

Newsletter

Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)



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R.N.Z.I.H. Award Recognises Forest Work

Michael Greenwood was the toast of Manawatu environmentalists when he received the Loder Cup from Conservation Minister, Denis Marshall on 7 October.



Michael Greenwood (right) receives Loder Cup from Conservation Minister

The presentation of conservation's most prestigious award was made at Massey University.

A tireless advocate for protecting native forests, Mr. Greenwood has spent 50 years researching and classifying local botanical species and protecting forest remnants. He also helped establish nature trails at the Esplanade and Totara Reserve.

"Michael laid the groundwork for conservation in the Manawatu long before others jumped on the bandwagon," says Conservation Department field centre manager, Dave Smith. "In our classification work, it's hard to imagine anything we do that he hasn't already touched."

Through his work as a founding member of the Manawatu branch of Forest and Bird, Mr. Greenwood was instrumental in saving the 2000ha "Odlins Block" at Tokomaru from logging in 1984. The block is now part of Tararua Forest Park.

Now chairman of the Keeble's Memorial Forest Trust, Mr. Greenwood has spent 20 years protecting and enhancing the 12ha Keeble's Bush, near Linton, since it was bequeathed by the late Charles Keeble. Botanists rate Keeble's Bush as the most important mixed-podocarp lowland remnant in the Manawatu.

Mr. Greenwood's work in keeping subsequent plantings true to botanical "form" is recognised as the blueprint that those creating new forests follow. His advice to others in protecting remnants has been invaluable.

In his professional life, Mr. Greenwood worked on nitrogen fixation in legumes at DSIR for 35 years. Together with Dr. Ian Atkinson, he produced a paper that suggested diverging growth patterns in 50 species of native plants were due to co-evolution with the grazing moa. Visits to the Chatham Islands proved his theory.

Taken from an article by John Saunders in the Manawatu Standard 7 October 1993

Report to National Executive of R.N.Z.I.H. Garden History Portfolio

by John Adam

1. New Directions? The Historic Places Act, 1993

On 1 July, the new Historic Places Act 1993 became law. So how will the new Act provide ways of conserving our historic designed and ordinary (vernacular) parks and gardens? Under Clause 23 of The Act, "Criteria for registration of historic places and historic areas", the Trust may assign a Category I or Category II status to any historic place, "having regard to any of the following criteria", including:

- (g) The technical accomplishment or value, or design of the place.
- (h) The extent to which the place forms part of a wider historical and cultural complex or historical and cultural landscape.

Clause 31 of the new Act provides for the Trust or "any other person", to propose registration of any historic area.

The first such registrations were formally approved by the Historic Places Trust in July. They were for the original 20 acre Te Aroha Domain (c. 1883), located in the eastern Waikato and the Mission garden, "The Elms:" in Tauranga City that dates from the 1830s. These properties will be watched with considerable interest as test cases under the new legislation. Australia has developed considerable experience in historic park and gardens conservation. We can learn from our cousins to make the Act succeed.

In North America, historic landscapes are generally termed "designed" or "vernacular" in nature. "A historic designed landscape is one that was consciously designed or laid out by a landscape architect, master gardener, or horticulturist working in a recognised style or tradition...A vernacular historic landscape is one that evolved through use by people, whose activities or occupancy shaped that landscape. Through social or cultural attitudes of an individual, family or a community, the landscape reflects the physical, biological and cultural activity of those everyday lives ... examples include rural villages, battlefields, industrial complexes, and agricultural landscapes."

2. Strategy

With debate occurring on the Institute Strategy I would recommend that Branch committees be encouraged to nominate one or more of their members to communicate with the person holding the Garden History Portfolio.

Branch committees and members could support the following garden history initiatives in their district:

- i) By scheduling of historic parks and gardens under new revised District Schemes by City and District Councils and Regional Plans prepared by the Department of Conservation.
- ii) Support curriculum development for historic park and garden maintenance courses, including historical and horticultural research skills, legislation, garden archaeology, heritage and interpretation and maintenance standards.
- iii) Authentic interpretation of historic parks and gardens. Herb gardens and old fashioned roses are poor substitutes for basic research of a site's history.

3. Montreal Colloquium and Symposium

I attended a Colloquium on Cultural Landscapes (a term used to classify man-modified/designed environments) in May. The Colloquium discussed the recent inclusion of Cultural Landscapes under the World Heritage Convention late last year. Mechthild Rossler from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris presented the opening address, a report on "Outstanding cultural landscapes for the World Heritage list".

The main symposium, was attended by some 350 delegates from some 20 countries including Australia, Singapore and Sri-Lanka.

I spoke to my illustrated paper, *Changing Perceptions in Urban Park Development and Conservation in New Zealand*, on 14 May. My sessions were chaired by Nora Mitchell from the Cultural Resources Division of the United States National Parks Service.

My paper described the diverse

forms of nineteenth century parks found here from the utilitarian 'common' to the competitively designed 'People's Park', and the Australian and North American influences on plant selection. I concluded by describing the newly emerging conservation process for the poorly realised historic cultural landscape.

I returned home via Chicago where I was asked to give my paper to a meeting organised by Julia Sniderman - one of the Chicago Parks District heritage planners involved in protecting the historic network of Chicago's magnificent urban parks.

4. Publications/Meetings

Heritage Management in New Zealand and Australia Visitor Management, Interpretation and Marketing.

This recently published softback book has been edited by C.M. Hall and S. McArthur and published by Oxford University Press. There are seven contributions from mostly New Zealand academics on a diverse range of natural and cultural heritage topics that have rarely had this type of coverage before.

The four page *ICOMOS New Zealand Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Heritage Value* prepared by the N.Z. National Committee of the International Council on Monuments and Sites for \$2, is available from PO Box 37-428, Parnell, Auckland 1001.

Dictionary of Gardening - an omission

The R.H.S. *Dictionary of Gardening* was published last year with considerable changes since the first edition was published in the 1960s. Included in the new edition are summaries of the garden history of many countries including Australia and the United States but not a word about New Zealand? This is poor, considering how widely the dictionary has been promoted here.

The Dictionary of New Zealand Biography

The second volume of *The Dictionary of New Zealand Biography* has just been published and features an essay on local nurseryman David Hay (1815-1883) by Winsome Shepherd.

Annie Fullerton

National Executive's Newly Elected Member.



Annie Fullerton was elected to National Executive in October to fill the vacancy arising due to the resignation of John Williams. She is President of the Waikato Branch.

Annie is a Registered General and Obstetric Nurse with an Advanced Diploma of Nursing equivalent. Her main nursing experience has been in Intensive Care where she was Clinical Instructor in the Intensive Therapy Unit at Waikato Hospital and in recent years, in Respiratory Medicine where she is involved in education of staff and patients. She has also co-ordinated Community Asthma Projects in the Health Waikato area. She believes her occupation gives her a head start in learning and remembering botanical names.

She lists gardening, reading and music as her hobbies and plants and horticultural publications as her extravagance. She and her husband Bill farm near Ohaupo and have a three-quarter acre garden which is open for garden visits by appointment. They grow quite a range of plants and trees and Annie's current favourites are roses and perennials, especially shade-lovers. She is also interested in garden design but admits to having a "Topsy" garden - it just "grewed".

Annie's parents were both fairly keen gardeners and she recalls taking an interest in horticulture almost as far back as she can remember. She is surprised now that she didn't consider a career in horticulture, but it didn't seem to be an option for girls in those days.

She has attended Waikato Branch meetings for about eight years, has been on committee for four years and is currently President. She feels fortunate in having a committed, multi-talented, supportive committee with which it is great to work.

Annie has been a member of R.N.Z.I.H. for five years and feels positive about its future. However, she believes it does need to change its focus quickly from education (which is soon to be the province of the N.Z. Horticulture Industry Training Organisation and N.Z. Qualifications Authority).

Sir Victor Davies Award Andrew Steens - Tauranga

An award to encourage young people to increase their knowledge of plants and plant culture. It is awarded annually to a person under the age of thirty years who has demonstrated an outstanding plant knowledge in New Zealand.

The recipient is presented with a certificate commemorating the award and a suitable gift decided on annually by the Award Committee.

Applications for 1994 Award close on 28 February. Applicants must be under the age of 30 on 28 February in the year in which they have been nominated for the award.

D.D. Baker Award

Martin Herbert - Hamilton - to study areas of arboriculture in Europe that will benefit the science in New Zealand.

Murray Dawson - Lincoln - to study *Leptospermum scoparium*

An Award to assist with funding for a broad variety (range) of research or study which will contribute to the advancement and benefit of horticulture in New Zealand.

Applications must be lodged with the Executive Officer, or postmarked no later than 28 February. Applications must be on the standard form which is available from RNZIH Head Office or Branch Secretaries.

Plant Raisers' Award Andrew Easton - Rotorua

This award is granted to any nominated individual or organisation who has raised in New Zealand a cultivar considered to be sufficiently meritorious. The Award is in the form of an inscribed medal. Nominations should be submitted in writing to the Executive Officer not later than 1 December.

Nominating bodies shall be :
The National Executive or any Branch of the RNZIH.
Any horticultural organisation or branch thereof, affiliated to the RNZIH, or
Any incorporated horticultural organisation.

Awards - 1993

International Plant Propagators' Student Award

Jennifer Perano - Canterbury

The prize is Bruce McDonald's book "Practical Woody Plant Propagation For Nursery Growers" and is awarded by the International Plant Propagators Society through institutions with specific study programmes in plant propagation, where top achievement by students can be measured. The aim of the International Plant Propagators Society is to reward top achievement in the study of plant propagation.

Margaret Watling Scholarship Jayson Andrew Kelly - Dunedin

The purpose of the Margaret Watling Scholarship is to assist amenity or ornamental horticulture students (aged between 19 and 30) to either undertake further study, or to obtain practical experience in amenity horticulture, nursery management or any other closely allied field in the U.K., U.S.A, or Canada. The value of the award is up to \$5,000 and applications close on 31 March. Application forms are available from the Registrar, Lincoln University.

Think Globally - Act Locally:

An example of networking between local authorities

One of the major proposals to come out of the 1992 RNZIH Conference on Botanic Gardens was the establishment of a national gardens network. For various reasons this has not occurred and as such, important issues such as the development of a national plant conservation strategy have remained unresolved.

In Wellington, however, a local network has been established which is bringing benefits to the institutions involved, as well as to plant conservation in the Wellington region. The network includes Victoria University Grounds, Wellington and Otari Botanic Gardens and the Parks Operations and Recreation Divisions of the Hutt City Council. Whilst it is an informal relationship the benefits to all parties have been significant and are increasing as time goes by. Some of the major areas of co-operation include:

Sharing Knowledge: We hold meetings once or twice a year between the managers of the three institutions to discuss areas of mutual interest and talk about technical problems. It's true what they say about three heads being better than one. A good chance to discuss different ways of doing things.

The Botanic Garden Reference Library is available for staff of all institutions to use and Journals such as BGCI Conservation News, and the Public Garden are circulated.

Exchanging Plant Material: This has always been an important area of co-operation, often seed is divided out after one institution has been away collecting. For example, a couple of years ago staff from Victoria University and Wellington Botanic Garden travelled to Gisborne to bring back two sets of Rene Orchiston's flax collection. During 1992, Tony Silbery from the Hutt City Council visited the Three Kings Islands with the Department of Conservation. Seed from that trip was distributed amongst the three institutions. Holding plant material in all three institutions is an insurance policy when dealing with threatened plants.

Meetings and Field Trips: We have

run two field trips so far this year with staff visiting Otari Native Botanic Garden and Victoria University. This is especially valuable for gardening staff who are responsible for collections.

Staff Training: We are currently running a thirty hour training course of plant identification and classification for ten staff from the three institutions. The course specially prepared by The Open Polytechnic can be run because of the economies of scale provided by the co-operating institutions and enables networking to develop between garden staff.

Staff exchanges can also provide a valuable training function and recently, Nonda Katsos, collection supervisor from the Wellington Botanic Garden, responsible for threatened NZ species spent a week at Percy's Reserve in Lower Hutt learning about the culture of the threatened species collection there and the species recovery programme being run in conjunction with DoC.

Conservation: All three institutions have a strong interest in plant conservation and have built up comprehensive collections of N.Z. threatened plants. We are also keen to assist with conservation of locally threatened species in conjunction with agencies such as DoC.

The Hutt City Council is currently preparing a joint recovery programme with DoC for *Muehlenbeckia astonii*, a nationally threatened plant. It is proposed that the Hutt propagate and grow on North Island populations of the plant and that Otari do the same for South Island populations. The planting out of these plants in the two cities as a resource from which to restock the natural habitats will allow the two populations to remain isolated whilst co-ordination of the project

remains simple.

This co-operation has succeeded because the managers have seen the advantages that networking can bring. Bureaucracy and meetings have been kept to a minimum, the emphasis being on doing things and getting results. The advantages of networking at all levels of the organisations cannot be over estimated.

Ideas for the future include joint displays on plant collections and conservation, public talks and seminars and even joint projects on a wider range of threatened species.

What are the costs? A little bit of time and commitment and the realisation that looking outwards is essential to grow and develop as institutions.

*Chris Close, Hutt City Council
Mike Oates, Wellington and Otari
Botanic Gardens
Mike Orchard, Grounds Department,
Victoria University*

John Taylor, New Kew Guild President

R.N.Z.I.H. President, John Taylor (past Canterbury Horticultural Society president and Lincoln University lecturer) has been elected president of the Kew Guild.

The guild was founded in 1893 and comprises staff members of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London. John worked at Kew in 1945.

Congratulations, John upon this appointment.

John Gundersen Memorial Bursary

The John Gundersen Memorial Bursary has been established to assist students enrolled in the Diploma in Horticulture (Cut Flowers) to pay course fees.

1. The John Gundersen Memorial Bursary shall have a value up to \$1400 per annum for the specific purpose of payment of course fees and be open to students of Massey University who are, or will be, enrolled full-time for the Diploma of Horticulture (Cut Flowers).

2. The Bursary shall be awarded annually as funds permit by the Council on the recommendation of the Academic Board.

3. The recipient shall be selected on the basis of academic achievement, commitment to the cut flower sector of the horticultural industry, and intention to pursue a career in this sector in New Zealand.

4. Selection of the recipient will be made by the Scholarships Committee, Faculty of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, an academic staff member responsible for lecturing papers in Cut Flower Production, and a representative of New Zealand's flower growing industry.

5. In recommending award of the Bursary the Academic Board shall take account of other scholarships and bursaries held with a view to achieving a reasonable distribution of monies among qualifying candidates.

6. The Bursary shall be paid in March.

7. The Academic Board may withdraw or suspend an award at any time if the recipient withdraws from the course or fails to make satisfactory academic progress.

8. Applications close with the Registrar on **1 February** in the year in which the award is to be made.

9. In addition to the supporting information requested in section 5 of the application form, applicants should also attach a brief statement (up to 500 words) concerning their commitment to the cut flower sector of the horticultural industry, and future career aspirations.

Queries and requests for application forms may be referred to:

Keith A. Funnell, Department of Plant Science, Massey University, Private Bag, Palmerston North.

The Department of Conservation - A Future Role in Plant Conservation?

Some members may have noticed the adverts in the paper a couple of months ago advertising the leasing out of DoC's Taupo Nursery. Behind this advert, and with no publicity is a move by DoC to close its nursery facilities, dispose of the land, or lease out the facilities. Whilst this may not on the surface seem significant, it is part of a disturbing trend that has seen resources reduced in an area with few to start with: threatened plant conservation.

DoC's nurseries were established to provide plant material for the DoC estate, for research purposes and as repositories of plant genetic resources. During the 1980s the era of user pays meant that commercial objectives became more important at the expense of other objectives. Never-the-less the nurseries served a useful function by providing eco-sourced material for public and private buyers. It was seen by the commercial nursery sector as unfair competition, however, and pressure mounted for the nurseries to become fully commercial or close down.

What has happened, however, is the classic case of throwing the baby out with the bath water. Some important questions should have been asked.

1. Can DoC adequately supply its plant requirements for revegetation, research and species recovery programmes without its own facilities?

There is certainly a case for DoC to retain a limited nursery facility to carry out research work, and work on threatened species. Many commercial nurseries are already supplying good quality eco-sourced material for large projects. It is debatable, however, whether a large land owner like DoC couldn't produce large numbers of plants as cheaply as private sector nurseries for its own use.

2. Is an adequate system in place to ensure the required quantity and type of eco-sourced seed from the DoC estate will still be available to the private nursery industry?

There is a continuing problem of adequate provision for commercial nurseries to collect seed from the wild. A DoC discussion paper on the awarding of blanket permits has disappeared into the too hard basket. These moves will accentuate the problem. Where will the commercial nurseries get the increased seed needed to produce eco-sourced plants? Probably the same way some researchers, collectors and nurseries do now; without a permit.

3. Should DoC have an on-going role in the management of ex-situ plant genetic resources?

Word has it that no thought had been given to the important collections held by the nurseries. Taupo has an important threatened plant collection, Motukarara a Chatham Island Collection.

The developments outlined here have hardly created a stir. Just imagine what could happen if DoC suddenly closed down Mt. Bruce Wildlife Centre? Yes, it would be a national scandal.

The Institute has written to the Minister of Conservation seeking urgent answers to the above questions. "The Minister's reply stressed DoC's commitment to threatened plant conservation and confirmed that where plant collections were seen to have important conservation values they would be retained. Let us hope that sense prevails and that the only DoC collection left isn't at the entrance to its Head Office in Wellington. It's somehow fitting that in this collection is one plant of *Tecomanthe speciosa*; the future of this species is assured because of the propagation and distribution of the plant by the nurseries that are currently being destroyed.

Mike Oates, Chairman of National Executive

Plants from Here and There'

The 1993 A.G.M. and Conference

by Rodger McCarthy

The venue for the 70th R.N.Z.I.H. Annual General Meeting and Conference was Larnach Castle, Otago Peninsula, the theme - 'Plants from Here and There'. The background event was Dunedin Rhododendron Week and the experience was an enjoyable and educating one for all those who attended.

opening of the Conference by the Mayor of Dunedin.

The weather was not kind on Friday morning, with a hint of snow, but a comprehensive programme of seminars saw a good turn-out in Larnach's ballroom, with the gas blower/heater quickly installed for those from warmer climes, providing a good test for the speakers to overcome. The day's programme was enjoyed by all and culminated in an excellent Banks Memorial Lecture by the visiting Rhododendron expert Mr. Britt Smith. Mr. Smith from the U.S.A. is a world authority on Rhododendrons and during the day was interviewed by TVNZ's Wild South unit and the considerable number of people who gathered for the Banks Lecture were treated, in addition to the Banks Memorial Lecture, to a preview of the Unit's proposed programme on Rhododendrons due to be screened in N.Z. next year.

An early start on Saturday saw the A.G.M. underway at 9.00 am preceded by the N.Z.A.A. Executive's breakfast meeting at 7.00 am. Seminars continued throughout the day with an alternative being a very enjoyable Historic Tree Tour to the

ballroom and the presentation of a wide array of honours and awards culminating in the three Associate of Honour Awards to Mr. Ken Kiddle, Dr. David Given and Mr. Alan Jellyman (received on his behalf by Alan Jolliffe). The official opening of Rhododendron Week at the Dunedin Botanic Gardens attracted a large crowd on a clear Sunday morning, with a climbing jamboree for the arboriculturists or a guided walk through the Botanic Gardens.

The highly successful conference staged by an energetic Otago Branch team, headed by Mr. Frank Buddingh' with some voluntary assistance from Ms. Irene Lovell-Smith was well appreciated and enjoyed by those who attended and the Castle with its own young Rhododendron garden and other features proving to be an unusual Conference venue, especially for those who had not previously been there.

The success of this conference demonstrated the merit of a more flexible timing of conference and a change to the Constitution made during 1993, which will enable future conferences to be associated with a specific event at any stage of the year. So think ahead to 1994, - tentative dates - 8-14 August. Most likely venue - Rotorua, to coincide with Forest and Trees Week.

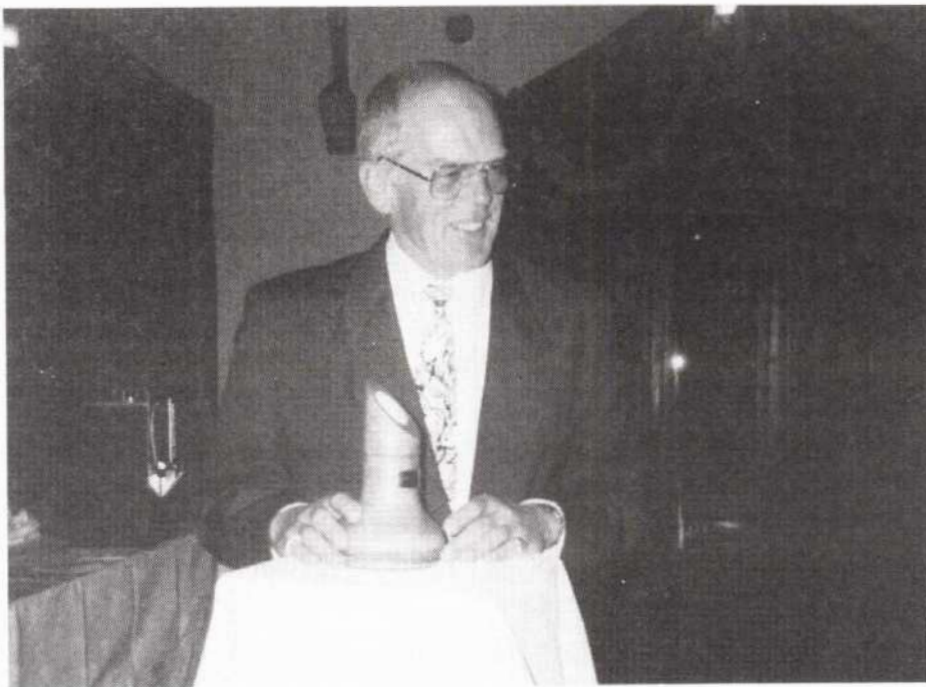
Awards and Honours

At the 70th R.N.Z.I.H. AGM and Conference, held recently at Larnach's Castle in Dunedin, three new Associates and four Fellowships were awarded, as follows :

Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture

The Associate of Honour is the highest award given by the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture. It is bestowed upon persons who have rendered distinguished service to horticulture and the number of Associates of Honour may not exceed sixty at any one time.

Dr. David R. Given - Christchurch
Mr. Alan Dean Jellyman - New Plymouth
Mr. Kenneth Walter Kiddle - Havelock North



Mr. Ron Flook receives N.Z.A.A. Award at Conference Dinner

On Thursday it was down to business for National Executive, focussing on future initiatives for R.N.Z.I.H. with the cessation of examinations after 1994.

Thursday evening saw a large group gathered at Dunedin Art Gallery for an art exhibition and the official

Taieri Plains for the 300th Notable Trees registration (over 2,000 trees in total). A very pleasant pre-dinner drinks and nibbles event on the lawns in front of the castle in superb sunshine, and little wind was well appreciated by all present.

Then it was to dinner in Larnach's

Full details of these new Associates of Honour will appear in the next R.N.Z.I.H. Journal.

Fellow of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture

Fellowships are awarded to "members who have made significant contribution to horticulture by their activities or interest in or service to Horticulture". This brief sentence in the Institute's Constitution indicates that Fellows should have made **significant** contributions and there is no doubt that the four Fellows elected at this year's Annual General Meeting have all, in their individual ways, contributed most significantly to horticulture in New Zealand. They can be proud of a remarkable record of service to the Institute and to the community.

Mr. Frank Buddingh' lives in Dunedin. He is currently a member of the National Executive of the Institute, President of the New Zealand Arboricultural Association and since 1986 has been a Tree Registration Officer for the RNZIH Notable Trees Scheme. If this were not enough, he was also Chairman of the Organising Committee for the most successful Annual Conference of the Institute and the Arboricultural Association held this year in Dunedin.

From 1979, in New Zealand, Mr. Buddingh' has been involved in tree care management and consultancies for Government and Local Bodies, The University of Otago, Historic Places Trust, Architects and previously, gained a wide experience in tree care and management in The Netherlands. He has held the position of Registered Tree Valuer and Tree Agent by appointment of the District Court, Amsterdam. His contribution to the development of professional arboricultural standards in New Zealand has been great and he has a continuing interest in training and education.

Dr. Karen Cooper comes from Hastings where she is a member of the staff of HortResearch. She is a senior horticultural research scientist who has made important contributions to our understanding of mycorrhizas and the cropping

behaviour of kiwifruit. She has made a special effort to ensure that her scientific results are made available to growers. She has also been very active in horticultural societies, being the immediate Past-President of the New Zealand Society for Horticultural Science, and she has done much to raise the standing of horticultural science and scientists in the country. In addition, she has been a hardworking member of many Hawkes Bay committees. She was recently awarded the Suffrage Year Medal.

Mr. Assid Corban, OBE, comes from

New Zealand at her home "Ayrlires" at Whitford near Auckland. This is a very large garden of about 4ha, intensively planted with another 12ha landscaped with lakes and plantings of trees. Its importance, however, is not its size but the quality of the plantings and the design concepts used. In 1991, she was co-organiser of the Trinity Garden Festival which encouraged almost 20,000 visitors to the 70 gardens opened, probably the most important single horticultural event ever organised in Auckland, and notable for introducing so many people to the enjoyment of gardens



Dr. Karen Cooper and Mr. K. Kiddle

Henderson Auckland. His main horticultural interest is orchids and he has contributed greatly to the New Zealand Orchid Society and to the encouragement of orchid growing in this country. He and his wife have exhibited widely and he has also been active in orchid breeding. Mr. Corban has given a lifetime of service to civic organisations, particularly as Mayor of Henderson and Waitakere City, as a member of the Auckland Regional Authority and as an executive member of the QEII National Trust. He has also served on the Executive of the N.Z. Orchid Society, being President for almost eight years., and is a Life Member and Life Judge of that Society. He is currently Chairman of the Auckland Horticultural Council.

Mrs. Bev McConnell has developed one of the great modern gardens of

and plants. This Festival raised more than \$250,000 towards the new Anglican Cathedral in Auckland. A second Trinity Garden Festival has just been held.

Smugglers Beware

MAF now have a National Flora and Fauna Investigation Unit, whose job it is to investigate the organised illegal importation of animals, plants and their products into New Zealand. Any reports of suspected organised, illegal importations should be sent to:

National Flora & Fauna Investigation Unit,
Ministry of Agriculture,
P.O. Box 90-575 Auckland.

From NZAA Newsletter Sept. 1993



R.N.Z.I.H. Branch News



Bay of Plenty

Programme January - April 1994

Saturday 1 January - Come and start the New Year with a picnic tea at our chairperson's home, 12 Tilby Drive. 5.30pm onwards.

Tuesday 25 January - Meet 5.30 pm, Brenda & Bruce Kitchingman, 22 Warner Road, just off Oropt Rd. A cottage garden full of interest. A nice spot for your picnic tea.

Saturday 19 February - Meet at Ann & Ted Elphick's, 260 Oropt Road for picnic/BBQ lunch at noon onwards. We will then visit Omahanui Native Plant Nursery, Mark and Esme Dean, and Milhenge Ferns, Debbie & Lee Miller. We expect our Whakatane and Rotorua members and friends to be there.

Saturday 19 March - Meet 1.00 pm at "Woolshed", Kaimai to see craft, etc. Leave 1.30pm to go over Kaimai to Dave McNeil at Hamilton/Matamata junction at foot of Kaimai Hill.

Saturday 16 April McLaren Falls Park, Lunch if you like. Annual General Meeting, 1.30 pm at "Visitor Centre" followed by walk around and inspection of plantings.

Other Events

Daffodils 4 September, Auckland Show - 15, 16, 17 September National Show, Nelson

Orchid show 17, 18, 19 September, Greerton Hall

Rose Show 30, 31 Oct, Baycourt
Taranaki Rhododendron Festival 29 October to 1 November (Bayline Coaches Tour)

Chairperson Joan Swinbourne 12 Tilby Drive Tauranga (07)576 4091
Sec/Treasurer Graeme Mander, 190 Moffat Road, Tauranga (07)576 6829

Rotorua Vicki Hodder (07)357 2950
Whakatane area Greta Steens (07)322 2265

Waikato

The Waikato Branch of RNZIH held its Annual Meeting on 25 November.

President Annie Fullerton
07 8236 796
Secretary Agnes Betschart
07 854 8901
Treasurer Peta Pepperell
07 855 8956

Meetings are held in the Chartwell Square Room, Hamilton Gardens Complex, Cobham Drive at 7.30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month, February to November inclusive.

February 24 1994 - Peter Cave
"Deciduous Shrubs and Small Trees"

March 24 1994 - Jack Hobbs
April 28 1994 - Beverley McConnell

Auckland

This year we have held a number of evening or afternoon meetings, some arranged by the Institute and some in conjunction with other societies. We have also been invited to several functions organised by the Auckland Garden History Society.

We would like to thank all our speakers and those Societies who have invited us to join them on occasions. This co-operation is important as it allows us to meet other people interested in plants, and also provides worthwhile audiences for our excellent speakers. We are particularly keen to organise at least one meeting each year that is of particular interest to arborists. We would also like to organise a meeting to hear more of the work of Auckland students.

We have had two very successful bus trips, one organised by Ron Davison and the other by Ross Ferguson.

We record with regret the death of Dr. Ted Chamberlain, a former director of Plant Diseases Division, DSIR, who was an Associate of Honour of the Institute, and a former Chairman of the Auckland Branch.

Auckland students have been doing particularly well in the Institute's examinations.

The committee this year were J. Adam, C. Bradshaw, B. Rowse, T. Davies, R. Davison S. Davison, R. Ferguson and R. Price (Secretary).

We would like to thank the Superintendent, Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens for allowing us to hold some of our meetings at the Gardens. As a gesture of appreciation, the Institute made a donation towards the cost of a print from the Banks Florilegium.

Taken from Annual Report 1992-93

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir/Madam,

Through this Newsletter I hope to get in contact with my future employer. I am searching for a position in Horticultural Research in New Zealand either for a Post-doc or Sabbatical Stay or a temporary job (1 or 2 years) or even a permanent position.

A brief introduction: born in 1956 in The Netherlands, graduated in 1982 in Horticultural Science at the Agricultural University in Wageningen (Holland). Employed since then by the Glasshouse Crops Research Station in Naaldwijk (Holland) as scientific researcher. In March 1994 my Ph.D. thesis will be finished, dealing with some particular effects of carbon dioxide on greenhouse vegetable crops. On my name are about 10 scientific publications, 10 publications in proceedings and about 100 articles in Dutch horticultural trade magazines. I have some experience in teaching and consultancy, and some working experience abroad (Israel, Caribbean). I have attended several international conferences. My fields of interest include cultivation techniques, plant physiology, energy aspects, engineering, computer simulation and I am prepared to enhance my knowledge on other fields.

I am female, married since 1981, and we have three young children. My husband, born in 1955 and graduated in Wageningen in Agricultural Engineering and Computer Science, is searching for a job as free-lance FAX-computer specialist. We are applying for residence in New Zealand and we hope to be admitted in about September 1994. The place in New Zealand where we will settle depends on where I will succeed in finding a position. I prefer to work on a part-time basis. Last year I worked 28 hours per week and I can assure you that this can be very productive

I will be most grateful for a reply and I will send you upon request, my curriculum vitae, list of publications and any further information.

Mrs. sincerely,
Elisabeth (Elly) Nederhoff
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2676 BJ Maasdijk
The Netherlands
phone (31) 1745-18130,
fax (31) 1745-18207

Possum Control at Otari Native Botanic Garden

Wellington City council is to undertake a possum control programme to protect important plants in the Otari Native Botanic Garden in Wilton. The programme will be targeted so members of the public are not endangered.

Otari comprises 80 hectares of original native forest and collections of over 1000 species of native plants. "Protecting these species from possums is of national importance" says Mike Oates, Curator of Otari.

"The decision to carry out the control programme was prompted by a recent report from Landcare Research in Christchurch which quantified the amount of damage that was occurring to this forest with permanently marked plots measuring tree canopy condition" Mike Oates said.

"The report clearly indicted that the vegetation was being seriously damaged by possums and immediate control was required".

The Wellington Regional Council Pest Management Section, which has a regional responsibility for the control of agricultural vertebrate pests such as possums have agreed to assist with a possum control programme.

Ken Wright, Pest Management Officer said that "although we are unable to treat all bush reserves in the region, in this case there is a clear need to control the possums and the damage they are doing to the valuable plants."

The control method used will be a combination of laid cyanide paste and anticoagulant from bait stations. Wellington City Council will close the part of the reserve to the north west of Kaiwharawhara Stream and cyanide baits will be laid well clear of tracks. The area to be southeast of the stream closest to residential areas and high public usage will be treated with anticoagulant pellets dispensed from bait stations high in the trees.

Local schools and residents will be

informed of the operation and there will be clear signs at all entrances to the reserve.

The operation is planned to take the one month but if good weather persists the work will be completed in a fortnight.

The possum population is currently being assessed and will be compared after the operation to measure its success. Further control operations will be needed to maintain low possum numbers.

For further information contact : Mike Oates, Curator: Wellington and Otari Botanic Gardens, Phone: 801-3072

Ken Wright, Pest Management Officer, Wellington Regional Council. Phone: 025 436-741

Progress with the Nursery Catalogue Collection Mt. Albert Research Centre Library

Marleene Boyd
Librarian Information and Serials
The Horticulture and Food Research
Institute of New Zealand Ltd.,
Auckland

The Crown Research Institute (CRI) Library at the Mt. Albert Research Centre, Auckland (formerly part of DSIR) has one of the most comprehensive nursery catalogue collections in the country, with more than 3,000 separate catalogues. The collection was described in *Horticulture in New Zealand* Volume 3, (1): 12-14, 1992. We have now made the collection much more accessible and hence much more useful.

Funds for inputting the Nursery Catalogue Collection onto computer became available at the beginning

of July 1993. The Library is employing Robyn Wilson to input the records onto the Crown Research Institute (CRI) Library Network Database.

Existing records have been computerised and work is progressing on the backlog of gifted material.

Computerised Information

The collection has been indexed under the nursery owners (where known), date of publication and descriptors (subject headings) detailing the major plant families or sections in each catalogue. Descriptors are based on the thesaurus used to compile the index of scientific papers for the New Zealand Science Database (SIRIS/STIX). The collection also contains several items listing horticultural machinery, gardening equipment and floral show items.

Access to the information is through any CRI Library, who have access to the CRI Library Network (AgResearch Libraries at present do not have access).

Access

The collection is a "For Reference Only" collection but photocopies of catalogue sections can be made on request. Charges will be notified to users on application.

The collection is available for visitors to use at the Mt. Albert Research Centre Library during the hours of 8.00 am - 4.30 pm Monday to Friday. The Library is located at 120 Mt. Albert Road, Mt. Albert, Auckland. Please ring in advance : Phone (09) 815-4211, or FAX (09) 815-4201.

You can write for further information to the Librarian, Mt. Albert Research Centre, Private Bag 92 169, Auckland.



Horticultural Exports Fall 6%

Figures listed are for N.Z. horticultural exports for the last three years ending each June

From Horticulture News, October, 1993

Exports	1991	1992	1993	% change 1992-1993		1991	1992	1993	% change
	\$NZ f.o.b.	\$NZ f.o.b.	\$NZ f.o.b.			\$NZ f.o.b.	\$NZ f.o.b.	\$NZ f.o.b.	
STONEFRUIT									
Apricots	2,811,158	4,388,464	3,143,039	-28					
Nectarines	6,065,698	5,124,274	3,914,603	-24					
Peaches	627,302	971,176	673,195	-31					
Plums	91,160	64,580	37,683	-42					
Cherries	2,767,560	4,585,180	3,991,430	-13					
BERRYFRUIT									
Strawberries	5,396,451	7,332,515	7,032,760	-4					
Raspberries	209,244	223,706	152,669	-32					
Blackberries	94,031	234,158	167,479	-28					
Blueberries	2,022,613	3,012,157	2,798,997	-7					
Other berryfruit	25,761	95,319	40,481	-58					
CITRUS FRUIT									
Oranges	82,872	813,670	386,643	-52					
Mandarins	81,643	74,801	138,852	+86					
Lemons	890,708	954,263	453,584	-52					
Grapefruit	3,377	15,479	945	-94					
Other Citrus	243,214	510,976	167,250	-67					
SUBTROPICAL FRUIT									
Avocados	5,154,309	9,643,396	5,378,805	-44					
Tamarillos	610,627	898,030	708,624	-21					
Kiwifruit	519,678,881	492,686,341	370,021,597	-25					
Passionfruit	293,569	329,415	258,137	-22					
Feijoas	195,210	289,922	138,030	-52					
Persimmons	5,105,908	4,082,989	4,881,774	+20					
PIPFruit									
Apples	296,831,334	326,008,645	343,582,017	+5					
Pears	3,409,852	3,931,750	4,470,611	+14					
Nashi	4,513,573	5,355,407	2,740,285	-49					
OTHER FRESH FRUIT									
Grapes	1,018,111	745,439	1,095,806	+47					
Melons	3,577,828	5,010,809	4,205,283	-16					
Other fresh fruit	1,343,826	321,930	121,965	-62					
PROCESSED FRUIT									
Peel etc.	1,150,575	3,786,229	7,012,393	+85					
Jams & jellies	1,736,960	7,167,328	9,511,650	+33					
Fruit & Veg juices	31,774,630	44,558,109	39,633,953	-11					
Table wines	24,185,738	34,349,277	48,052,278	+40					
Fortified wines	687,429	395,331	479,079	+21					
Kiwifruit wines	1,204,031	1,754,690	1,455,032	-17					
Fruit wines	257,334	63,850	27,955	-56					
Raspberries frozen	789,847	1,100,552	694,026	-37					
Strawberries frozen	221,114	144,147	351,227	+144					
Blackcurrants frozen	430,534	342,736	3,604,039	+952					
Boysenberries frozen	3,532,407	3,523,885	3,903,295	+11					
Blueberries frozen	967,164	963,450	1,883,058	+95					
Kiwifruit frozen	1,214,977	1,069,227	1,377,794	+29					
Other fruit frozen	755,099	2,539,100	1,052,584	-59					
Fruit salad, canned	127,846	366,855	504,190	+37					
Apricots canned	171,315	222,556	163,712	-26					
Peaches canned	151,565	1,144,205	658,488	-42					
Pears canned	1,844,094	1,652,939	725,246	-56					
Blackcurrants canned	379,031	1,858,199	27,450	-98					
Boysenberries "	555,623	1,030,694	382,836	-63					
Kiwifruit canned	7,221,784	5,566,170	2,529,955	-55					
Apples canned	1,673,234	5,527,687	7,264,975	+31					
Other fruit canned	1,012,031	1,223,456	1,011,377	-17					
Other fruit processed	72,933	128,677	895,828	+596					
FRESH VEGETABLES									
Potatoes	6,986,996	6,974,420	7,517,758	+8					
Tomatoes	603,659	1,206,215	777,279	-36					
Onions	29,556,952	39,616,767	48,541,353	+23					
Cabbages	212,156	323,598	204,009	-37					
Carrots	451,749	694,679	1,138,037	+64					
Corn	988,044	1,609,687	1,276,022	-21					
Squash	38,276,089	60,544,328	58,945,348	-3					
Garlic	2,441,656	2,525,883	2,754,659	+9					
Mushrooms	1,195,941	1,736,411	2,368,594	+36					
Asparagus	7,941,212	10,406,506	9,617,473	-8					
Other fresh veg	3,989,819	3,417,808	4,206,315	-23					
PROCESSED VEGETABLES									
Dried vegetables	4,818,146	4,894,968	5,043,684	+3					
Vegetables in vinegar	234,758	114,747	178,538	+56					
Peas, frozen	21,276,099	36,986,252	25,261,052	-32					
Beans frozen	5,563,549	9,550,384	4,419,827	-53					
Corn frozen	19,338,264	16,842,697	18,300,367	+9					
Carrots frozen	344,349	535,661	463,892	-13					
Broad beans frozen	126,805	128,804	204,620	+59					
Asparagus frozen	4,280,089	3,689,942	4,935,491	+34					
Mixed Veg frozen	12,397,078	16,286,470	16,671,870	+2					
Potatoes frozen	948,178	2,043,257	2,874,930	+41					
Other Veg frozen	1,978,779	1,272,288	1,234,850	-3					
Peas canned	90,071	205,729	275,015	-34					
Beans canned	1,253,612	3,691,928	6,394,736	+73					
Beetroot canned	2,612,353	1,533,184	934,466	-39					
Corn canned	1,901,664	3,350,451	4,668,738	+39					
Potatoes canned	24,569	4,275	10,342	+142					
Asparagus canned	13,076,619	12,291,290	14,659,179	+19					
Tomato paste, pulp, puree & juice	11,563,358	11,768,879	7,545,302	-36					
Other Veg canned	549,856	413,900	131,677	-68					
Other processed veg	1,030,815	2,653,891	1,421,315	-46					
FLOWERS & FOLIAGE									
Chrysanthemums	128,743	107,719	43,039	-60					
Orchids	11,750,840	13,209,900	16,783,094	+27					
Carnations	579,690	734,956	641,267	-13					
Roses	1,443,314	1,553,984	1,428,006	-8					
Proteaceae	978,577	909,849	1,329,238	+46					
Alstroemeria	568,020	352,203	211,684	-40					
Gypsophila	331,658	268,508	280,971	+5					
Spring bulbs	97,304	55,518	1,238	-100					
Zantedeschia	3,177,987	3,539,017	4,036,504	+14					
Sandersonia			1,453,325	-					
Gentiana			47,304	-					
Nerines			33,551	-					
Lilium			420,708	-					
Other cut flowers	5,635,212	7,081,101	8,644,527	+22					
Other foliage	442,985	491,817	640,516	+30					
SEED AND PLANTS									
Flower & Tree Seeds	1,233,911	1,627,506	1,594,263	-2					
Vegetable seeds	4,303,217	4,589,567	4,102,514	-11					
Bulbs, tubers, corms	3,299,318	4,954,616	5,732,514	+16					
Indigenous trees, plants	551,236	570,229	684,605	+20					
Kiwifruit stock	39,593	37,437	54,271	+45					
Other fruit stock	96,463	37,202	36,094	-3					
Other live plants	<u>2,686,774</u>	<u>2,841,185</u>	<u>3,135,092</u>	<u>+10</u>					
TOTAL HORT EXPORTS	1,176,712,262	1,270,061,065	1,198,136,203	-6					



Notable Trees



Since our previous Newsletter Article, Alby Elwood-Smith's applications on behalf of nine Blenheim trees (including two *Juglans regia* two *Quercus robur*, an *Acer pseudoplatanus*, a *Liquidambar styraciflua* and *Tilia x europaea*) have been approved for registration by the Notable Trees Committee.

In Invercargill, a *Juglans regia*, much modified by wind; also a *Eucalyptus gunnii* (cider gum) and a spreading elm, both at Winton, have also been registered for David Baird who has also sought out a southern rata (*Metrodrosos umbellata*) growing in the Forest Hill Scenic Reserve, considered to be one of the most important scenic reserves in Southland. Coincidentally, a northern rata (*M. robusta*) growing in Ngaio has been registered also.

Registration No.298 two very impressive 100-year-old Wellingtonias in Inniscount Street Cromwell was initiated by Mrs. C. Perriam for the Cromwell & Districts Historical Society.

As if to lend credence to the apparent popularity in Otago of the Wellingtonia, our 300th Notable Tree registration (of over 1940 trees) was celebrated at the 1993 Dunedin Conference of the R.N.Z.I.H. and the N.Z. Arboricultural Association by the ceremonial placing of a plaque on a 120-year-old *Sequoiadendron giganteum* growing at 505 Great King Street. Frank Buddingh' was the Tree Registration Officer.

Wilf Watson, Tree Registrar.

Notable Trees

Annual Report 1992-1993

The changes which the RNZIH are now undergoing regarding the educational responsibilities being taken over by the NZ Qualifications Authority and subsequent diminished funding, are of concern to the Notable Trees Committee. The rise of the NZAA and its increasing membership strength are reassuring. However, the NZAA development needs membership attention and the registering of trees has to remain a lower priority.

District Branches are dwindling - they have never been very active in tree registrations or the listing of local trees on District plans in spite of repeated requests. It is therefore

timely that our Chairman, Mr. Mike Oates, has called for a move to amalgamate all the different interest groups involved with trees by planning a joint conference in Forests Week next year. The point of this is to share interests and develop co-operation nationally in the tree movement. Notable Trees will consider supporting such a programme when it develops.

Meanwhile a steady trickle of trees continue to be registered on the National Register. The 300th Registration was reserved for the Dunedin Conference this year. The whole register has been computerised. Each registration, often for blocks or large groups of trees, now amounts to 521 pages of text. The register is in number order. New software allows speedy retrieval of trees by any heading e.g. Botanical/Common name/height/spread/girth/age/region/location. The proposal is to present the handbook region by region with maps, photos and information text. Also included will be a section for the largest trees in NZ, age, species groups in descending size orders, native and exotic listings and a scientific section for rarity or interest. These sections will appeal to our regional or international visitors. The fifth draft is now circulating within Committee for editing. Once Committee consensus is reached the manuscript will be touted for sponsorships. The task is daunting and slow but progress is being made by the willing support of the four members of the Notable Trees Committee. Some funding has already been received from the Elizabeth Baigent Trust as an appreciation for work done in the Nelson Region. An updated computer resulted and has developed the manuscript range capabilities enormously. Elizabeth Baigent will be acknowledged in the handbook.

The Notable Trees Committee expresses its thanks to Chairman Mike Oates for his constant support, Rodger McCarthy and staff for all the administrative work and the RNZIH Executive for their ready interest in the Notable Trees Register and financial support vote annually. We are also grateful to Frank Buddingh' and NZAA members for their encouragement.

Ron Flook, National Convenor

Chelsea-type Flower Show 1994

The Southern Hemisphere's largest horticultural event, to be held in Auckland 15 to 20 November 1994 is now being planned. The Ellerslie Flower Show, replicating the world-famous Chelsea Flower Show, is being organised by Auckland Rotary Club to raise funds for charity. The site will cover four hectares in the middle of the Ellerslie Race-Course.

Rotary are determined to follow the established traditions of Chelsea and build on the huge wave of gardening popularity sweeping New Zealand. 100,000 visitors have been budgeted for and public promotion will begin in July 1994.

John Anderson, Ellerslie Flower Show chief executive understudied the director of the 1993 Chelsea Flower show earlier this year and was able to see first hand the way Chelsea runs. The Royal Hort. Society will support the Ellerslie event with help and advice.

Companies will be invited to take exhibition space, sponsoring seminars or landscaped gardens and it is estimated that around 400 exhibitors will be involved. All must have proof they are involved in horticulture.

"This is a commercial undertaking of enormous magnitude which will run into many millions of dollars," says board deputy chairman, David Richwhite. "A board of trustees under the chairmanship of Norman Johnson will look after the charitable side of the event.

From Commercial Horticulture
November 1993

N.Z.A.A. News Release

The following two members have been examined for Approved Contractor Membership status of the NZAA :

Claxton Tree Service Ltd.
(examined 24 September)

TreeScape Ltd.
(examined 1 October)

Any objections to the admission of these companies to the register of Approved Contractors should be received before 25 December 1993.

John Wakeling, Chief Examiner,
Wakeling Associates, 75 Brookfield Street, Hamilton

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Potting Mix Clean

The Nursery Industry Association of Australia has reported that a major scientific study has cleared potting mix as the suspected cause of death of two Queensland people who died after contracting legionnaires disease late in 1991.

The Chairman of the NIAA's Potting Mix Working Party, Mr. Rudi Fabian, said the research has found that *Legionella longbeachae* organisms taken from Queensland patients did not match any of those taken from potting mixes.

Mr. Fabian said the results were confirmed by researchers at the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science in Adelaide after collaborative studies with a medical scientist at the Institute of Medical Microbiology in Dresden, Germany.

"We regard this finding as reinforcement of the industry's decision to carry out this exhaustive research project on the relationship between *Legionella longbeachae*, potting mixes and other gardening media."

"Gardening is the main recreation for many millions of Australians and the nursery industry is dedicated to ensuring that gardening can continue to be enjoyed as safely as it always has been."

"However, gardens are living and breathing places and can harbour germs, so it is always very sensible to **wash your hands after gardening.**"

Welcome to New Members

C. Boucher	Auckland
N. Butland	Auckland
P. Cadigan	Christchurch
W.J. Dijk	Tauranga
B.L. Funnell	Auckland
Grand Trading Co.	Hong Kong
J. Irons	England
C.M. Knott	Auckland
P.A. Murphy	Queenstown
J. Pickworth	Auckland
C. Selly	Auckland
R. Wedge	Dunedin

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