

Newsletter



1991
No. 2
June

Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

1991 A.G.M. AND CONFERENCE

Forty seven members attended the AGM and Conference in Auckland, a smaller number than recent years, and disappointing, given the location. In fact we were somewhat overshadowed by the eighty people attending the Arborists Conference. Pretty good when they only have a membership of about sixty.

Never-the-less it was an enjoyable and stimulating weekend with excellent lectures by Jack Hobbs on plant breeding in the Auckland region, and Alan Esler who gave the Banks Lecture on the naturalised flora of Auckland. The two workshops on the Saturday afternoon looked at garden history and plant breeding. Conference concluded with a field trip on the Sunday. This included a visit to the widely publicised garden of Douglas Myers in Remuera.

Whilst Conference is a time to get together, it is also a time to review the Institute's performance over the past year and set policies for the future. The following matters were decided at National Executive and the A.G.M. :

- Membership fees will remain the same in 1992 and some members will see reductions as a result of constitutional changes. Associate members are now those people who have reached the age of 60 and have been members for 5 years. A change from 65 and 10 years respectively. Student members now include anyone taking a course of study approved by the National Executive. Both categories pay 2/3 of the normal fee.

- There is a need to reduce costs in all areas of our operation. The costs of running Head Office are being reviewed. The size of National Executive has been of concern for some time and at the A.G.M. it was agreed that the number of members be reduced from 12 to 9 as soon as possible. A

special general meeting will be held as part of the next National Executive meeting in Wellington to make the necessary constitutional changes.

- The first in a series of R.N.Z.I.H. booklets on native plant cultivars was launched at Conference. The checklist of *Phormium* cultivars was prepared by Peter Heenan and will be followed next year by a checklist of *Hebe* cultivars being prepared by Lawrie Metcalf.

- The D.D. Baker Award was announced with nearly \$2,500 available for the first awards. Applications close in February 1992. Application forms are available from the Executive Officer.

- The constitution was amended to allow the New Zealand Arborists Association to be affiliated to the Institute. This will maintain the close relationship between our two organisations.

- Alan Jolliffe, John Williams and Ron Flook were re-elected to National Executive, along with new member Marion Mackay. Marion is a lecturer in Amenity Horticulture at Massey University.

- The National Plant Collections Scheme is developing with a survey of significant generic collections in New Zealand. Keith Hammett is co-ordinating the survey.

- The Notable Trees Committee will be computerising their tree registration records over the next twelve months and hope to produce a booklet detailing the first two hundred registrations.

NEW R.N.Z.I.H. PRESIDENT

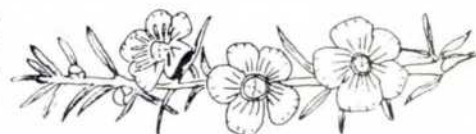


John Taylor OBE, AHRIH

John Taylor was elected President of the R.N.Z.I.H. at the recent A.G.M. John has served on National Executive for many years, being Chairman for six years.

He is also a member of the Examining Board and has been moderator of Oral and Practical exams for ten years. John brings a wealth of experience to the job, both in commercial horticulture and as a lecturer in Amenity Horticulture at Lincoln University. His knowledge of the Institute makes him ideally suited to lead the Institute into the 90's and to the challenges that lie ahead.

John replaces Ralph Ballinger who was President for eight years. Ralph was presented with a book at the Conference dinner in recognition of his tremendous work for the Institute during his term of office. He will not be lost from the Institute, however, as he was elected to the position of Vice-Patron.



HORTICULTURAL COMMERCE

Report to National Executive by John Williams

KIWIFRUIT

The 1991 harvest of kiwifruit got underway late April with reports of smaller fruit and lower volumes than in 1990.

Worldwide the effect of lowering market returns has seen a reduction of new plantings and within New Zealand the actual removal of vines by around one hundred and fifty growers with a net production of about 500,000 trays.

The Kiwifruit Marketing Board has responded to the marketing environment by imposing more stringent grade standards.

There are reports of kiwifruit orchards in the Nelson district

selling at bare land prices with purchasers removing the vines and replanting pipfruit trees.

PIPFRUIT

As a result of lower temperatures than usual during the Christmas to February period fruit did not size as normal. Many growers responded to these climatic conditions by hand thinning much more fruit from trees than usual.

The pipfruit industry is moving quickly to reward those who pack premium sizes for export, and the days of maximising profits by achieving high volumes regardless of fruit size have now gone.

Reports of this season's fruit arrivals in Europe suggest that the pipfruit industry is on target for another record year of market returns.

ORGANIC PRODUCTION

An increasing number of farmers, market gardeners and horticulturalists are producing fruit, vegetables, and other produce under recognised organic labels.

"Sustainable agriculture" best describes the thrust by scientists to move control of pests and diseases from chemicals to biological means. Examples are the production of grain for the manufacture of organic bread, meat produced on farms certified organic, Watties Frozen Foods is reported to be sending a twentyfive tonne consignment of organically grown peas to Japan.

TEMPLIN SCHOLARSHIP

One of the recipients of the 1991 Templin Scholarships is Mr. Peter Heenan, a member of the Institute's Canterbury Branch Executive. Mr. Heenan, who is employed by D.S.I.R. at Lincoln, will take up his award in August when he commences an 18 month study period in Missouri, U.S.A.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIRED

The following letter has been received by the Editor. Can you help?

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a first year Massey University student, studying for a Bachelor of Horticultural Technology. As I am required to do practical work for my course, I am wondering if any of your readers might be able to offer me a job for about three months from mid November.

Yours faithfully,

Keren North (Miss),
40 Main Road,
Havelock,
Marlborough.

SATELLITE GARDENS

WELLINGTON BRANCH

At its February meeting the Wellington Branch adopted a policy with regard to the concept of satellite gardens. The aim of this policy is to promote the use of satellite gardens as sites for plant collections within the Wellington area. These collections would be those that are better suited to cultivation at an alternative site from the existing gardens maintaining documented collections, such as the Wellington Botanic Gardens and Percy's Reserve.

A satellite garden may be :

1. A complete area holding one or more collections (The Otari Native Plant Museum could be considered as falling within this category).
2. A part of a park, garden or reserve that is suitable for one or more collections. (Areas such as Central Park in Wellington or Avalon Park in Lower Hutt could be utilised in this way).

A collection could be of geographical, ecological, morphological, ethnobotanical, heritage, generic, family, scientific or other nature.

The concept of satellite gardens is well established internationally and the links between the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Wakehurst Place and Bedgebury Pinetum serve as an excellent example.

The advantages that satellite gardens offer include :

1. Additional space for collections often at little or no extra cost (e.g. utilisation of existing reserve areas).
2. Better environmental conditions enabling enhanced cultivation of an existing collection(s) or the development of new collections previously uncatered for. This may result from a change or improvement in aspect, shelter, soil type, rainfall, drainage, sun, shade, space, topography, etc.
3. Improvements in local amenities e.g. aesthetic and educational values are enhanced.
4. Existing professional staff can be utilised to develop and manage these collections.
5. Utilisation of a centralised records system.

The Wellington Branch is now in the process of formally approaching local organisations (mainly Local Authorities) promoting the policy, encouraging these organisations to adopt it (should they not already have a policy) as a positive means of enhancing, and developing plant collections in the Wellington area.

Notable Trees for New Zealand

A Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture Scheme

Alan and Ngaire Hancock own a farm at Rangiwahia near Palmerston North. A very large totara (*Podocarpus totara*) has been a feature of the property since the Hancock family came to live there in 1886. An area around the tree was fenced off to create a private park.

At 1.5 metres above ground level the totara has a girth of eight metres. It is 30 metres high and has a canopy spread of 12 metres.

Estimated to be 1000 years old, this tree is a remnant of the original forest which occupied the site.

The Hancocks decided to give it "some of its own for company" and have since planted some 200 native trees in a fenced park area around the tree which is open to visitors by appointment.

The Hancock's commitment to preserving the totara is underlined by their decision to register it as a Notable Tree with the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (RNZIH) in 1987.

The Notable Trees Scheme aims to locate and identify trees of cultural value to New Zealanders.

While the National Trust and the Department of Conservation focus on protecting the natural habitats of these plants, the R.N.Z.I.H. Notable Trees Scheme is collecting information about our threatened species in cultivation. Through these combined efforts a significant contribution is being made towards the survival of these species.

There are of course many trees, particularly those planted around our homes, towns and cities, that are not native to New Zealand but have strong historical or scientific value. Some are simply outstanding examples of their species. The Notable Tree Scheme is also able to protect these trees.

An example is the Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*) at Karamu in Hastings. It was planted about 1880 by the Hon. John Ormond. It is now the best specimen of its type in the country, combining great size and beautiful form.

On the other hand the Weeping Pagoda Tree that grows in Lower Hutt is only 5m tall. It was planted on the estate of Mr. T. Moson between 1840 and 1845 when the major European settlement in the region, the fledgling settlement of

Petone, was still 6km away. This tree, *Sophora japonica* 'Pendula', is a relative of our own kowhai and is possibly one of only a handful in the world.

Listing trees in the Notable Tree Scheme serves two purposes. Firstly there is an educational role; co-ordinating information locally and nationally to make it more accessible. Also while there is currently no legislation to support the scheme, the recognition of the trees gained from listing does offer a measure of protection. Further protection is provided through local authorities who include these nationally notable trees as well as many locally important ones on their district scheme.



A registered kauri at New Plymouth

The Notable Tree Scheme now has over 1200 trees listed under 202 registrations. All registered trees are provided with a plaque to promote public awareness. The committee is very keen to hear from people who either have trees on their property or know of trees they would like to see registered. They would also welcome enquiries from anyone interested in assisting with registration or information gathering.

R.N.Z.I.H. Notable Tree Committee

P.O. Box 11379, Wellington.

Chris Ferkins,

Notable Tree Committee Member

Extract from QEII National Trust Newsletter.

BOOK REVIEW

A survey and evaluation of the distribution of selected exotic tree genera in private collections in New Zealand.

Marion B. Mackay, in association with the New Zealand members of the International Dendrology Society.

Available from the author, Department of Horticultural Science, Massey University, Palmerston North \$15 (including postage and packing).

Although New Zealand holds a large and varied exotic plant resource there is little documentation to describe the extent and location of this resource. As more habitats are threatened world wide it is important we have a knowledge of our plant resource. This survey carried out by Marion Mackay, a lecturer in Amenity Horticulture at Massey University, covered seventeen tree genera. Questionnaires were sent to 33 members of the International Dendrology Society in New Zealand. Questions asked included the number of species they grew in each of the seventeen genera listed, the age of each species and source of plant material.

This booklet mainly comprises lists of species in the seventeen genera surveyed and in which collections they can be found. As such it is an invaluable resource and whilst it highlights the wide range of species grown, it shows that many are not widely available.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S NOTES



At present National Office is busy processing registrations and examination entries for this year's examinations. Approximately 300 new registrations have been received this year and over 1400 examination entry forms sent out to all registered students. Examination entries close on 31 July.

The review of horticultural qualifications being undertaken jointly with N.Z.Q.A. continues - a basic framework has been developed and a small group formed to develop this framework. The Institute has also prepared a submission to N.Z.Q.A. on the discussion document "Designing the Framework". Submissions close on 5 July.

Arrangements are being made to archive all important material with the National Library in Wellington. The Institute is extremely appreciative of Dr. Rupert Tipples assistance with the archiving process. To assist with the compilation of a complete set of archives the following publications are required :

Bulletins

- No. 8 - Winter 1978
- No. 11 - Autumn 1979

Journals - New A4 series

- No. 2 - 1974
- No. 5 - 1977

Loder Cup Registrations closed on 30 June. The Cup Committee will make a decision on this year's recipient with a presentation to be made later this year. A booklet is being printed at present tracing the history of the Loder Cup to the present day and copies of this will be available from August by writing to this office.

For the next newsletter the deadline for material is 6 September. I would like to receive for inclusion news and coming events material from Branch Secretaries. Any other contributions are welcome.

Rodger McCarthy

R.N.Z.I.H. NOTABLE TREES COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT - MAY 1991

Ron Flook - Convenor

It has been a year of consolidation. Our records are now in first class order thanks to Wilf Watson and the Committee's help under the capable chairmanship of Chris Ferkins.

Our forward plan for the coming year is to prepare a handbook of our register of Notable Trees. We plan to use this method, which we believe will be the most effective way of promoting our work. We intend to distribute this publication free to all owners of a registered Notable Tree and to also have copies available for sale.

We believe that our national tree register has a potential for New Zealand tourists' use. At present we are exploring methods of recording used by the International Dendrological Society and also some American systems for tree inventory record keeping.

The Nelson Branch has very kindly donated some money to us from the Nelson Conference profits. They have agreed that instead of a poster they would be happy to see the money used for a high quality cover for the handbook. We appreciate their kind gesture. While discussing their offer they commented that their Tree Trail pamphlet, which was produced to commemorate the Nelson Conference, has been a great success.

Nelson Branch would like to recommend that each Branch that hosts a conference should develop a local Tree Trail pamphlet to commemorate their R.N.Z.I.H. Conference. We believe that this recommendation should be adopted as a part of conference procedure.



R.N.Z.I.H. JOURNAL HORTICULTURE IN NEW ZEALAND Authors

The Journal features articles on all aspects of horticulture and the related sciences with particular emphasis on research, education and garden history.

The editor welcomes material for all sections of the Journal, including articles, book reviews, research abstracts and so on. No article should be submitted which is simultaneously being offered to other publications.

Editor, Journal, P.O. Box 12, Lincoln University, Canterbury

BRIGHT FLAME OF SUCCESS

Mark Dean

(Nursery Industry Representative on Examining Board)

When Nursery owners Mark and Esme Dean see red their faces light up with a smile. The Oropi couple are likely to be looking at the native kamahi shrub that has brought fame to their gardening business. Kiwi Red, (*Weinmannia racemosa*) is a bright red hybrid which the Deans spent nine years developing.

The first 2000 shrubs went on sale in garden centres last month and sold out within a fortnight. Mr. Dean said they were "embarrassed" by the demand. "We could have sold ten times the amount we had," he said. A further 3000 plants will be ready for October but the nursery has advance orders for more than 5000.

The former primary school teachers discovered the plant by accident in 1981. They planted seeds from a kamahi and through a genetic mutation a seedling with bright red foliage sprang up.

Mr. Dean said their red beauty was an ideal ornamental shrub for use in small gardens because it only grew about 1.5 metres high. Once the New Zealand market has become established, they will export the shrub for use in gardens and as foliage for floral arrangements.

MEMBERSHIP OF NZAA

R.N.Z.I.H. members should be aware that they can join our affiliated organisation, the N.Z. Arboriculture Association with the additional payment of \$25.00 GST inclusive.

This allows you to receive all the benefits that NZAA membership entails.

Subscriptions should be sent to -

The Executive Officer,
R.N.Z.I.H.
P.O. Box 12,
Lincoln University
Canterbury

Congratulations

to the following recipients of awards and honours presented at the 1991 A.G.M.

Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture

Muriel E. Fisher - Auckland
A. Lindsay Poole - Wellington
Murray Richards - Palmerston North

Fellow of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture

Val Bieleski - Auckland
Bob Edwards - Auckland
Francis Newhook - Auckland
John Rogers - Auckland
George Hicks - Canterbury
Nicholas Owers - Canterbury

Plant Raisers' Award

Neville Haydon - Auckland

Sir Victor Davies Award

Vance Hooper - Waitara

SUBMISSION ON THE NORTHLAND KAURI NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL

Support for the Proposal

As an organisation concerned with the quality of the natural environment, the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture is in favour of the Northland Kauri National Park Proposal which embodies the protection of both the biological and historical values of most of Northland's Kauri forests. The very subtropical nature of the Northland forests sets them apart from the rest of New Zealand although there are common elements of the flora and fauna that do occur throughout New Zealand. The high level of species endemism to the Northland region compels us to provide a higher level of protection for the ecosystems.

It is refreshing to see a proposal which takes in as wide a range of criteria for creating a National Park as this one does. Not only is it intended to protect the variety of biota that occur in the area but Maori and Pakeha cultural history, landforms, geology, soils, and recreational potential are factors affecting the proposal.

In supporting the Northland Kauri National Park Proposal the R.N.Z.I.H. is positive about the direction that nature conservation is being taken under the stewardship of D.O.C. There is however some concern about the department's ability to deliver many of the lofty ideals embodied in the proposal, particularly in today's climate of tightening government expenditure.

Concerns about the Proposal

Aside from the points already expressed there are some particular features of the National Park Proposal that raise concern. The following areas of concern are not listed in order of importance, nor do they outweigh the R.N.Z.I.H.'s overall support for the proposal.

1. Fragmentation of the park area

The fragmented nature of the proposed national park will very obviously lead to a number of

management problems. The cost of maintaining the perimeters of the many small fragments of the 90,000 hectares involved could be prohibitive. For example; the exclusion of stock, weed species, the management of edge effects, and the control of human activities at park boundaries all represent considerable management problems and thus costs.

2. Problems with the park having a kauri focus

Preservation of the ecosystems contained in the Kauri National Park Proposal will result in protection for kauri as a matter of course. Although it can be seen that the present name may capture the public imagination, it may also divert attention away from necessary priorities. With such a focus on Kauri forest - wetlands and coastal habitats for example, may be the first areas to be dropped from the proposal if a reduction in size becomes necessary.

Will D.O.C. and the National Parks and Reserves Authority settle for less area than is suggested in the proposal?

3. The importance of forest succession in selecting a national park site.

The importance of the regenerative patterns involved in the long term viability of the kauri forest ecosystem must be taken into account when setting the boundaries of a national park.

The provision of habitats for endangered species may change over time with the changing successional status of the forest or other ecosystem. For example a large scale disturbance of a forest may render it incapable of supporting a population of kokako.

If the eventual size of the National Park is less than that proposed, will the areas of young regenerating forest be sacrificed?

4. Department of Conservation funding for the proposed national park.

Will D.O.C. be put in a situation of overtaxing its resources by the establishment of a Kauri National Park?

A concern that should be aired is that the establishment of a new national park will further stretch the already inadequate resources of D.O.C. It is essential that the proposed national park receive sufficient funding to duly recognise its status.

5. Combinations of terrestrial reserves with marine reserves

Is there any intention to propose marine reserves in appropriate areas adjacent to the proposed national park?

It is often desirable to coordinate the establishment of terrestrial reserves with marine reserve requirements.

6. Other reserves of importance in Northland not included in the proposal.

There are, I am sure, areas which merit reserve status that have not been included in the proposal for a national park for a variety of reasons. There is at least one area that concerns us here and that is the Surville Cliffs serpentine area and surrounding areas at North Cape. This area has a unique association of plant species not found anywhere else in New Zealand coastal areas with sand vegetation are definitely under represented in nation parks particularly in New Zealand which has such an extensive coastline.

Conclusion

The RNZIH supports the concept of a national park for all areas listed in the proposal discussion paper.

In supporting the proposed Northland Kauri National Park the R.N.Z.I.H. has some reservations as outlined above - most of these are related to the fragmented nature of the park and the possibility that some relevant considerations have been understated or neglected.

Victorian Conservation Trust

The Victorian Conservation Trust, based in Melbourne, has closely modelled its work on that of the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust. It is a smaller organisation than the National Trust but is achieving impressive results in landscape protection with both covenants and property acquisitions.

National Trust general Manager, Euan McQueen and his wife visited the Victorian Conservation Trust while holidaying in Australia in October 1990. Some Board members and staff have also spent time there in recent years. Euan McQueen gave a formal lecture with slides entitled "Conservation: Challenges for the Future" to the Victorian Conservation Trust, as well as spending a day looking at covenanted properties and gardens associated with or owned by the Conservation Trust.

"It's always interesting, and instructive to see how another trust approaches landscape protection questions", he said "The Victorian Conservation Trust, like the National Trust in New Zealand, got off to a slow start, but has made real progress with limited resources in recent years. It's good to see New Zealand ideas applied to protected landscapes elsewhere, and particularly how these ideas are adapted to the Australian landscape".

(From the QEII National Trust Newsletter)

People, Plants and Conservation: Botanic Gardens into the 21st Century

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF
HORTICULTURE

and

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

The 1992 annual conference of the Institute is being held in Wellington and will focus on botanic gardens, as part of the centenary of management of the Wellington Botanic Garden by the Wellington City Council.

DATES: 19-22 March 1992

VENUES: Sharella Motor Inn (Accommodation and main venue) Wellington Botanic Garden Education and Environment Centre.

CONFERENCE THEMES:

- ☆ Education and interpretation
- ☆ Ethnobotany
- ☆ Collection Management (planning, documenting and maintaining collections)
- ☆ Conservation
- ☆ Computerisation of plant records

Events will include Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture AGM, Field trips to Wellington collections, Conference dinner, Workshops, The Banks Lecture, Optional Trip to Kapiti Island (weather permitting).

ORAL AND POSTER PAPERS:

We plan to have several invited speakers address conference themes. You may also offer a paper for oral

or poster presentation on one of the conference themes, or any aspect of horticulture. The conference organisers will select oral papers from those offered.

MORE INFORMATION :

Centre for Continuing Education
Victoria University
P.O. Box 600
WELLINGTON
Phone: (04) 758-677 Fax: (04) 758-676

N.Z. Arboriculture Association News

A special general meeting of the N.Z. Arboriculture Association will be held in Wellington in September to discuss a number of issues held over from the Auckland Annual General Meeting. Members who can are urged to attend this special meeting.

At the Auckland Annual General Meeting a new executive was elected as follows :

Martin Herbert
195 Galloway Street
HAMILTON
Ph. 68-970

Chairperson

Tutor, Waikato Polytechnic

John Wakeling
75 Brookfield Street
HAMILTON
Ph. 569-779

Secretary

Arboriculture Consultant

Shane Potter
6 Harrier Street
TAURANGA
Ph. 770-174

Treasurer

Municipal Arborist

Frank Buddingh
P.O. Box 8032
DUNEDIN
Ph. 467-9248

Vice Chairperson

Arboriculture Consultant

Rob Graham
31 Waiapu Road,
Kelburn
WELLINGTON
Ph. 758-909

Editor Newsletter

Municipal Arborist

N.Z. Arboriculture Association members should be aware that a sub-committee has been set up to address the necessity for a National Code of Practice for Arborists. Anyone interested please contact Martin Herbert (071)68970 Hamilton.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

Venue:

The Botanic Garden Education and Environment Centre, Glenmore St. Wellington.

Date:

Thursday 5 September at 12.00 noon.

Agenda:

1. Constitutional changes to reduce the size of National Executive from 12 to 9. Clause 5 (b) amended to read: "The Executive shall consist of nine members duly nominated and elected at the Annual General Meeting for a term of three years. Election to the Executive shall be carried out by means of a postal vote by members".

Clause 5 (b) (iv) amended to read:

"Each year three Executive members shall retire from office by rotation, the order of retirement being determined by ballot if necessary. Retiring Executive members shall be eligible for re-election.

National Executive

Newsletter

Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)



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