

# Newsletter



1994  
No. 3  
October

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

Plans for the introduction of a New Zealand Open Garden Scheme are now well advanced and we are looking at an Opening Date of 1 August 1995. By this date we will have published and distributed our "NZ's Open Garden Scheme Guidebook 1995/96" which is the cornerstone of the Scheme.

Many of you will, no doubt, be saying "Ah! but there are already two books on the market listing open gardens in NZ". That's true but they do not go as far as the official N.Z. Open Garden Scheme will go.

For those of you who are unsure of what exactly an Open Garden Scheme is, I would like to try here to explain it in more detail as it will likely become a very important project in the future public profile of the RNZIH and its activities. As such all members are asked to play their part in ensuring its success.

Our Scheme will be organised along similar lines to that operating in Australia where it has achieved spectacular success. Over 200,000 people passed through their gardens last year and the Scheme is still in its infancy. In the U.K. the National Garden Scheme is the largest single tourist attraction so you can gauge from these facts the potential such a Scheme will have in N.Z.

Already our Branches are busily setting up voluntary committees headed by Regional Co-ordinators to operate the Scheme in their respective areas.

Branches have been requested to ensure that all such committee appointments are in place by 31 October 1994 so if you feel you may wish to play a part in this exciting new venture, then be sure to contact your Branch Secretary as soon as possible to register your interest.

- design strength and quality
- significant plant material
- historical significance
- a reasonable standard of maintenance

Fees paid by visitors will be collected at the gate by the owners and paid to the Regional Co-ordinator. From these receipts 35% is returned to the garden owner for garden maintenance, or paid to their nominated charity. The remaining 65% is applied towards administration costs and the balance is then available for distribution to worthy causes. The

criteria used here is "to support garden projects which are accessible to the public, either regularly or from time to time".

It is important to point out that a garden inspection is not about judging but the originality reflecting the aspirations of the owners.

**This is an exciting new initiative for the RNZIH and one I feel sure all members will want to support. Don't stand back and let others do all the work. Your support, no matter how small, will play a significant part in the successful operation of the Scheme.**

This is your opportunity to be associated with what will, I am sure, become NZ's number one tourist attraction.

Contact your local Branch Secretary now and offer your support.

*Dennis Wall, Development Officer  
Phone (03)325 2811 Ext. 8670*

## New Zealand's Open Garden Scheme

**This Scheme is a charitable, non profit making venture, but with a high public profile, from which the RNZIH will benefit.**

Garden owners are approached to enquire of their participation in the Scheme. They are required only to have their gardens open on one (preferably two) weekends of any year. Upon their agreement to participate, their garden will be inspected by a Regional Garden Selector who will be aware of the criteria of selection.

All gardens inspected will then be discussed by the whole Working Committee and the final selections for inclusion in the Guidebook will be made. These gardens will then be written up and the Guidebook compiled.

Gardens will be chosen using several criteria which will include :

## DIRECTORY

<b>RNZIH National Office</b>	P.O. Box 12, Lincoln University Canterbury. Ph (03) 325-2811 Ext 8670 Fax (03) 325-2942
<b>Patron</b>	The Governor General
<b>Vice Patrons</b>	Ralph Ballinger, 19 Brooklyn Drive, Blenheim
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<b>Advertising</b>	Full page - \$150.00 Half page - \$90.00 Quarter page - \$50.00 6 cm x 2 col - \$30.00 Classified - 40c per word (all rates plus GST)
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<b>Publisher</b>	Lincoln University Printery

## VOLUNTEERS

The operation and administration of N.Z.'s OPEN GARDEN SCHEME relies heavily on the goodwill, expertise and time of a large number of volunteers throughout the country.

Wherever you live in N.Z., either in the city or outback, your assistance is vital to the continuing success of the Scheme.

If you would like to help in any way please ring or write to Dennis Wall, Development Officer, RNZIH, PO Box 12, Lincoln University, Canterbury, Ph (03) 325 2811 Ext. 8670

## Employment Sought in New Zealand

Mark Burleton, age 36, married, 3 children, is seeking to emigrate to New Zealand. He has a Diploma in Horticulture, Edinburgh, the Arboricultural Association Technician's Certificate and Stage 1 of the Master of Horticulture, RHS

For two years he was Lecturer, 1A, in horticulture at the Merrist Wood Agricultural and Horticultural College and this was followed by a two year position as Horticultural Superintendent at Imperial College, Ascot, Berkshire, where he was responsible for 240 acres of grounds with a staff of 9 gardeners.

Presently he is Estate Superintendent at the R.H.S. Gardens, Wisley. After being successful in this position for several years Mark is now seeking new horizons and a change in direction. He would like to return to teaching or find another horticultural position which would be a challenge to him.

Persons who would like further information about Mark may initially contact John Taylor, 9 Karitane Drive, Cashmere, Christchurch 2, or write directly to Mark Burleton, 'Holmlands', Bucks Horn Oak, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4LT, England.



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# R.N.Z.I.H. Garden Holidays

**Plans are now well underway for our exciting programme of Garden Holidays for next year.**

Our programme, although small for its first year, will have an emphasis on quality and with our association with R.H.S. Holidays in the U.K. travellers can be assured of the very best.

Visiting beautiful gardens is always a pleasure and when in the company of other gardening enthusiasts, on a tour arranged and led by experts, that pleasure becomes a sheer delight.

Next year why not let R.N.Z.I.H. Garden Holidays show you some of the world's finest gardens. We have taken great care in our selection of hotels, airlines, coach and touring companies. Considerable attention has been paid to even the smallest detail and we provide an experienced Tour Manager on every holiday, leaving you free to enjoy yourself safe in the knowledge that someone is there to look after you.

Our objective is to bring you top quality Garden Holidays at the lowest possible cost. You can be assured that on all our Holidays you will receive the very best value as our aim is not to make large profits, but to provide our members and their friends/relatives with Garden Holidays of real value at discount prices.

Our 1995 Programme will be offering, amongst others, the following tours.

**1. May 1995 - 3 week  
Gardens of England  
Holiday**

This holiday will include such highlights as **Butchart Gardens, Kew Gardens, Chelsea Flower Show, Museum of Garden History, the Gardens of Wakehurst Place, Sissinghurst, Wisley, Barnsley House Gardens, Hidcote Manor, Bodnant Gardens, and cruise on Lake Windermere, Levens Hall Garden, Wedgewood Potteries.**

**2. July 1995 - 3 week  
Gardens of England  
Holiday.**

**This holiday is basically the same as the above but instead of the Chelsea Flower Show will include the Hampton Court Flower Show (larger than Chelsea)**

**3. October 1995 - 26 day  
Gardens of South Africa  
Holiday**

**Highlights of this holiday include the Witwatersrand NBI Gardens, Brenthurst Private Garden Kruger National Park, Natal NBI**

**Garden in Pietermaritzberg, travel the Garden Route, the Wildflower area, Harold Porter's NBI Gardens, Karoo Desert Garden - a truly magnificent holiday.**

The final itineraries and costs will be available shortly. If you or any friend, relative or neighbour is thinking about travelling next year then register your interest now by completing the coupon below and we will place you on our mailing list.

To RNZIH Garden Holidays  
P.O. Box 12, Lincoln  
University, Lincoln,  
Canterbury.

Please add my name to your mailing list for full details of your 1995 Garden Holiday Programme.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

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# New Book on Bulbs Released

Earlier this year a new book was published: *Bulbs for New Zealand Gardeners and Collectors*. This provides a detailed description of more than 120 genera and 800 species and cultivars of bulbs and is illustrated with some of the best plant photographs ever to be published in New Zealand. The two authors, Jack Hobbs and Terry Hatch, are well known to members of the Institute. Jack is Curator at the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens and also appears often on TV and writes extensively for the *New Zealand Gardener*. Terry is best known for his work with perennials at Joy Plants in Pukekohe East although he too has also made appearances on TV and has written articles. Both Terry and Jack have won the Institute's Plant



Raisers' Award which recognises their many achievements as plantsmen and plant breeders. The Photograph shows them at the launching of the book at the Auckland Botanic Gardens earlier this year, Terry watching as Jack writes.

*Photograph courtesy of the Franklin County News*

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## BEQUESTS

The objectives of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture include the promotion of horticultural education and the fostering and improvement of every branch of horticulture in our country. It actively lists and protects our notable and historic trees. It also encourages and seeks to provide for the protection and preservation of our unique indigenous flora. For those who support and believe in these principles and would like to leave something for future generations, perhaps you might wish to remember the Institute in your Will.

The Institute has benefited from bequests in the past. You may wish to leave something for general use or for a specific purpose and you may wish to have your name associated with your bequest. Anyone considering making a bequest to the Institute is invited to contact our President, Mr. John Taylor, 9 Karitane Drive, Cashmere, Christchurch 2.

**New Member, watercolourist, NANCY TICHBORNE** who featured on **Palmer's Garden Show** and has produced numerous calendars, also has a book on the way - a collection of 60 of her best flower paintings.

# Congratulations

At the 1994 Annual General Meeting, **Dr. Keith Hammett**, plant breeder; **Mr. Sam McGredy**, rose breeder; and **Professor Ken Milne**, Horticulture Department, Massey University; were elected **Associates of Honour** for their distinguished service to horticulture. This award is the highest honour of the Institute.

**The Plant Raisers' Award** for 1994 went to the **Riwaka Research Centre** of HortResearch (formerly part of DSIR) for outstanding work in the development of hop cultivars. **Marion Jones**, formerly of the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens, was awarded the **Sir Victor Davies Award**. **Murray King** won the **Ronald Flook Award** of the NZ Arboricultural Association. Full citations for all these awards will be published in the next issue of our journal, *Horticulture in New Zealand*.

Three new **Fellows of the Institute** were also elected, an award which recognises those who have made a significant contribution to horticulture:

**Marleene Boyd** is an Auckland librarian who has been responsible for building up and promoting the nursery catalogue collection at the Mt. Albert Research Centre Library so that it is now one of the most important in the country. In addition she has, in her own time, prepared a comprehensive bibliography on the conservation and management of New Zealand's indigenous forests. This was published last year.

**Donn Estcourt** of Wellington has had a long involvement in horticultural education, running night classes for adults and special classes for students and the general public as well as being a tutor in horticulture at the Open Polytechnic for the last 10 years. He has also been an examiner for the Institute's Oral and Practical examinations and for the NZQA Trade Certificates. He has been an active member of the Wellington Branch Committee, acting as Minutes Secretary for the last two years and editor of the Branch Newsletter for the last five years.

**Chris Ferkins**, also of Wellington, is a very experienced horticulturist who is currently manager of the Conservation Corps. He has been a member of the Notable Trees Committee since 1987 and is now its Chairman. His deep knowledge of many aspects of Maori culture and his dedication to the Notable Trees Scheme have proved of great value to the Notable Trees Committee in its work.

## Margaret Watling Scholarship 1994

Congratulations to **Tracy Hammond** from Christchurch (currently living and working in Auckland at a garden centre), who has been awarded the Margaret Watling Scholarship, a major scholarship awarded to help students to undertake further study or obtain practical experience in amenity horticulture, ornamental horticulture, nursery management or other closely allied field at an approved overseas teaching or training institution. We look forward to hearing how she uses this award!

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# News from the National Executive

We held our most recent meeting in Rotorua at the time of the Annual conference.

① Mike Oates has accepted nomination as Chairman for another year.

② Alan Jolliffe has resigned from the National Executive after many years service, including a period as Chairman. Alan was thanked for his many contributions to the Institute and he has assured us that he will help wherever possible. This has left the Executive with one vacancy which will not be filled in the meantime. This helps us save money but a new member may be co-opted if we feel that would be helpful.

③ Adoption of the strategic plan has resulted in some reshuffling of portfolio responsibilities:  
Mike Oates is responsible for the National Garden Scheme  
David Shillito is responsible for Travel and Tours  
Annie Fullerton and Frank Buddingh' for a "Speakers Bank"  
Annie Fullerton and Ross Ferguson for Membership Services

The aim here is to promote discussion of some of the new openings for the Institute both in providing services to

members and finding ways to get the income to support our "public good" activities. Annie Fullerton and Ross Ferguson hope to organise a couple of local meetings in the Auckland/Waikato districts fairly soon to discuss with members ways of better meeting their requirements and expectations.

④ We have already noticed the difference in having an Executive Officer who is spending his time on Institute functions rather than mainly on education. Branches will already have evidence of some of the proposals that he is developing. There is a lot of work to be done at the national and the local level but clearly Dennis Wall is able to provide the impetus from our Head Office.

⑤ The Institute is progressively withdrawing from our previous responsibilities in education. For example, we have agreed that we can no longer support the cost of a full representative on the N.Z. Horticultural Industry Training Organisation, but in the meantime will make a contribution towards the costs of the N.Z. Arboricultural Association representative who will also act for the Institute where necessary. The Examining Board of the Institute will be dissolved in March 1995. A member

of the Executive will then be asked to handle any educational matters that arise from time to time. Once the new qualifications framework is up and running we will reconsider the possibility of a Masterate in Horticulture, but in the meantime we feel we must channel our resources into our new initiatives for members. Dr. Ron Close was thanked for all his efforts as Chairman of the Examining Board, particularly for ensuring that students do not suffer in the transition to the new arrangements.

⑥ The future development of the Institute's publications was discussed. We are discussing some possibilities for joint production of a regular publication that will appeal to our members with "a passion for plants". We believe that there is a market for a more serious gardening publication of local interest.

⑦ We were particularly pleased by the publication of the Register of Notable Trees. This is a great achievement summarising work over many years and we congratulated Ron Flook on the final editing and seeing the register through to publication.

⑧ The subscription is to remain unchanged for the next financial year.




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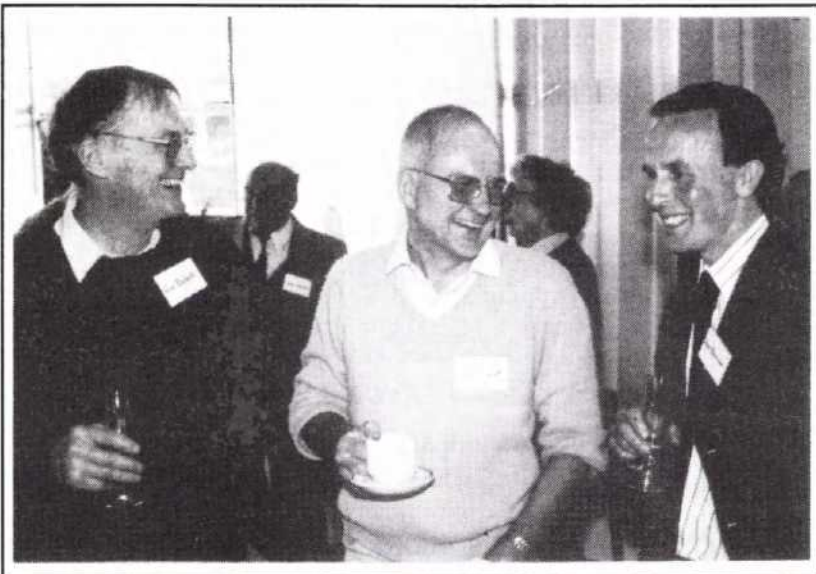


1

The Auckland Branch of the Institute recently hosted an afternoon function to celebrate the awarding of an Honorary Doctorate of Science to Miss Joan Dingley, AHRIH. Nearly seventy attended, a demonstration of the esteem and affection in which Joan is held.



3



2

The success of the afternoon was guaranteed by Joan's generous gift of four cases of the best Marlborough sparkling wine! Pictured by Jack Hobbs at the party are :

1. (from left, late in the afternoon) Brian Buchanan, Joan, Roger Price.

2. (from left) Joy Amos, AHRIH, Elsie Moyle, Jean Veal, AHRIH and Ron Veal, behind, Sue Davison and Joan.

3. (from left) Rod Bieleski, Keith Hammett, AHRIH and Steve Benham.

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# Reading in Garden History and Nostalgia

by Ross Ferguson

1. Baubion-Mackler, J 1992. *French royal gardens: the designs of André'Le Notrê*. Text by V Scully. Rizzoli International Publications, Inc, New York. ISBN O 8478 1602 8.

This has magnificent black and white photographs which emphasise the design qualities of these gardens far more than could colour photographs.

2. *Country Life* often has very good if rather short articles on many aspects of horticulture or gardening history. A good example is :

Rice, G 1993. Spoilt for choice. *Country Life* 187 (45) (11 November, 1993): 36-39. An account of British seed catalogues of about a century ago with splendid illustrations. Many of the plants described may seem incredibly vulgar (any takers for striped Canterbury bells or a purple-flowered nasturtium with yellow leaves?) but at least they are a change from the current surfeit of pastels.

Christopher Lloyd has a regular column in *Country Life*, airing his usual prejudices in a most readable manner, and many of his columns have recently been collected together in a book (*In my garden* by Christopher Lloyd, 1993, Bloomsbury Press) which is now available in New Zealand. It should be well worth reading. The review in *The Garden* says "it is a rich fruit cake, all raisins, cherries, angelica and nuts - and therefore not to be read at a sitting but to take to bed with you for a nightcap. You will go to sleep in a good humour and wake up a better gardener."

3. Kew is sponsoring a new series, *The Great Plant Hunters*. The first to be published is Briggs, R W 'Chinese' Wilson. *An account of the life of Ernest H Wilson, 1876 - 1930*. London, HMSO, 1993. ISBN 011 250017 X. Roy Briggs is Wilson's great nephew. Perhaps nothing new horticulturally but good on Wilson's family life (with previously unpublished letters being used) and some excellent photographs, many by Wilson himself.

4. Not strictly garden history but possibly more fun because of that is Celia Fisher's "Brother Cadfael's plants" in *Hortus* 29 (1994): 92-99. Brother Cadfael is known by all those who enjoy whodunits - he is the Benedictine hero of Ellis Peter's novels set in the Middle Ages. This account summarises some of the uses made of herbs, either for good such as relieving rheumatism, or for evil as in disposing of guests, and the ways in which plant clues often indicate who did the foul deed. *Hortus* regularly has accounts of gardens famous in fiction.

5. *The Victorian garden album* compiled by Elizabeth Drury and Philippa Lewis, Collins & Brown, London, 1993. ISBN 1 85585 187 3. This is a beautiful, nostalgic portrait of English gardens as illustrated in all types of horticultural ephemera - catalogues, seed packets, picture postcards, advertisements. Ephemera are defined in the book as "minor transient documents of everyday life", the sorts of things that many throw out but librarians are learning to treasure for what they can reveal about social history. I was surprised to find that there are now Ephemera Societies in the UK, USA, Australia and Canada and even a Centre for Ephemera Studies at Reading University. This book can therefore be read at two levels - simply for enjoyment or as a serious work of scholarship.

6. *Fragile beauty. The Victorian art of pressed flowers*. Sandy Puckett, Warner Books, Time Warner, New York, 1992. ISBN O 446 51673 2. This is another nostalgic book but delightful, showing what can be done with such fragile beauties as pressed flowers. The prose is definitely deep purple but the illustrations can be enjoyed for themselves.

## Jenny Bishop & Bob Wickhams Gardens

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## NOTABLE TREES

# Taking a Second Look at Southern Rata

by Mark A Clark

*Metrosideros umbellata* is quite commonly planted by local gardeners, however, it barely qualifies as a native tree of Otago, and it has probably not grown in the area around Dunedin itself for thousands of years, if at all.

Given plenty of moisture throughout the year, southern rata thrives. It has the greatest natural range of any *Metrosideros* species, growing from Whangarei in the north to the subantarctic Auckland Islands in the south. Apart from the *Nothofagus* forest of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, these latter forests mark the southernmost occurrence of what most of us would call 'trees'. (The *Dracophyllum* thickets of Campbell Island are tall and woody but are not 'tree forests' in the conventional sense.)

Southern rata is plentiful throughout the Catlins area of south-east Otago, though it tapers out just south of Taieri Mouth. (Does anyone know where the northernmost naturally-occurring example grows in this locality?) You have to go the Moutapu (formerly Crescent Island) in Lake Wanaka and the north-eastern fringes of Lake Wakatipu to find it in the wild again, and it seems to be barely hanging on in those places. I'm not aware of any other sites in Otago where it grows naturally.

One of my favourite specimens stands beside the lookout overlooking Lake Wilkie in the Catlins. While it may not reach the 20 metre maximum height given in "Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand" (Poole and Adams), it has a substantial solid trunk and it shows

how massive southern rata can become in favourable locations. As we know, local garden examples tend to grow bushy from just above ground level, producing attractive billowing dark green canopies for many years. I sometimes eat my lunch under the southern ratas by the Early Settlers Museum (when the 'Harbour Barber' north-easterly isn't too chilly) and I usually wish that the plane trees could be removed so that the ratas could develop fully-rounded canopies.

The most famous southern rata in Otago must be the tree in the grounds of Knox Church, which rates a mention in the "Great Trees of New Zealand" by Burstall and Sale (page 271, in the 'Notable Trees' section). I suppose it is over 100 years old,\* but it still flowers well and sports healthy clumps of foliage. This specimen offers proof of southern rata's ability to age gracefully, unlike a lot of other native trees.

The most notorious patch of southern rata forest in New Zealand would have to be in the Auckland Islands. At the outbreak of World War Two, the German steamship "Erlangen" hurriedly left New Zealand waters after stocking up with southern rata logs from some coastal forest near the south of the main Auckland Island. The crew apparently found it tough going to cut what they needed - a reminder that 'Metrosideros' means 'ironwood'. This must be the only time that a native New Zealand tree has helped a wartime enemy to escape! (As it turned out, the ship just made it to South America but it was accosted by the Allies in the Atlantic, so it never reached Germany.)

While the southern ratas produce the

brightest red flowers of the rata-pohutukawa clan, for some reason they don't flower as reliably as northern ratas or pohutukawas in the same location. However, in my view, they parallel the traditional northern hemisphere Christmas colours of dark holly green and bright berry red better than their relatives. Perhaps southern rata should be called the New Zealand Christmas Tree, rather than pohutukawa.

from Otago Tree Society Newsletter  
February 1993.

\* planted c.1880

## Registrations

Registration 325A and B of two English oaks and an Atlantic cedar in Blenheim (T.R.O. Alby Elwood-Smith) were approved at the August meeting of the Notable Tree Committee.

To mark New Zealand's first Tree Symposium at Rotorua, two outstanding registrations were effected: One, (Reg. 323) was the Matai mentioned by Burstall and Sale as No. 44 of the "Great Trees of New Zealand", the long-recognised landmark on Hongi's Track. The other, (Reg. 324) consisted of two hundred and three *Sequoia sempervirens*, Redwood, a Historic Planting in 1901. T.R.O. Bob Cowan provided the data for these registrations.

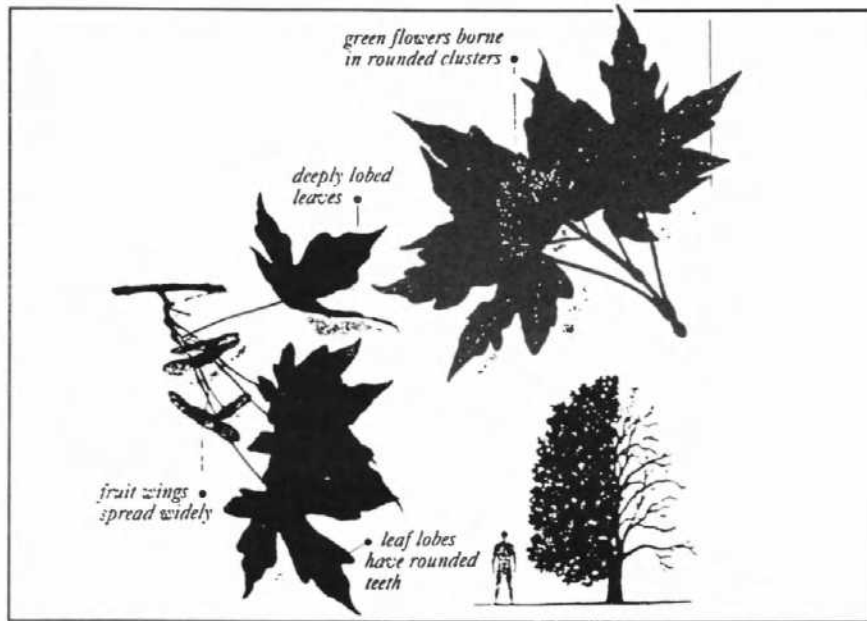
This will probably be the last of my notes on registrations. When 1995 arrives I will have served my fifteen year stint as Tree Registrar with the RNZIH Notable Tree Committee.

Wilf Watson



# Plant Profiles

Data source, Massey University, Tree database, Department of Plant Science



## *Acer miyabei*

*Acer miyabei* Max. is an interesting maple from Japan which is rare in New Zealand. It is found in four plant collections as is not available in the trade. In Japan *Acer miyabei* is a rare tree. Similarly it is not often found in cultivation in other countries.

This species is found in both Hokkaido and Honshu in Japan and is part of the northern forests and meadowlands. It is typically found on river banks that run through bogs in northeast Honshu. The rivers are bounded by low banks which have different vegetation from the surrounding bog. The banks have well drained mineral soils. *Acer miyabei* grows on these banks with species such as *Acer mono*, *Betula ermanii*, *Aesculus turbinata*, and *Pterocarya rhoifolia*.

*Acer miyabei* forms a broad canopy. The leaves are 8-15cm across and are five lobed. Young leaves are slightly hairy on both sides, mature leaves are of heavy texture. The autumn colour is butter yellow. One tree I have observed is growing next to a seasonal water course and seeds very freely.

When it is cultivated *A. miyabei* will do best in moist places. Literature sources suggest that *A. miyabei* will grow to about 15m tall. Two of the

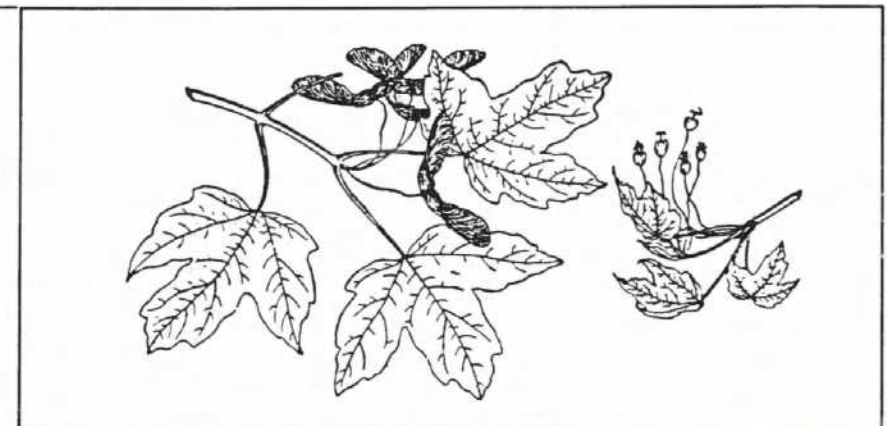
known specimens in New Zealand have been measured. One is 7.4m at 16 years old, the other is 16.0m at 45 years. Both trees are in good condition, suggesting that the species is capable of reaching its potential in N.Z.

*Illustration source*  
Coombes, A.J. 1992. *World trees. Collins eyewitness handbooks.*  
Krussman, G. 1985. *Manual of cultivated broad-leaved trees and shrubs. 2nd edition. Timber Press.*

## *Acer leucoderme*

*Acer leucoderme* Small. is an American species which occurs naturally in Carolina, Florida, Texas and Oklahoma. It is the rarest and smallest of the maples native to eastern north America. It is found in scattered locations throughout its range. The common name 'chalk maple' refers to the smooth bark. It is closely related to *A. saccharum* and is also known as *A. saccharum* ssp. *leucoderme*.

In its natural habitat it is usually found in moist soils of streams and rocky riverbanks, or in moist woodlands or



ravines. No data has been found on the preferred garden conditions for this species, however one could assume that a moist situation would be suitable.

*Acer leucoderme* is a deciduous tree. The autumn colour is a vibrant orange. It is expected to grow 8-12m tall. To date this species has only been recorded

in one plant collection in New Zealand. At only 13 years old it has already reached expected height and is in excellent condition.

*Illustration source*  
Sargent, C.S. 1961. *Manual of the trees of north America. Vols 1-2. Dover publications, New York.*

# Weather and Your Garden



From NZ Meteorological Service Publication No. 168 by R.W. Heine

With the weather becoming so unpredictable that even the forecasters seem to be out-manoeuvred at times by it, this may be an opportune time to see what effect the weather does have on your garden.

**AIR TEMPERATURE** on plants controls the speed of the chemical reactions taking place. Not only do these regulate growth rates, but also the hormonal mechanisms responsible for flowering and fruiting.

An example of this is seen in growing lettuces. If the temperature is too high (above about 21°C), instead of heads forming the plant bolts, i.e., forms a flower stock. Another example concerns tomatoes: optimum night-time temperatures for fruit set are between 15 and 20°C, and above 22°C blossom begins to fall off.

No plants show much growth below 10°C, and some require even higher base temperatures. For example, dwarf and runner beans, kumaras, leeks, pumpkins, sweet corn, and tomatoes require 16°C for effective growth. Cucumbers require from 18°C up to 30°C, and their night-time temperatures should not fall below 15°C.

When it comes to fruit trees, air temperature plays two complementary roles. Not only are warm temperatures required for bud growth and ripening of fruit, but a period of cold temperatures is required - a dormancy period - before spring growth will occur properly. The colder it is, the shorter the dormancy period. As an example,

a peach tree requires a dormancy period of 800 hours at 6°C, but 1600 hours if the temperature only falls in winter to 14°C. Following dormancy, air temperatures then play a role in determining the period to blossom; for a peach 510 hours at 15°C is needed, less if the temperatures are higher.

Closely related to air temperatures and gardens, are the activities of bees. Until temperatures reach about 10°C, bees cannot fly and, unless it is a sunny, calm day, they are not reasonably active until the air temperature reaches 13-14°C. Thus, after a cold spring night, foraging may only occur for a short period during the middle of the day; a further factor under these conditions, is that a low night-time temperature may reduce nectar secretion sufficiently to make clever bees stay at home. While on the topic of bees, two further points are of interest, in that they emphasise the need to keep hives close to the fruit trees. Bees have a top speed of about 6 metre/sec (22km/

hour) so that strong winds restrict their range, and they also require a minimum light level, so that overcast gloomy conditions will also restrict their range.

**SOIL TEMPERATURES** are most important for two reasons: the germination of seed, and the likelihood of frost occurring. Although soil temperatures are easily measured, just where (i.e., what depth), and when (what time of day) they should be measured is not so easily determined. During the day the heat from the sun flows downwards into the soil, and at night this process is reversed and the heat flows upwards to the surface. The upshot of this is, that the temperature of the soil at the surface keeps in step with the sun, while the temperature response of the deeper layers of soil lags further and further behind, Table 1. In addition the range of temperatures during a 24 hour (diurnal) period becomes less and less with increasing depth, and by 30cm (1 ft.) the diurnal changes have died out altogether.

**Table 1**  
Times of maximum and minimum soil temperatures (loam and clay soils)

Depth	Maximum (NZST)	Minimum (NZST)
5 cm	3.00 p.m.	6.00 a.m.
10 cm	5.00 p.m.	7.30 a.m.
10 cm	9.00 p.m.	10.00 a.m.
30 cm	1.00 a.m. (next day)	1.00 p.m.

Note 1: for sandy soils subtract half an hour  
2: add on hour during N.Z. daylight (summer) time.

Soil temperatures also affect root growth. Tomato roots will not grow at soil temperatures less than about 14°C, so that it is no use trying to raise these plants at lower temperatures - they may survive, but will probably be checked severely. Potatoes require a soil temperature of 9-10°C to sprout.

**Germination temperatures** given in Table 2 are for optimum yields, and do not represent the absolute minimum temperatures that seeds need to germinate. They refer to seed depth, so that you will have to develop some relationships between these values and the soil temperatures at the depth you have placed your soil thermometer. Bear in mind that, as the soil thermometer is deeper than your seeds, it will err on the safe side from the planting point of view.

French beans, it is essential that the soil is kept watered during flowering. Water during the development of the pods is also beneficial.

For tomato plants, a shortage of water during flowering and fruiting influences both fruit size and the number of tomatoes obtained. This is partly because at the start of fruiting root growth almost ceases, and the plant becomes very sensitive to water shortage. It is a general principle of growth in fact, that rate of root growth is hastened by vigorous leaf growth, and retarded by fruit growth. In this respect cucumbers are similar to tomatoes in that they fruit throughout their lives, and hence require frequent replenishment of water in the upper layers of the soil.

For potatoes, adequate water is needed from tuber initiation right through almost to maturity. A plentiful supply of water before tuber initiation increases the number of tubers per plant, while a plentiful supply after this stage increases the size of the tubers.

In the case of deciduous fruit trees water is needed during the spring and early summer for rapid shoot growth and fruit set; but what is perhaps not realised is that water supply conditions in the previous late summer and early autumn have an indirect effect on shoot growth and yield. Apple buds are produced during this latter period, on short lateral shoots or 'spurs', and whether or not flowers will be formed in the spring depends on a satisfactory rate of growth of these spurs. As well as high autumn temperatures therefore, one might expect high levels of moisture to be an advantage then, but in fact a certain amount of soil dryness actually leads to an increase in the number of flowers. Apple trees should be well watered until the fruit is about half size; after this, watering should only be needed if the soil becomes very dry.

**Table 2**  
Germination temperatures

10°C	broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrot, cress, endive, lettuce, onion, parsley, parsnip, pea, potato, radish, sage, shallot, silverbeet, spinach, swede, turnip.
16°C	artichoke, asparagus, beans (Broad, Dwarf, Runner), beetroot, cauliflower, celery, chinese cabbage, kumara, leek, marrow, pumpkin, squash, sweet corn, thyme, tomato.
18°C	beans (lima, Soya), capsicum (pepper), cucumber, eggplant, melon (Rock, Water), oxalis (yam).

While some of your cabbage seeds, for example, may germinate at a soil temperature as low as 4°C, you will get little growth while the air temperatures remain below 10°C, as mentioned above.

**RESPONSE OF A PLANT TO SOIL MOISTURE** conditions depends on the type of plant, and its rooting habit, and the soil moisture itself depends partly on the soil type. Annuals (and biennials) are generally more sensitive to variations in soil moisture than perennials, and this is partly a result of differences in the volume of soil occupied by the roots.

For maximum crops of Broad and

Lettuce differs from tomatoes and cucumbers in that it fruits (if not picked for eating) at the end of its growing cycle, so that root formation is continuous for most of the season. Continuing moist conditions are therefore required for lettuce, particularly during head formation, and similar comments apply to cabbage.

For cauliflowers, watering throughout growth is needed, but in particular in the early seedling stage or just after planting (where lack of water leads to an abnormally small 'head' size), and when the 'heads' are growing rapidly (where lack of water leads to browning of the 'heads'.)

## Obituary

### Dr. Harold Mouat

We record with regret the recent death of Dr. H.M. Mouat, FRIH(NZ) of Auckland. Dr. Mouat worked for Plant Diseases Division, DSIR for more than 20 years before going overseas to join the FAO. His most notable scientific contribution was his work with kiwifruit (Chinese gooseberries as they were then). He established the plantings that were used for the definition of the various cultivars in 1958 and he described and named the cultivar 'Hayward' for Hayward Wright, 'Bruno' for Bruno Just and others such as 'Abbott', 'Allison' and 'Monty' for early kiwifruit pioneers.

## LETTERS

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am greatly concerned regarding discrimination in the gardening ranks. With such programmes on the television as "Living Earth", "Gardeners World", etc. those with no gardening ability have been made to feel ashamed of their gardens.

I have brown thumbs - I admit it, as thousands of others would like to, but cannot. The pressure is on people to produce gardens like a Royal Garden, full of flowers which we should know by the Latin name. Grass cut to an exact length, trees that stand to attention.

At those with buttercups and dandelions, rock solid soil and various grass types growing together - everyone shakes their heads and goes tut! tut!

Does your Institute cater for the gardening handicapped? Are there provisions for the gardening challenge? It would appear that an elitism is beginning to creep into the gardening world.

I propose setting up a support group for the worst gardeners or the inept gardeners, so that they do not feel inferior to the show-gardeners portrayed on T.V.

So come on gentlemen, equality for all! I await your views and your plans on this matter.

Yours sincerely, R.T. Bullock

## Branch Activities

### Waikato Branch

Meetings held at 7.30 pm in Chartwell Room, Hamilton Garden Complex.

Nov 24 Aroids and Tigridoids for the Waikato  
Eric Walton, Scientist at HortResearch at Ruakura,  
whose garden contains many rare and unusual plants.  
This meeting is also the Annual General Meeting

### Bay of Plenty Branch

Oct. 25 5.30 pm Visit to Bay Bloom Nursery  
Nov 22 5.30 pm Visit to garden of D & S. Sparks with  
Picnic tea.  
Dec 23 10.00 am Rotorua garden ramble with Vicky  
Hodder  
Jan 1 3.30 pm Picnic tea in garden of J & J Swinbourn  
Jan 24 5.30 pm Picnic tea at the property of J & M Dick  
with the B.O.P. Tree Society.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to enquire about the employment opportunities in the horticultural/gardening industry in N.Z. At present I am employed as a private gardener in Oxfordshire, southern England, a position I have held for the last three years. Prior to this, I did a three-year HND (Higher National Diploma) course in Landscape and Horticultural Technologies, which I passed at Credit level, at Askham Bryan College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Yorkshire.

My present job involves the maintenance and development of three acres of garden. Additional

responsibilities include greenhouse duties and the cultivation of vegetables and fruit, and I am currently expanding the plant propagation area.

I am 25 years old and single. I have relatives living in NZ and they are very keen for me to join them. However, I do have to provide several months' notice to my existing employer, and as it is my intention to leave my present position by the end of September 1995 I would like to make some arrangements by Spring.

Yours faithfully, Richard J. Roslyn  
HNDHort, C/- 38 Ridgeway Rd,  
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# Restoration of Auckland Domain Fernery

The historic fernery at the Auckland Domain Winter Garden has been restored and reopened to the public after being closed for almost a decade. The project attracted major sponsorship from the appropriately named Fernz Corporation, and the fernery has therefore been renamed the Fernz Fernery in recognition of that contribution.

The fernery is situated within an old quarry behind the Winter Garden complex, probably the most important of all garden constructions in New Zealand with its 'A' classification from the NZ Historic Places Trust. The first Loder Cup competition was held in Auckland in 1919 and was won by Duncan and Davies Ltd for their display of more than 500 native plants. The Auckland District Council of the RNZIH purchased the entire Duncan and Davies exhibit and presented it to the Auckland City Council. The ferns in the collection became the nucleus for planting the fernery.

Over the years the pergola structure decayed and many of the ferns were lost. During reconstruction, the surviving plants were rigorously protected. The enormous timbers required were carefully dropped into position using helicopters and splendid examples of *Passiflora* and *Tecomanthe* were carefully pruned and lifted so that treillage could be replaced. This means that some of the oldest plants have been only minimally disturbed and give an instant maturity to the plantings. Probably the finest specimens of all are some huge King ferns (*Marattia salicina*) thought to be at least 60 years old. Existing plantings were replenished and the fernery now holds more than 120 different native ferns.

Restoration of the fernery has attracted great public interest and support and local nurseries report increased fern sales, despite the current shortage of water in Auckland.

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# Welcome

to the Following New Members

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L. BETHELL	AUCKLAND	L.C. LLOYD	AUCKLAND
H.L. BLAKE	LEVIN	H.E.MARTIN	WHANGAREI
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J.E. BURTON	TUAKAU	M.McILWAINE	WELLINGTON
P. CARTER	AUCKLAND	Y.McPHERSON	HASTINGS
W. CLARKE	WHANGAREI	P.MONTGOMERY	WELLINGTON
R. CONROY	TE AROHA	N.M.MUNRO	INVERCARGILL
J.CRANNA-POWELL	HIBISCUS CST	L. NIEMAN	AUCKLAND
A.S.CROWE	NORTHLAND	G.O'ROURKE	INVERCARGILL
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N.Z. Garden Journal

## Contributory Writers

Further progress has been made on the establishment of a more "user friendly" approach to the Journal. However, we are still looking for more contributory writers (paid) who will be prepared to provide articles from time to time.

If you feel you have the ability, knowledge and expertise to provide us with quality articles, then please let us have some information about yourself and the type of article you could provide.

## Wanganui 1995 Summer School of the Arts

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