

Newsletter



1998
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Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

Chairman's Annual Report 1998

This report is more a plan for the future direction of the Institute. It does not lay down hard and fast principles but is set out in simple terms and aims to be a manageable programme rather than aiming to fulfil dreams without a comfortable financial bed to sleep on. It has been deliberated by the Exec. and the outcome will be reported verbally to the AGM meeting. (Full report not enclosed.)

Stringent control over the finances has tweaked us through this difficult period. The year started by finishing outstanding payments of \$10,000 from the hangover of the Open Garden Scheme. Subscriptions were bolstered by generous financial support from the Branches. David Shillito will give details in his financial report. He has done an immense job and we all very much appreciate his great voluntary effort.

By June this year after every effort to continue publication of the NZ Garden Journal a decision was made to discontinue due to the high cost of printing. Mike Oates and Sarah de Renzy produced a very impressive series of publications and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

The Newsletter has been re-established for the present time. The first issue was delayed due to our need to reduce office space at Lincoln. This had to be done because a rent increase was imminent. We have achieved a very advantageous rental based on lesser space requirements.

The Institute has been able to be of service to the N.Z. Alpine Garden Society by typesetting and preparing their Bulletin for publication.

We have been saddened by the stressful time our President has had to endure due to a by-pass heart operation. Our warmest feelings go to both Morag Taylor and to John for his return to health.

Our Vice Patron Ralph Ballinger has sent his best wishes for the future and to the Executive, the AGM and his longtime friends within the Institute. His letter was accompanied by a very generous

donation towards the work of the RNZIH. The Executive is heartened by the loyalty and generosity of our members. Many donations have been received during the past year.

Frank Buddingh' has resigned due to gaining a permanent position in the USA. We all thank him for his great contribution to the RNZIH Executive and to the Institute. We wish both Frank and his wife Nina a successful and prosperous future.

The activities of the Chairman over the year have been recorded in the last Newsletter and need not be repeated.

I look forward to conveying the deliberations and positive proposals of the Executive to the AGM.

Ron Flook
CHAIRMAN



National Horticultural Societies

This is the first of a series of fact files on major national horticultural societies, their objectives, major activities and role in plant collections and plant evaluation.

Organisation : **The New Zealand Rhododendron Association Inc.**

Address: Kathryn Millar, National Secretary, NZ Rhododendron Association, RD 3, Leeston, Christchurch.

- ① The major objectives of the association are to **promote and conserve the genus Rhododendron.**
- ② The association currently has 1000 members.
- ③ It has 11 affiliated regional groups around the country. These groups are fully autonomous but pay a \$50 annual fee.
- ④ Members receive a quarterly newsletter and an annual Bulletin.
- ⑤ The association has an annual conference in different parts of New Zealand. In 1997 the conference was in Wellington over Labour Weekend and attracted 200 people from New Zealand and overseas. Conferences consist of talks by overseas speakers and New Zealand experts and garden visits.
- ⑥ Currently only the Christchurch group have an official show with judging run along formal guidelines as used by the RHS and in the USA.
- ⑦ The association currently has no role in plant assessment or trialing but are looking at reviving this work. It does have a role in cultivar registration and holds the official NZ Rhododendron Register.
- ⑧ The Rhododendron Association does have an official plant collections scheme run in conjunction with Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust. The scheme involves the development of a national species collection dispersed in collections in different climatic zones throughout New Zealand.
- ⑨ The Association owns and operates the Kimbolton Rhododendron Garden in the Manawatu. This garden is administered by a group of members and relies mainly on volunteer labour. The garden focuses on a range of rhododendrons in particular those cultivars bred in New Zealand. There is a small charge for entry.



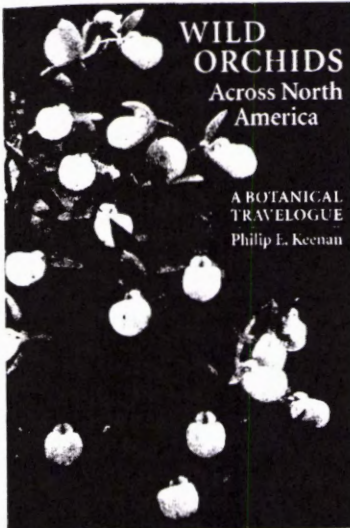
RNZIH DIRECTORY

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Vice Patrons	Ralph Ballinger, 19 Brooklyn Drive, Blenheim Peter Skellerup, 24 Poynder Ave, Christchurch 1
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Book news

Wild Orchids Across North America

A BOTANICAL TRAVELOGUE



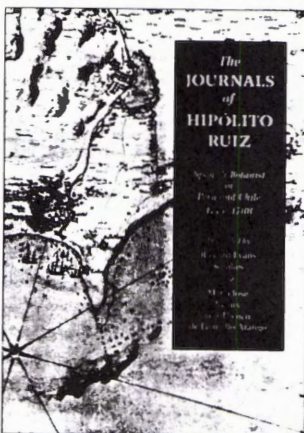
Philip E. Keenan

The author has driven more than 100,000 miles - and walked several hundred more - in pursuit of orchids in their native habitats. This is a delightfully chatty account of his field trips in Canada and throughout the United States (north of Florida, where the orchids are tropical). From Alaska to the Maritime Provinces, from the desert southwest to the

Pine Barrens of New Jersey, Keenan documents most of the 145 American orchid species in absolutely remarkable colour photographs. In addition to orchids, he observes other plants, birds and wildlife, and geological features. His narrative will inspire others respectfully to explore the wealth of orchids and other fascinating wildlife still to be found on our continent despite encroaching development.

The Journals of Hipólito Ruiz

SPANISH BOTANIST IN PERU & CHILE, 1777-1788



Translated by Richard Evans Schultes and María José Nemry von Thenen de Jaramillo-Arango
Transcribed from the original manuscripts by Jaime Jaramillo-Arango

Ruiz spent 11 years exploring the towns, villages, fields, forests, and mountains of Peru and Chile. His detailed, personal observations of about 2,000 plants, along with his impressions of

the landscape, weather, natives, culture, and the perils of exploration in South America, are an important pioneering work in ethnobotany.

Pomona's Harvest

AN ILLUSTRATED CHRONICLE OF ANTIQUARIAN FRUIT LITERATURE

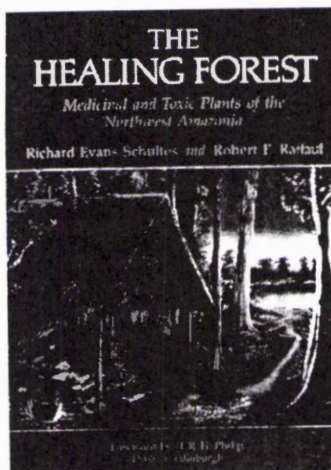
H. Frederic Janson

An intriguing history of the European literature dealing with fruit from antiquity to the Industrial Revolution, including many beautiful engravings from key works. It is rich in anecdote, from Pliny the Elder's claim to have seen a grafted tree bearing nuts, berries, figs, pears, and pomegranates to Isidore of Seville's theory that because of its resemblance to the human brain, the walnut must either cause or cure headaches. The relationship of pomology to social history and the history of ideas is explored, and the bibliography describes more than 600 fruit-related sources.



The Healing Forest

MEDICINAL AND TOXIC PLANTS OF THE NORTHWEST AMAZONIA



Richard Evans Schultes and Robert F. Raffauf

Foreword by His Royal Highness, Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

This definitive book represents the life's work of Richard Evans Schultes, one of the fathers of modern ethnobotany and the greatest plant explorer of our age, including nearly 50 years of field research in the Northwest Amazon. The authors describe nearly 1,500 species and varieties, emphasizing the need for conservation and further research.

Notable Trees New Zealand Annual Report 1998

There has been an inability to plan due to the current affairs of the Institute. The future being uncertain and the difficulties in communication have soaked up valuable time which could have been usefully applied to Notable Trees NZ.

There have been some interesting registrations which have come in a steady trickle from a few interested members. What has been brought to the fore this year is the gap between NTNZ and the QE2 Trust and the NZ Historic Places Trust. Earlier contacts were made but have not been developed any further. Both organisations after being approached were very willing to cooperate on some mutual interests.

It is my disappointment that we lose valuable contacts through being unable to follow up on earlier initiatives, due to limited financial resources and facilities.

However if the proposals for better communication are adopted by the Institute this will off load a considerable amount of time wasting and unnecessary correspondence procedures. These could all be handled through our Lincoln office.

The revised NTNZ Registration form has been designed to be filled out via Internet. Many arboriculturists already use Newton Notebooks for their tree recording work in the field. The push of a button could translate their readings onto a registration form which then can be sent direct for registration processing. Time saving processes would mean more registrations.

A further development has been the interest shown by some owners of large tree groups in developing a NTNZ suggested idea of Tree Precincts. These precincts would become covenanted registrations solely for tree groups. Some initiatives need to be taken such as renewed contact with QE2 Trust and NZHPT regarding mutual development of the idea and finding money from owners for legal costs.

Notable Trees New Zealand has been advised of the resignation of Frank Buddingh'. He leaves for permanent residence in the USA shortly. His enthusiasm and support for NTNZ and the NZAA will be greatly missed and we wish him success and prosperity.

We will await the outcome of the RNZIH deliberations over the future of the Institute before taking further initiatives.

We would like to express our thanks to those who have actively supported NTNZ and in particular Mr. P.J. Skellerup for his donation of \$500 towards Tree Plaques. Mr. Skellerup will not be renewing his donation and we would like to convey our very grateful thanks for all his support in the past. The NZAA have also made a valued contribution of \$500 as support for the work we do. Our special thanks will be conveyed to them post conference.

Ron Flook, National Registrar

Gardener Editor Retires

New Zealand Gardener magazine's editor, Julian Mathews has handed over the reins of editorship to Pamela McGeorge, his assistant for the last four years.

After 11 years, Julian plans to spend more time with his family and in the garden but will continue writing a monthly garden diary and special features. His next project is Fragrant Garden Ideas due to appear in October.

Pleased with the NZ Gardener's growth during his editorship, he says the magazine was black and white, about 72-76 pages and sales were 10,000 when he took over. It's now full colour, often more than 60 pages and sells 75,000 copies.

Overseas trips garden-trend-watching have been an annual highlight. "I met several successful Kiwis overseas like landscape designer Antony Paul in the UK and florist Barry Ferguson in New York. They're ordinary Kiwis who have succeeded and who now mix with the world's elite." He says.

Julian is optimistic about the future of gardening.

Growers and retailers who are doing well "have a positive approach, keep the bright ideas going and don't allow themselves to look back," he says, noting people will get sick and tired of the 'food thing'.

"Despite the gloom and doom some amazing things are about to happen."

"We just need to show people different and avant-garde ways of using plants then horticulture will leap right back up to the top of the fashion stakes."

Commercial Horticulture, August 1998



From the Herbaceous Border

One of my favourite genera of herbaceous plants is Campanula or bell-flower. There are 300 or so species in this genus and many are well known garden plants, such as *C. persicifolia*; *C. pyramidalis* and *C. rotundifolia* (the harebell). There are many, however, which are not found in a lot of gardens and well deserve to be much better known. Two of these are among the front rank of border perennials and it is a mystery to me as to why they are not more appreciated. The first I will mention is *C. primulifolia*. This handsome plant forms a basal rosette of leaves which looks for all the world like an extremely healthy and vigorous primrose, hence the specific name. A flowering stem arises from this base and freely branches, giving the effect of a many stemmed plant and a pyramidal outline. The stem leaves become smaller and stemless as they ascend the stem. The large and broad, bell-shaped (of course) flowers are carried in a spike at the end of the stems and also in clusters of 3-5 in the lower leaf axils. The petal colour is a lovely purple-blue, shading to a much paler base which gives the effect of a pale 'eye' to the flower. The maximum height of the stems is approximately 95cm and you would need to allow one plant a space of 45cm. *C. primulifolia* is a native of Portugal and, despite its Mediterranean origin, is fully hardy. It prefers a moistish soil with plenty of organic matter and which does not dry out too much in the summer. Grow in full sun or very light shade. Propagation is by seed although seedlings are not easy to raise as they tend to die if allowed to get even slightly dry or over wet and I have found that they are a favourite snack food for slugs and snails! Once they are of a reasonable size, they are no trouble at all.

My second selection from the genus Campanula is *C. pulla*. The specific name, pulla, means 'very dark' and this is, indeed, probably the darkest flowered of all the bell-flowers. Although fairly well known overseas, I have only rarely come across it in New Zealand gardens. This little plant slowly expands its territory by means of creeping, rhizomatous roots which grow up rosettes of small, glossy, round and toothed leaves. From each of these rosettes a slim stem arises which is surmounted by a surprisingly large bell flower of deep violet blue. Although a spreading plant, it is definitely not

invasive and most gardeners would wish that it would spread much more quickly than it does. The flowering stems attain a maximum height of 10cm and my plants have spread to a width of about 45cm in three years. The main flowering time is early to mid-summer and the flowers are very profusely produced, so much so that it can, literally, flower itself to death. However, propagation is reasonably simple, just lift a rosette, complete with a few roots, in the early spring and replant in a shady and moist spot until established. *C. pulla* disappears completely in the winter time and you have to be careful when forking over the soil that you don't dig out the plant. Sun or light to medium shade suits it well as long as the soil is moist, with plenty of humus. Some lime is an advantage as this is a lime-loving plant.

A genus which I have lately come to appreciate more and more is Euphorbia. This is a very large and diverse genus with around two thousand species, ranging from ground-hugging annuals to large trees. However, those we are more concerned about are the one hundred or so that will fit comfortably into our gardens and, of these, one of my favourites is *Euphorbia sikkimensis*. Being fully winter dormant and coming from an altitude of over 3000m in the Himalaya, it is completely hardy. The flowering stems rise to a height of 90-95cm and carry heads of typical flowers in bright lemon-yellow. It has the big advantage of not coming into flower until the late summer thus extending considerably the Euphorbia season. The leaves are bright apple-green with a distinctive, pinkish-white midrib and noticeable veining. As mentioned, *E. sikkimensis* dies right down in winter and another of its most attractive features is that the new stems, which appear in early spring, are a bright pink, almost red. Propagate by seed or division and grow in normal garden soil in sun or light shade.

References

- Huxley, A. (editor) 1992: R.H.S. Dictionary of Gardening: Vols 1-4. Macmillan Press.
Jelitto, L and Schacht, W. 1990: Hardy Herbaceous Perennials: Vols 1 & 2. Timber Press.
Lewis, P and Lynch, M. 1989: Campanulas: Christopher Helm.



ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As At 31 December 1997

1996		1997
\$		\$
	CURRENT ASSETS	
15,147.03	BNZ Cheque Account	5,618.29
150.97	BNZ Open Gardens Account	-
12,541.60	BNZ Publishing Account	13,260.71
4,831.15	G.S.T. Retention Account	1,750.10
<u>32,670.75</u>		<u>20,629.10</u>
	LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	
16,942.31	Accounts Payable	2,385.10
<u>15,728.44</u>	WORKING CAPITAL	<u>18,244.00</u>
	INVESTMENTS	
1,398.50	Trust Bank 09 DD Baker Account	1,462.04
83,399.57	Trusts and Bequests Bank of New Zealand	80,710.76
<u>84,798.07</u>		<u>82,172.80</u>
	FIXED ASSETS (NOTE 5)	
659.00	Office Equipment	43.00
<u>\$101,185.51</u>		<u>\$100,459.80</u>
	REPRESENTED BY:	
	NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	
83,018.94	Trust Account Prizes (Note 3)	80,710.76
380.63	Bequests and Other Funds (Note	-
<u>83,399.57</u>		<u>80,710.76</u>
	CAPITAL	
17,785.94	Accumulated Funds	19,749.04
<u>\$101,185.51</u>		<u>\$100,459.80</u>

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
For The Year Ended 31 December 1997

1996		1997
\$		\$
	INCOME	
	Examination Entry	-
2,390.66	Examinations	-
803.29	Advertising in Journal	1,635.56
1,104.80	Donations	1,326.69
5,921.17	Open Gardens Income	-
2,465.50	Interest Received	918.16
162.14	Notable Trees	575.55
1,605.03	N.Z.A.A.	-
9.78	Phormium	-
637.01	Sales of Books and Journals	682.58
26,412.38	Subscriptions	20,383.97
3,816.31	Sundry Income	4,662.12
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45,328.07	GROSS INCOME	30,184.63
	LESS EXPENSES	
932.15	Accident Compensation Levies	113.20
3,000.00	Accountancy & Audit	2,033.33
1,253.98	Advertising	-
60.75	Bank Charges	47.51
78.23	Computer Supplies	4.44
626.00	Depreciation	616.00
463.78	Insurance	244.45
308.15	National Executive Travel etc	-
-	Notable Trees	1,564.98
7,679.57	Newletters and Journals	11,590.19
3,818.16	N.Z.A.A.	-
12,447.26	Open Garden Expenses	-
13,153.80	Printing and Stationery	906.31
2,882.57	Postage and Telephone	1,528.82
-	Prizes Paid	4,444.44
3,000.00	Rent	3,000.00
506.90	Repairs and Maintenance	290.19
9,200.49	Salary and Office Wages	9,803.80
488.53	Sundry Expenses	2,804.25
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59,900.32		38,991.91
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(\$14,572.25)	NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(\$8,807.28)

**ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
For The Year Ended 31 December 1997**

1996		1997
\$		\$
(14,572.25)	NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(8,807.28)
	PLUS	
15,986.75	Transfer of Trusts & Bequests	10,023.01
-	Bequest - B. Holland	1,000.00
-	GST Rounding Adjustment	4.48
15,986.75		11,027.49
1,414.50		2,220.21
	LESS	
-	Historical GST Adjustment	257.11
\$1,414.50	NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$1,963.10

**ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY
For The Year Ended 31 December 1997**

1995		1996
\$		\$
16,371.44	EQUITY AT BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	17,785.94
	SURPLUS AND REVALUATIONS	
1,414.50	Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	1,963.10
\$17,785.94	EQUITY AT END OF THE YEAR	\$19,749.04

Newsletter



Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

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