

# Newsletter



1998  
No. 1  
August

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

## RNZIH Executive Report June 1998

From this year on the RNZIH is debt free. The Executive receives month by month accounts presented by Enid Reeves, Office Administrator, Lincoln. This will ensure that inadvertent budget overruns will never happen again.

We are at present reorganising our office at Lincoln. Much of the material stored was repetitive and many files were redundant. David Shillito with a team of helpers, has completed the task. This saves space and reduces our overheads and improves our efficiency.

Sadly cost cutting has required the cancelling of the NZ Garden Journal. The printing cost of publication had become financially prohibitive. Also there are 21 magazines with horticultural content and the advertising dollar is avidly pursued by skilled and paid consultants in the market place. We are not alone in our difficulties and word has it that many other institutions and associations are having similar problems both here and overseas.

Our very hardworking Editors, Mike Oates and Sarah De Renzy have done an excellent job in producing the NZ Garden Journal. We thank them for their sterling efforts and look forward to their continued help with the future Newsletter. We believe, together with them that a new way to communicate has become necessary.

We will return to printing our Newsletter in house as in 1994 while we explore links with others as partners in a publication. A questionnaire sent to Executive resulted in their opinion that members would prefer to have a solvent Institute and have regular information on a quarterly basis. The Journal was started when the Open Garden Scheme was launched in 1994. That experience proved to be a very expensive one and the

Journal became more and more costly to print. To produce a glossy publication requires a bigger membership and much advertising. This has not been achieved and regrettably we will have to become more modest and put communications with members on an economic basis. We will rebuild and develop a new style within budget.

We need to further improve our communications and today computers can fulfil many roles. In tandem with improving computer communications we are exploring ways of recapturing the interest of the younger generation. Traditionally the RNZIH provided examinations and a contact with experienced 'Elders' in the field. The legislative gun forced the RNZIH to relinquish its tutoring and examining role. Younger horticulturists do not see that membership of the RNZIH is of importance any more. Our endeavours are aimed at recapturing their interest by technological means. Their careers and continuing education will need the support of a national horticultural organisation. We have the experience and knowledge within our membership to do this.

The Newsletter will depend on your ideas, articles and support, which would be most helpful if sent to the Lincoln Office or through your local branch or your Executive member. These contact points are listed on page 6.

The Institute has a record of being supported by members for 75 years. This proves that we have a very important part to play in horticulture in New Zealand. We should remind ourselves of our importance and fulfill the continued purpose of being a member.

*Ron Flook, Chairperson, National Executive*

**The Newsletter is yours to develop and will depend on your ideas, articles and support which would be most helpful if sent to the Lincoln Office.**

# Call for Submissions

## Right of refusing entry to gardens open to the public

The following is an extract from a letter received from the Human Rights Commission regarding the right of refusing children entry to gardens open to the public

"As one of its functions the Commission can form opinions on whether complaints made to it constitute unlawful discrimination under the Act. However, it cannot express opinions on hypothetical situations or give advance opinions. The reason for this is the Commission must undertake an investigation impartially and with an open mind. Having said that, I can, however, direct you to the provisions of the Act that appear particularly relevant to your enquiry and make a comment on them.

The Human Rights Act 1993 makes it unlawful to discriminate, either directly or indirectly, against a person on the grounds of their age in the provision of goods and services to the public. Protection against discrimination begins at age 16 with no upper age limit. It should also be noted that it is unlawful to discriminate on the ground of family status. Section 21(1)(l) defines family status as follows :

- (i) Having the responsibility for part-time care or full-time care of children or other dependants; or
- (ii) Having no responsibility for the care of children or other dependants: or
- (iii) Being married to, or being in a relationship in the nature of a marriage with, a particular person; or
- (iv) Being a relative of a particular person:

Therefore, it would be a prima facie breach of the Act if a parent who has the part-time or full-time care of children is refused entry to the garden

because they are accompanied by their children. Responsibility, however, does not just mean allowing them in but that the parent has oversight of their children's behaviour. The parents may be responsible for any damage incurred therein.

We have sympathy with the position of people who open their gardens to the public. A distinction can be made between accompanied and unaccompanied children. It may be possible to refuse entry to an unaccompanied child under the age of 16 years as they are not protected from the age discrimination provisions".

## Historic Heritage Management Review.

An extract from letter sent to D.O.C. by R.N.Z.I.H.

"We would like to emphasise the following three issues:

### 1. Agency Links

We firmly believe in the principles, aims and objectives of the RMA 1991. The RMA provides the statutory framework but the agency parts are loose and they rattle. Linking these agencies is in our view essential.

### 2. Vegetative Cover

The omission of any reference to vegetation we regard as serious. Vegetative cover, whether in scale from trees to grass, is a fundamental attribute of any New Zealand historic and cultural heritage. This is the case in New Zealand, not so in Europe. Trees of stature (usually bigger than most monuments) or with historic or cultural associations are of importance. The RNZIH Notable Trees NZ has a published register of over 2500 notable trees. Tree and vegetative cover in association with natural systems, human use and landscape are of particular importance to all New Zealanders. We ask that trees and vegetation are specified for inclusion, within matters of natural, historic and

cultural heritage in the issues under review.

### 3. Putting the Case

It has been our experience that the RMA has one major flaw. Local communities are unable to grasp the principle of their rights or able to fund their objections. The RMA should enable communities to make decisions about their own environment. Developers hire expert witnesses and can present a barrage of expensive opinion in public at a planning hearing.

We suggest :

a) That seminar type educational programmes be implemented particularly in provincial towns and in rural communities which are most vulnerable.

b) That proposers and objectors exchange evidence prior to a planning hearing. Often this becomes a form of self organising mediation.

c) That failing this form of mediation then local communities can enlist funding similar to legal aid but with particular conditions. This would filter out frivolous objections and provide parity for objectors with proposers.

## Early Childhood Education

A request was made by the RNZIH for a list of poisonous plants as applicable to the Education (Early Childhood Centres) Regulations 1990, Clause 26 (q) *Safety and hygiene*. This list is printed on page 4.

**Note:** We do need speed to make submissions in time. We therefore ask you to keep us informed or contact any of the Institute's Executive or Branches. It may help if we could have volunteers to offer themselves as contacts for quick consultations. Please feel free to refer to the Chairman Ron at any time. It is important we take part where it effects horticulture in any way.



# Notice Board

## MEMBERS

### **Mrs. Winsome Shepherd(AHRIH)**

The Institute was honoured and delighted to hear that Mrs. Winsome Shepherd was awarded the NZ Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. It is particularly pleasing that the award was given for services to horticulture. The RNZIH is proud that a distinguished member has been publicly recognised. Our congratulations were conveyed by letter 2 June.

### **Mr. John Taylor**

We have conveyed our concern to our President who has suffered ill health for some time. We understand that he will be undergoing heart by-pass surgery later this year. Both Morag and John Taylor have our thoughts and best wishes during this trying time.

### **Mr. Frank Buddingh'**

Frank was married to Nina Arron on 19 June at the Waikanae Community Hall. We all wish them every happiness for their future lives together.

## EVENTS

### **Conferences**

**The RNZIH Conference** will be held in Auckland, 9-11 November this year. Details and Registration Form included with this Newsletter.

### **Hutt City Gardens Alive Festival**

7-8 November 1998. Further information from Bruce Stokell, Sportwork Ltd. PO Box 11 275 Wellington. Phone (04) 472 4177. email: bruce@sportwork.co.nz or Mike Nicholls, Hutt City Council, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt. Phone (04) 570 6702. email: nicholls@huttcity.govt.nz

### **Millenium Projects**

President John Taylor has been

chairing a committee for establishing a Sister Cities Garden Park in Halswell, Christchurch. The site at Halswell is approximately twice the size of the present Christchurch Botanic Garden. The project has had the full support of six Sister Cities and Christchurch City Council. The initial funding of \$250,000 has come from the Millenium Grants Board. This is an exciting project for the status of horticulture in New Zealand and a major event for the Millenium Celebrations in Christchurch.

### **The RNZIH Display Panels**

These are available for conferences and seminars. The cost of freighting by Fastway Courier is \$15 from Wellington where they are stored. The panels and display material have been cleaned and updated which was done for the NZAA Conference in Hamilton last year. There are four panels in 3 sizes (8 sides) using a Velcro system for fixing display and other local material. The contact point for obtaining the panels is : Frank Buddingh' Tel 04-476-0000 or cell phone 021 342 524. email Intertree@compuserve.comm

### **Arboricultural Advisory Service**

Martin Herbert, Head of Arboricultural Studies, Waikato Polytechnic, announced in the NZAA Newsletter "Tree Matters" recently that the Arboricultural Advisory and Information Service (AAIS) based in Surrey, England is able to offer Practice Notes. These Advisory Notes include:

- ◆ Tree Age Assessment
- ◆ Street Tree Architecture
- ◆ Standards Relevant to Arboriculture
- ◆ Wood Chips as a Mulch or Soil Amendment
- ◆ Tree Roots and Foundations
- ◆ Ozone Effects on Trees

Contact: Martin Herbert, Waikato Polytechnic, Private Bag 3036

Hamilton 2020 for further information and subscription costs.

## INFORMATION

We would welcome any news items or even perhaps starting a plant and ideas swop section to which Branch Committees and members may feel they would like to contribute. All horticulturists have views and ideas drawn from experience. They would make interesting reading. These can be relayed to the RNZIH Office, C/o Enid Reeves, RNZIH Administration Officer, P.O. Box 12, Lincoln University, Canterbury, or to Ron Flook 539 Rocks Road, Tahunanui, Nelson. Tel/Fax 64 3 548 6539. email flook@netaccess.co.nz

### **Memorial for Diana**

The Rotary Club of Nelson West has come up with a living tribute to the late Princess Diana and is looking for community support with the project.

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Walkway is being developed along the old railway reserve in Stoke which will be planted with rhododendrons and camellias.

Club president Murray Butler says the idea for the project was originally put forward by Jackie Chapman, whose husband, David, is a member of the club.

Mrs Chapman suggested that it would be a nice gesture to do something in Nelson as a memorial to the princess and the idea of the planting and naming the walkway was developed in conjunction with the Nelson City Council.

Mr. Butler says that the project gives the public an opportunity to participate in a memorial to the princess by paying \$20 and planting a camellia or rhododendron on the reserve.

# Poisonous plants

This list was supplied by the Ministry of Education and is taken from a resource published by the Ministry of Health *Nga kupu Oranga, Healthy Messages, A health and safety resource for early childhood services*

**Apple of Sodom (*Solanum sodomeum*)**

Poisonous parts: The berries.

**Apricot (*Prunus armeniaca*)**

Poisonous parts: The kernels inside the fruit stone. However, they are not poisonous once they have been cooked.

**Arum (*Arum*)**

Poisonous parts: All parts.

**Bittersweet (*Solanum dulcamara*)**

Poisonous parts: All parts, especially the berries.

**Boxthorn (*Lycium ferocissimum*)**

Poisonous parts: Berries.

**Buttercup (Celery leaved) (*Ranunculus sceleratus*)**

Poisonous parts: leaves and flowers.

**Calico bush (*Kalmia latifolia*)**

Poisonous parts: All parts.

**Cape tulip (*Homeria collina*)**

Poisonous parts: All parts are very poisonous, even when they are dead and dry.

**Castor oil plant (*ricinus communis*)**

Poisonous parts: Seeds.

**Daphne (*Daphne spp*)**

Poisonous parts: All parts.

**Elephant ear (*Alocasia macrorrhiza*)**

Poisonous parts: Flowers, leaves and stems.

**English yew (*Taxus baccata*)**

Poisonous parts: The brown seed inside each berry.

**Foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*)**

Poisonous parts: Leaves and seeds.

**Hemlock (*Canium maculatum*)**

Poisonous parts: All parts are very poisonous, even when they are dead and dry.

**Henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*)**

Poisonous parts: Seed and fruit.

**Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)**

Poisonous parts: Berries.

**Horse chestnut**

(*Aesculus hippocastanum*)

Poisonous parts: Seeds.

**Inkweed (*Phytolacca octandra*)**

Poisonous parts: Berries, leaves and root.

**Ivy (*Hedera helix*)**

Poisonous parts: The fruit of some plants, People with sensitive skins may also develop a rash after touching the plant.

**Ivy, Poison (*Rhus radicans*)**

Poisonous parts: The climbing plant is very poisonous when touched. The shrub may also cause a rash and swelling if it is touched by people with sensitive skin.

**Jerusalem Cherry**

(*Solanum pseudo-capsicum*)

Poisonous parts: All parts, particularly the berries.

**Karaka (*Cornycarpus***

*laevigatus*)

Poisonous parts: The kernels of the fruit.

**Kowhai (*Sophora microphylla*)**

Poisonous parts: All parts, but mainly the seeds.

**Laburnum (*Laburnum***

*anagyroides*)

Poisonous parts: All parts, especially the seeds.

**Lantana (*Lantana camara*)**

Poisonous parts: The fruit.

**Lily-of-the-Valley**

(*Convallaria majalis*)

Poisonous parts: All parts, especially the seeds.

**Milkweed (*Euphorbia peplus*)**

Poisonous parts: The fruit and leaves.

**Ngaio (*Myoporum laetum*)**

Poisonous parts: The fruit, leaves and any other green parts.

**Nightshade, Black (*Solanum nigrum*)**

Poisonous parts: The leaves and green berries.

**Nightshade, Deadly (*Atropa belladonna*)**

Poisonous parts: All parts are very poisonous.

**Oleander (*Nerium oleander*)**

Poisonous parts: All parts, especially the leaves and flowers.

**Onga-onga or Tree Nettle (*Urtica ferox*)**

Poisonous parts: The fine white stinging hairs are violently poisonous and can cause death if badly stung.

**Peach (*Prunus persica*)**

Poisonous parts: The raw pip that is found inside the fruit stone.

**Poppy (*Papaver spp*), includes Iceland, Shirley and Oriental poppies**

Poisonous parts: The unripe seeds.

**Poro poro (*Solanum aviculare*)**

Poisonous parts: The leaves and green berries.

**Potato (*Solanum tuberosum*)**

Poisonous parts: Green potatoes and the berries.

**Privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*)**

Poisonous parts: The leaves and fruit.

**Queen of the Night (*Cestrum nocturnum*)**

Poisonous parts: All parts

**Rangiora (*Brachyglottis repanda*)**

Poisonous parts: All parts, especially the flowers and sap.

**Rhododendron (*Rhododendron spp*)**

Poisonous parts: All parts.

**Spindle Berry (*Eunonymus europaeus*)**

Poisonous parts: The fruit and leaves.

**Thornapple or Jimsons Weed (*Datura stramonium*)**

Poisonous parts: All parts, especially leaves, seeds and nectar on flowers.

**Tutu (*Coriaria spp*)**

Poisonous parts: All parts, except the soft, black petals.

**White Cedar (*Melia azederach*)**

Poisonous parts: The fruit.



# Plant and Garden News

## The Business of Gardens in the Future

In the past ten years the business of garden visiting has boomed. This has been driven in part by the increasing popularity of garden festivals lead by the Trinity Garden Festival in Auckland. Many people who opened their gardens for the first time decided to open them on a more regular basis, some on an annual basis and some more regularly when their gardens were at their peak. Many owners however, found this move from private to public quite difficult and without the expected financial rewards. Many gardens were, quite frankly, not up to it either physically or aesthetically.

The Dunedin Rhododendron Festival has been at the forefront of garden opening and as part of its 1998 festival has organised a workshop to investigate some of the major issues facing public and private garden managers as we head into the new millennium. To facilitate the workshop they have obtained the services of Christopher Brickell, the world renowned plantsman and gardening expert. As a former Director General of the RHS Garden at Wisley he is well placed to work through the issues facing garden managers, including administration and management, future strategy, and making the changes from private to public.

The workshop is open to anyone with an interest in gardens and places will be strictly limited. Christopher Brickell will give a public lecture entitled "The Romance of Plant Hunting" as part of pre workshop activities.

For more information and registration forms please contact Janie Peck, Dunedin Rhododendron Festival, Box 5045, Dunedin.

## Wollemi Pine Update

Since the discovery of *Wollemi nobilis*, staff at the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney have been busy finding out about the fascinating plant. This includes:

Analysis of a chloroplast gene confirms it is a member of the Araucariaceae family and is closely related to *Agathis*. DNA testing shows complete genetic homogeneity between populations suggesting the population has been inbreeding for many generations.

An *ex situ* population has been established as a pot collection and cutting experiments are taking place to establish time of year and growth regulators that give optimum rooting.

Seed collected from one of the populations is being used to establish optimum germination and long-term storage conditions.

Work is underway on biotechnological methods of propagation.

## Wai 262: Progress on the Claim

In the June 1997 issue of the Journal we reported on the claim before the Waitangi tribunal relating to the protection, control, conservation, management, treatment, propagation, sale, dispersal, utilization, and restriction on the use of and transmission of the knowledge of New Zealand indigenous flora and the genetic resources contained therein.

Progress since that time has been slow. The Tribunal met for the first time in September 1997 at marae in the far north to hear evidence from those involved in traditional uses of native plants. The hearings were interrupted when the issue of confidentiality arose, and in particular the wish of those giving evidence that their traditional knowledge should not be made available to others. Since that time discussions have taken place with the Waitangi Tribunal and the claimants to develop a procedure for giving evidence that is acceptable to all parties. The current progress suggests that the findings of the tribunal on what is a unique and difficult claim will not be available for at least 18 months. Once hearings from the claimants have been heard there will be a chance for others to be heard including horticultural and conservation organisations that are very concerned over the implications of such a claim.

The Crown is also preparing its case and position on the claim and several government departments, in particular the Department of Conservation, Ministry of Commerce, and Te Puna Kokiri have been working to prepare advice for the government and in particular to look at the implications for such things as conservation management and international trade agreements.

It is important to note that some of the issues raised in the claim are not unique to New Zealand. These include :

The issue of plant patenting under Plant Variety Rights legislation giving "ownership" or rights to new and distinct cultivars for a period of time.

Intellectual Property Rights and in particular that indigenous peoples benefit from the exploitation of plant material when it is exported or used for economic gain.

For more information on progress and the procedures involved contact Waitangi Tribunal, Department for Courts, 2nd Floor, 10 Featherston Street, Wellington.

## Dendrological Atlas Project Reaches New Zealand

For over 15 years, a major dendrological project has been in progress to document the trees of the temperate world. The project based in Hungary at the Hungarian Natural History Museum is lead by Zsolt Debreczy and Istvan Racz. With financial help from the US based International Dendrological Research Institute (IDRI) they have mounted many expeditions to study trees in their natural habitats. Recent trips include China (1994/5), Chile and Taiwan (1996) and Japan and the USA (1997). The studies are comprehensive and include full documentation including all morphological characters, plant community characteristics and vegetation profiles.

The work will eventually be published in a series of volumes starting with a four volume set *"The Conifers and Other Gymnosperms for the Temperate World and Adjacent Regions"*. For the conifer volumes they have already documented 455 species.

The work carried out as part of this project is phenomenal:  
250,000 herbarium sheets representing  
50,000 accessions  
120,000 photo negatives

The 1998 programme starts with a trip to China and will end with 3 weeks in New Zealand and 2 weeks in Tasmania. The New Zealand part of the trip is being organised in collaboration with Kathy Musial, Curator of Living Collections at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in California. Assistance has been given by David and Noeline Sampson of Cedar Lodge Nurseries in New Plymouth and Mike Oates Curator of the Botanic Gardens of Wellington. Anyone interested in assisting with the visit should contact Mike Oates, Wellington City Council, Box 2199, Wellington.

## Botanical Comings and Goings

Things are busy on the botanic garden scene in 1998. During February and March, four staff from the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh visited New Zealand to study the native flora and collect plant material and herbarium specimens for the Edinburgh collections. Much of the plant material is destined for Logan Botanic Garden in the South West of Scotland, where the mild climate enables a wide range of New Zealand flora to thrive.



## RNZIH DIRECTORY

|   |   |
|---|---|
| RNZIH National Office   | P.O. Box 12 Lincoln University<br>Canterbury. Phone (03) 325 2811 Ext.8670                      |
| Patron  | His Excellency, The Governor General<br>Sir Michael Hardie Boys                                 |
| Vice Patrons  | Ralph Ballinger, 19 Brooklyn Drive, Blenheim<br>Peter Skellerup, 24 Poynder Ave, Christchurch 1 |
| President   | John Taylor AHRIH, 9 Karitane Drive,<br>Christchurch 2. Phone/Fax (03) 322 1685                 |
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| Michael Ayrton, P.O. Box 26-072, Epsom, Auckland. Email:<br>cornwall.park.@xtra.co.nz Phone (09)524 6442. Fax (09)524 6433.<br>Cell 025 999903                      |   |
| Frank Buddingh' FRIH, 34 Thurleigh Grove, Karori, Wellington. Email:<br>InterTree@compuserve.com. Phone (04)476 0000. Cell 021 342524.<br>Fax (04)476 4009          |   |
| Ross Ferguson FRIH, HortResearch, Mt. Albert Research Centre<br>Private Bag 92 169, Auckland. Email: Rferguson@hort.cri.nz<br>Phone (09) 815 4234. Fax (09)815 4201 |   |
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| Graeme Mander FRIH, R297-SH2, Bethlehem, Tauranga.<br>Phone (07) 576 6829. Fax (07) 576 1105  |   |
| Richard Nanson AHRIH, 40 Takarau Gorge Road, Ohariu Valley, Wellington,<br>Phone (04) 477 4020  |   |
| David Shillito FRIH, 'Graylands', Robinsons Road, RD5, Christchurch.<br>Phone (03) 325 2811 Ext. 8440. Email: Shillito@lincoln.ac.nz                                |   |

**Anita Benbrook**, supervisor of Otari Native Botanic Garden in Wellington went to Kew in July to study for the International Diploma in Botanic Garden Management. The ten week course covers all aspects of garden and collection management and includes visits to other gardens in the South of England.

**Steve Benham**, Plant Records Officer at the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens will be attending the 5th International Botanic Gardens Conservation Congress in South Africa in September. The Conference hosted by Kirstenboch Botanic Gardens is held every 3 years and focuses on the educational and conservation roles of the gardens. The trip will be funded by the Friends of Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens who have established an annual scholarship for staff members. In 1996 Alex Gardener, foreman at the gardens, travelled to Kew as the inaugural recipient of the scholarship.



# Notable Trees New Zealand

## Horophenua

A recent registration has been accepted. The tree is an *Ilex aquifolium* and is situated in the Talisman Gardens Nursery near Otaki Horophenua. It is a good specimen and when inspected for registration was in good health with a magnificent display of berries. The dimensions of the tree are - height 19.70m, spread of canopy 8.50m, with a girth at 1.40m, of 2.50m. The tree is approximately 80 years old and is understood to have been planted by a member of the Rolleston family, well known in Horophenua for their Stud Horse Farm.

Alistair Turnbull, the owner of Talisman Nurseries, has an outstanding collection of over 1000 native plants, many of them on the endangered list of New Zealand flora. This has been noted on the registration form as an important NZ Native Plant Collection which is known to many of our RNZIH plant specialist members.

## Lower Hutt

We are in the process of following up by letter on a very special tree which is situated in the grounds of the Geological and Nuclear Sciences Institute in Lower Hutt. This tree was described by the Dominion Newspaper, Wellington 14 May 1998:

### "Apple Tree has Ancient Pedigree"

An old, scrawny-looking apple tree in the Geological and Nuclear Sciences Institute's Gracefield grounds at Lower Hutt looks like any other backyard fruit tree.

Scientists who pass it daily don't eat the apples on the ground because they taste "bloody awful".

The tree boasts a proud history - it can trace its antecedents directly to grafts taken from an apple tree at Woolsthorpe, England, under which Sir Isaac Newton sat in 1666.

A friend of Newton's, Dr. William

Stukeley, later wrote in 'Memoirs of Newton's Life' that it was while sitting under the apple tree that "the notion of gravitation came into [Newton's] mind. It was occasion'd by the fall of an apple as he sat in a contemplative mood".

In 1976 a director of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research's Physics and Engineering Laboratory, Mervyn Probine, researched the Lower Hutt tree's background.

In a letter recently rediscovered in a drawer at the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences, Dr. Probine wrote that Newton's original apple tree was a "Flower of Kent" variety, and was said to have died in 1814.

But before it died, grafts were taken and the resulting progeny planted in Lord Brownlow's kitchen garden at Belton.

Trees at East Melling Research Station were propagated in 1940 from grafts of the Belton tree.

According to Dr. Probine another "strain" also exists. In 1943 graft-wood was taken to Kew Gardens directly from a tree at Woolsthorpe Manor, also a descendant from the tree under which Newton sat, and trees were propagated there.

Kew Gardens director Sir Edward Salisbury sent a tree to the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington.

Dr. Probine was unable to determine whether the apple tree at Lower Hutt's Gracefield was descended from the "Kew" or the "East Melling" strain.

"All that is known is that the tree we have here was obtained by the good offices of Sir Ernest Marsden and that it is a direct descendant of the tree which was growing in Sir Isaac Newton's garden at Woolsthorpe.

He said the lower Hutt tree was planted by a Mr. J.B.C. Taylor on Arbor Day 1957.

Communications manager John Callan said: "It does justify a plaque or

something similar."

## Nelson

A record tree moving project was recently accomplished in Nelson. A Matai of 18m high, which on moving weighed 90 tonnes. The reason for the move was that a new alignment of State Highway 60 near Nelson was being built by Transit NZ. Several options prior to the move of the tree were considered, including building a retaining wall surround. These options were discounted due to costs. It was decided to move the tree the 40m required to protect it from roadworks. Brad Cadwallader of Nelmac Tree Services, who is a qualified arborist, undertook to supervise the work. The method used was; to prepare the ground several weeks before and contain the tree's massive root ball, which on excavation measured 6.50m by 4.50m and 2m deep. The root ball was enclosed in timber and jacked up on to a specially built railway line. It was then skidded on the tracks using bulldozers and a winch to its new position 40m away. Precautions for the tree were taken in case of adverse weather and held until soil conditions were suitable for the move. Brad Cadwallader believes that with automated irrigation and regular after care the 80 year old tree has a good chance of survival. He also believes that such a massive move is the biggest exercise undertaken in New Zealand or even the equal of any tree move in the Southern Hemisphere. Preparation costs were approximately \$25000 to \$40000. With moving and after care it brought the total cost to \$70000. RNZIH Notable Trees NZ is appreciative of Transit NZ efforts to save the tree.

## Arbor Day

Arbor Day was celebrated in Nelson on 5 June and reported by the Nelson Mail as follows :

"To celebrate Arbor Day several hundred schoolchildren around Nelson

have been busy planting trees in city reserves.

This year, as a token of the Nelson City Council's appreciation, each child who helps with the planting will receive a kowhai tree.

The kowhai trees are being distributed to the children to take home and plant in their own gardens.

Manager of parks and recreation Andrew Petheram says the idea of distributing the kowhai trees is to encourage native birds, especially the nectar-feeding bellbirds and tuis, back into the city. Kowhai is seen as an appropriate species for the small urban garden.

The scheme also provides an opportunity to thank the schoolchildren who so enthusiastically plant thousands of trees each year for the city council.

The first Arbor day plantings recorded in New Zealand were in Greytown in July 1890. Only 12 of the 150 trees planted have survived and these are registered as Notable Trees NZ Registration No. 150. When Greytown celebrated its Sesquicentennial in 1990 the trees were given a grooming by David Palmer, a Wellington arborist, in preparation for the celebrations.

## Standards NZ

The RNZIH and the NZ Arboricultural Association have both adopted STEM (A Standard Tree Evaluation Method). The document is currently being investigated as a basis for a National Standard by the Energy Resources Division of the Ministry for Commerce and Standards NZ.

# R.N.Z.I.H. ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## AUCKLAND 1998

Friday 9 October - Sunday 11 October 1998

UNITEC, Mt. Allbert

### Provisional Programme :

- ◆ Plants for people : Wisterias, clivias, colour,
- ◆ Tour of Government House gardens, Epsom
- ◆ Banks Lecture: Peter de Lange, Conservation of threatened native plants: success with newer approaches
- ◆ People in parks: New landscape plan for Auckland Botanic Gardens, Noise control, South African succulents, Vireya rhododendrons
- ◆ Day trip to gardens on South Head (Kaipara) Peninsula

Registration form and Provisional Programme enclosed with this newsletter.

Further information :

Mary Petley, 22 Highbury Street, Avondale, AUCKLAND 1007  
Phone (09)828 0828

*Newsletter*



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

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Lincoln University,  
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1998  
No. 1  
August



## RNZIH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1998

**Date:** Friday 9 October - Sunday 11 October, 1998

**Place:** Friday: Horticulture Department, UNITEC, Carrington Road, Mt Albert. (A map will be sent to those registering). Saturday: Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens, Manurewa.

**Accommodation:** Eden Park Motor Inn, 697 New North Road, Mt Albert. Shared accommodation (\$30.00 per night per person), breakfast extra. This motel is within walking distance of St Luke's Shopping Centre or Western Springs Park and is on a good bus route into Central Auckland. A restaurant is attached.

**Transport:** No transport has been organised from the Airport for conference participants: we suggest that you take the shuttle service. Transport from the motel to UNITEC and to other venues will be provided. Parking is available at UNITEC.

**Meals:** Lunch and dinner on Friday charged separately. Breakfast and lunch provided on Saturday, dinner charged separately. The Sunday tour includes the lunch and the cost of entry into gardens. Morning and afternoon teas provided.

**Program:** A detailed program will be sent to those registering. **Please note that the program attached is only provisional and subject to change.**

**More details:** If you want more details please send a stamped address envelope to M B Petley, 22 Highbury Street, Avondale, Auckland 1007. Enquiries 0-9-828 0828 (after hours).

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

### Thursday 8 October

Meeting of National Executive, Mt Albert Research Centre, 10.00 a.m.

### Friday 9 October

- 10.30 a.m. Walk around Western Springs Park for early arrivals
- 11.30 a.m. onwards. **Registration** at Horticulture Department, UNITEC
- 12.00 noon **Lunch**
- 1.00 p.m. **Welcome and Conference Opening**  
**Lectures - plants for people**  
Developments with clivias  
Wisterias  
Use of colour in gardens  
Plants and the "sick building" syndrome
- 4.00 p.m. **Guided tour of Government House grounds in Epsom**, visit to remnant native forests on lava flows
- 6.00 p.m. **Social gathering and Conference Dinner**, University of Auckland  
Conference Centre, 22 Symonds Street
- 8.00 p.m. **Presentation of Institute Awards**  
**Banks Memorial Lecture** (open to the public) Peter de Lange  
Conservation of threatened native plants: success with newer approaches

### Saturday 10 October

- 8.00 a.m. Bus departs UNITEC for **Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens**, Manurewa
- 8.30 a.m. **Pancake breakfast** (free)
- 9.15 a.m. **AGM RNZIH**  
**Guided tour of Gardens**  
**Lunch**
- 1.00 p.m. **Lectures - people in parks**  
The new landscape plan for the Botanic Gardens  
Noise control in public open spaces  
Cornwall Park, a farm park in the central city
- South African succulent plants  
Arisaemas  
Vireya rhododendrons
- Evening Optional group dinner in Auckland restaurant

### Sunday 11 October

Full day bus trip to gardens on South Head (Kaipara) Peninsula, an interesting frost-free area. Lunch under a covered enclosure with displays of subtropicals and tree crops. Other visits to cacti and succulent garden, spring bulbs, wild flowers and xerophytic plants. Return c. 5.00 p.m. Members need not be registered for the Conference to join this tour.



## RNZIH 1998 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

9 - 11 October, Venues - UNITEC, Mt Albert and Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens.

### REGISTRATION FORM

**Surname:** ..... **First Name**.....

**Postal Address:** .....

.....

**Phone Number (day)**.....**(night)**.....

|   |  | Number reqd |                |
|---|--|-------------|----------------|
| <b>Registration Fee</b>                                     | <b>\$90.00</b> per person                | .....       | \$.....        |
| <b>Single day registration</b>                              | <b>\$55.00</b> per person.               | .....       | \$.....        |
| ( Please indicate day attending - Friday.....Saturday.....) |  |             |                |
| <b>Student registration</b>                                 | <b>\$65.00</b> per person                | .....       | \$.....        |
| (ID must be shown)  |  |             |                |
| <b>Late Fee</b>   | <b>\$20.00</b> if received after 18.9.98 | .....       | \$.....        |
| <b>Friday Lunch</b>   | <b>\$10.00</b>                           | .....       | \$.....        |
| <b>Conference Dinner (Fri)</b>                              | <b>\$25.00</b>                           | .....       | \$.....        |
| <b>Saturday breakfast (free).</b>                           | Please indicate number attending         | .....       |                |
| <b>Saturday Dinner</b>                                      | <b>\$25.00</b>                           | .....       | \$.....        |
| <b>Sunday Bus Tour</b>                                      | <b>\$25.00</b>                           | .....       | \$.....        |
| (Includes transport, lunch and garden entrances)            |  |             |                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |  |             | <b>\$.....</b> |

**Accommodation:** Share twin, \$30.00 per night , breakfast extra. Please indicate if you wish to have reservations made . No deposits required.

Thursday October 8            Number required.....

Friday    October 9            Number required.....

Saturday October 10        Number required.....

Please make your cheque out to Auckland Branch, RNZIH and return with completed form to:

Mary Petley

22 Highbury Street

Avondale, AUCKLAND 1007

Ph. (09) 828.0828

**No later than Friday 18 September.**