at the conference in Nelson. This was in recognition of his work as Tree Registrar of the Notable Trees Scheme.

## Te Wao Nui A Taane - an Ethnobotanical Garden

### Preparation of a Concept Plan

In recent years concern has grown worldwide that the natural genetic variability and traditional uses of plants be safeguarded with an eye to potential future use. Out of this has sprung the Commonwealth Science Council's Biological Diversity Project. At the Ethnobotanical Workshop, convened by DSIR Botany Division on behalf of the Commonwealth Science Council (1988), a recommendation was made to DSIR that "Some of the finance set aside for the sesquicentennial commemorations be used for a national botanical garden as a place where native plants would be treasured and where all people who love plants, from whatever background they come, could go to see them and develop ways of using them and caring for them."

On Sunday, 21 January 1990, at the Ethnobotanical Symposium, part of the Science and Natural Heritage Conference - Tirohanga O Te Ao Turoa at Massey University, the Minister of Science, Hon. Peter Tapsell, announced that the 1990 Commission had made Te Wao Nui A Taane - the Ethnobotanical Garden and official New Zealand 1990 Project. A grant of \$45,000 was approved to begin the planning process. The first stages of a Concept Plan for Te Wao Nui A Taane are now being written by Mrs Dell Wihongi (Pu Hao Rangi) and Dr Murray Parsons (DSIR).

We wish to obtain ideas and seek directions for the development of Te

Wao Nui A Taane from all interested persons and we welcome your suggestions and comments.

Some of the ideas being discussed at present are:

1. Management of Te Wao Nui A Taane will be in partnership according to the Treaty of Waitangi, between the Taangata whenua (People of the Land) represented by the multitribal group Pu Hao Rangi and the Taangata tiriti (People of the Treaty) represented at present by DSIR.
2. The Garden will be located in the Tamaki-Makau-Rau or Auckland region as this has the best climate for most plants to be grown. Tamaki-Makau-Rau / Auckland also has the largest Maori and Pacific Island population and is a centre of tourism.
3. The Garden will provide for the collection, preservation and perpetuation of New Zealand native and early introduced plants, both Polynesian and European, and the traditional and modern scientific knowledge that goes with these plants. The Garden will assemble in one place much that is unique to Aotearoa / New Zealand. It will become an important centre for education about plants and their uses for food, medicine, clothing, craft and shelter both before and after the arrival of the /europeans. As such it will promote understanding and enjoyment of the different cultures present in New Zealand beginning with Maori and Pakeha and with opportunities to include all other groups.

A draft framework for the Concept Plan is available to any interested person for comment.

Contact:

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MANGERE  
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Dr Murray J. Parsons  
Botany Institute  
DSIR Land Resources  
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CHRISTCHURCH  
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Fax: (03) 252-074



Te Tangi O Te Tui

A computer listing of 140 mail order nurseries has been compiled by Alan Jolliffe, and is constantly being updated. The list covers a wide range of plants and nurseries (only those which offer a catalogue). It is available for a cost of \$5.00 (incl postage) from Alan G Jolliffe, 140 Kings Crescent, Lower Hutt.

# Newsletter



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