

# Newsletter



2001  
No. 2  
June

ISBN 1174-6947

Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

## Chairman's Comments

Winter seems to have arrived with a rush after a fairly mild autumn in most places. Good news for snow enthusiasts and a welcome break for the drought stricken areas but shorter days and wet conditions doesn't suit those of us who like to wind down in the garden after work. Still there's always plenty to do...

### Administration

As mentioned in the last newsletter, Enid Reeves has retired. In early March I attended a dinner in Christchurch to acknowledge Enid's long service to the Institute. Around twenty members and friends were there, including several who worked on the executive alongside Enid when she first started 21 years ago. Thanks to David Moyle and the Canterbury Branch for organising the evening and giving Enid such a friendly send-off.

After much deliberation we have appointed Andrew McDrury as office administrator. Andrew is in the office on Tuesdays and can be contacted by the usual phone or email address. A mature student he recently graduated from Lincoln with a Diploma in Horticultural Management and when not working for the Institute is to be found in the greenhouses of a local tomato grower. His appointment is a temporary one, until the executive decides on the future of our administration facilities.

### Publications

The latest RNZIH publication is now available. Last month the *International Register of Hebe Cultivars* prepared by Lawrie Metcalfe finally saw the light of day after many years in the preparation and countless hours proof-reading in the final stages. We are not only indebted to Lawrie, but also to Professor Philip Garnock-Jones and Dr Peter Heenan for their contributions to the text, and to Mike Oates for final editing and the work involved in actually having the book designed and printed. Congratulations to all involved. It's a great looking book and furthers the aims of the Institute as set out in our constitution, to "encourage, foster, improve and educate in all aspects of horticulture." As the International Registration Authority for *Hebe*,

Regretfully, Mike Oates is standing down as editor of our regular publication the *New Zealand Garden Journal* at the end of this year. We have yet to appoint a new editor but would like to as soon as possible. The task is largely voluntary though there is a small honorarium. Any member interested in helping the Institute in the role of editor please contact me. Thanks to Mike's efforts the journal is a regular feature again and with ever-changing technology there's plenty of potential for ongoing improvement.

### Garden Registration Scheme

Following last year's successful seminar in Auckland your executive have been working behind the scenes towards setting up an Institute-managed database of gardens. As there are already several garden-visit based databases readily available through websites and books the executive is aware that an Institute one would need to be both unique and credible. Hence the apparently slow progress. But we're closer to a decision and I'm confident of some firm decisions in the near future. We'll keep you posted - I know many of you are keen for news.

Best regards to all members.  
Andrew Maloy

# Notable Trees Report

A recent visit to Japan in March at the invitation of the Japanese Governments's Forestry Agency was refreshing. The organisation behind the Big Tree Symposium was disciplined and made exceptional by their attention to speakers comfort. Air travel and accommodation was to the highest standard. However everything had to be done on time. Preconference preparations required a flurry of emails, a brief outline by January and a full paper by mid February in readiness for the mid March Symposium.

After a 12 hour journey by air and delays caused by the Tokyo traffic jams meant a bedtime after midnight. It was required that the next day a 7.30am start was to be made with 3 early calls to the bedroom as reminders that the timetable was inviolate.

An escorted bus journey of 2 hours through a snow covered landscape to the venue in Utsonomiya in the Tshigi Prefecture ended in a welcome and the appointment of a personal guide. This guide explained the protocols and positions on stage in the vast auditorium and any personal wishes. This was a daunting experience before an audience of 650. The presentation had to be measured by the unseen interpreters pace. The audience had earphone connections.

New Zealand was selected to give the first paper which is an honour in a country beset by protocols. Fellow speakers were from China, Korea, Malaysia, USA and Japan. The time allowed for delivery was flashed before the speaker. Following the delivery of the papers the audience submitted questions during the 40 minute lunch break. These questions were interpreted, edited and collated before the speakers were brought back on stage for a 2 hour panel question time which was compered by a Japanese TV personality.

The interest in New Zealand and the questions to be answered indicated a great respect for our country and the RNZIH Notable Tree Records. It was suggested in my summary that what was needed was an international database so that our major trees and those of other countries could be evaluated for World Tree Heritage status. New Zealand was offered the opportunity publicly to pilot the challenge. Suffice to say that I won't dwell on my response and my lap top capabilities. Following the gruelling question time a reception was held to host the speakers. A long 2 days.

I was able to spend a week in Japan touring the old Imperial Cities of Nikko, Kyoto and Nara. It was a stunning experience to be personally guided to see their aged and revered trees. At Nikko was the remnant of 40,000 Cryptomerias planted circa 1700 by Matasuduna Matsudaira a lord who is said to have found this cheaper than contributing to the construction of shrines. 13000

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trees remain and all adopted and acknowledged by donors of 10 million yen (NZ \$ 200,000) for the maintenance of each tree. The veneration and care of these trees is extraordinary. They are propped, fenced and immaculately maintained. There is an ethical message for us in their reverence for trees of great sculptural beauty.

A recent report in the Christchurch Star stated that 250 trees within the public parks are to be removed due to declining health and for public safety reasons. This would be unthinkable to the Japanese who fence off their venerated trees and under planting retains the parkland ambience.



On May 19 I have been asked to give the keynote address at the NZAA Hamilton Conference titled 'Tree Protection - Fact or Myth'. The organisers have asked specifically for information on the Big Tree Symposium given in Japan and followed by opinion on the situation in New Zealand.

A recent welcome event has been the formation of the Waikato Tree Trust by NZAA registered members. This may well become the forerunner of some well needed activity for each region. In this way protection mechanisms may come about.

Ron Flook.  
NTNZ National Registrar

## Some examples of trees and shrubs for winter effect

### Flowering

*Abutilon megapotamicum* (Chinese Lantern)  
*Acacia baileyana* (Cootamundra Wattle)  
*Arbutus unedo* (Irish Strawberry Tree)  
*Banksia ericifolia*+  
*Beloperone megastigma* (Lobster Plant)+  
*Bouvardia humboldtii*+  
*Camellia japonica* vars.  
*Camellia sasanqua* vars.  
*Chaenomeles lagenaria* (*cydonia japonica*)  
*Chimonanthus praecox* (Wintersweet)  
*Cornus mas*  
*Correa reflexa* (Australian Fuchsia)  
*Correa pulchella*  
*Daphne mezereum*  
*Daphne odora*  
*Dryandra formosa*+  
*Edgeworthia papyrifera* (Yellow Daphne)  
*Erica* spp.  
*Eriostemon myoporoides*  
*Euphorbia wulfenii*  
*Garrya elliptica*  
*Grevillea rosmarinifolia*  
*Hamamelis mollis* (Chinese Witch Hazel)  
*Hebe speciosa* vars.  
*Jasminum nudiflorum*  
*Luculia gratissima*+  
*Mahonia japonica*  
*Micomyrtus ciliata* (*Baeckia plicata*)  
*Phyllica plumosa*+  
*Pieris japonica*  
*Protea nerifolia*+  
*Prunus mume* vars. (Japanese Apricot)  
*Prunus campanulata*  
*Rhododendron* "Christmas Cheer"  
*Rhododendron micromulatum*  
*Tibouchina semidecandra*+  
*Viburnum fragrans*

### Coloured Stems

*Acer davidii*  
*Acer griseum*  
*Acer palmatum*  
*Betula papyrifera*  
*Betula pendula* (*B. alba*) (Silver Birch)  
*Cornus bailevi*  
*Fraxinus excelsior* "Tibetica"  
*Stephanandra incisa*  
*Cornus alba* (Dogwood)

### Ornamental Foliage

*Aucuba japonica* "variegata"  
*Cedrus atlantica*  
*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* "Stewartii"  
*Chamaecyparis obtusa* vars.  
*Dodonaea viscosa* "purpurea"  
*Elaeagnus pungens* "Simonii"  
*Euonymus japonicus* 'Variegatus'  
*Hebe andersonii* 'Variegata'  
*Hoheria populnea* 'Variegata'  
*Meterosideros excelsa* 'Variegata'+  
*Myrtus bullata*  
*Phormium tenax*  
*Pittosporum ralphii* 'Variegatum'  
*Pittosporum tenuifolium* 'Garnetti'  
*Pittosporum tenuifolium* 'Purpureum'  
*Thuja occidentalis* 'Rheingold'  
*Thuja orientalis* 'Beverleyensis'  
*Thuja plicata* 'Vervaneana'

### Fruits

*Arbutus unedo*  
*Aucuba japonica*  
*Berberis wilsonae*  
*Callicarpa dichotoma*  
*Celastrus scandens*  
*Cotoneaster horizontalis*  
*Crataegus stipulacea* (*C. mexicana*)  
*Ilex aquifolium* vars.  
*Malus* 'Jack Humm'  
*Pernettya mucronata*  
*Pyracantha* spp.  
*Ruscus aculeatus*  
*Sarcococca ruscifolia*  
*Skimmia Japonica*

+ Requires a warm position

# Gardens 2001, Congress. Canberra, Australia. 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2001.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of April I travelled to Canberra to attend the Gardens 2001 Congress for Botanic Gardens. 170 delegates attended the Congress. There were representatives from Botanic Gardens and Educational and Horticultural institutions from Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Singapore and South America.

Over the three days 68 papers were presented, with speakers from Britain, USA, China, New Zealand and Australia covering the following four main themes: Management in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Public Programmes/ Education, Horticulture, and Plant Science/ Conservation.

From the congress there were three principal conceptions that came through from all the speakers that were relevant to all Botanic Gardens including Christchurch.

Firstly all Botanic Gardens no matter what size, even if they seem to be doing the same things and growing the same plants, are **unique**. Secondly that it up us as Botanic Gardens to identify that uniqueness along with why we are important and to **promote** that by using education programmes, interpretation, forming partnerships, and marketing. Lastly to be **the best** we can be. This does not mean being better than any other gardens but to identify the resources available and using them to their maximum.

The congress finished on a discussion on the need to form networks and how this may help us to achieve our goals. It was clear, from this congress that as we move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century future development within Botanic Gardens in New Zealand must embrace these ideals.

During the Congress I was able to visit the Australian National Botanic Gardens situated in Canberra. This Botanic Garden is devoted purely to native plants of Australia. This perhaps highlighted the need in New Zealand to develop a national collection.

Following the congress I participated in the field trip to the Booderee Botanic Gardens. This is situated in the middle of the Booderee National Park on the NSW coast at Jervis Bay. To get there from Canberra we travelled east through Braidwood and Budawang National Park to Batemans Bay and then north along the coast to Nowra for an overnight stay. The next day after spending the morning at Booderee BG we headed north to Fitzroy Falls in the Morton National Park and then back to Canberra through Goulburn on the Hume Highway.

For any further information on the Congress and other visits of my trip please do not hesitate to contact me.

Bede Nottingham  
Collection Curator.  
Christchurch Botanic Gardens.



# Towards an Australasian network of Botanic and Public Gardens and related practitioners.

Recently a Gardens 2001 Congress for Botanic Gardens was held in Canberra Australia. It brought together people from botanic gardens, parks, zoos, industry suppliers, Friends and others with an interest in botanic and other gardens.

The following is an edited version of a discussion paper that was presented proposing arrangements for a national organisation of botanic and public Gardens for Australasia.

Various botanical focused organisations such as Council of the Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens through to Friends of Botanic Gardens have been identified as key organisations and stakeholders relating to botanic and public gardens. External stakeholders such as American, UK and Europe based Botanic Gardens and organisations were also acknowledged.

Issues were established that would be important in shaping the composition of a national organisation. The identified stake holders and issues together led to the formulation of the qualities that an organisation representing botanic and public gardens needed. From these three analyses a proposed system was presented.

## Proposal

### Gardens Australasia: The Association of Botanic and Public Gardens of Australasia

A network of organisations and people in Australia, New Zealand and neighbouring countries dedicated to inspiring people about plants through horticulture, science, conservation, education, culture and passive recreation.

#### To:

- Raise the botanical and horticultural profile of all members through knowledge sharing and networking
- Advocate the interests of members nationally and internationally
- Raise the profile of public gardens practitioners through special interest groups, training programs, etc
- Increase communication between members and

member organisations

- Foster horticulture, science, conservation, education and culture in Public Gardens
- Hold solely, or in conjunction with affiliated groups, a biennial conference to promote awareness raising, networking and the organisation
- Lobby for national recognition of Botanic and Public Gardens as vital organisations in the conservation of plant biological diversity
- Foster regional and special interest groups under the umbrella of the organisation

#### Members will gain:

- Face to face and electronic communication with their peers in botanic and public gardens in Australasia
- Access to regional groupings of like organisations
- Up-to-date information (special interest articles, equipment sales, question and answers, expert advice).
- Access to the best international information through Gardens Australasia acting as a conduit and filter for this
- Lobbying power with Federal, State/Territory and Local Governments, the business community, charitable foundations and trusts
- Centralised access to information on funding sources
- The ability to influence the evolution and direction of the practice of botanic and public gardening in Australasia
- Training and development opportunities not available in any other public garden forum
- Membership of special interest groups, for example, collection development, IT,



- interpretation
- Promotion of their industry to the wider community

## Structure

As an incorporated not-for-profit organisation, with an elected Board and three membership categories: organisational, individual and corporate

## Communication

As communication and knowledge sharing is one of the key objectives of Gardens Australasia, communication will be fostered through the Internet, e-mail and list servers. Paper publications will be produced periodically (e.g. a magazine, but the emphasis will be on the use of the Internet) and on specific 'one off' subjects. A biennial conference of members and other interested parties will be held and Garden Australasia will also facilitate regional and special interest groupings of members.

## Training and development Opportunities

A crucial aspect of the network will be to facilitate training and development opportunities for member gardens and individuals. This will range from access to training courses run nationally or regionally, master classes in specialist areas (e.g. herbarium techniques, tissue culture, molecular testing, education programs, garden design, new plants for public horticulture, plant development) to facilitation of a national network for staff secondments and exchange programs. Intern exchange programs and programs designed around volunteer programs represent additional areas which are likely to be of benefit to many gardens

### Funding through subscriptions

## Conclusion

It was resolved that a working party should begin the formation/transition process. The working party should be representative of the potential members. It is expected that once a formal proposal is completed it will be available for further comment.

Authors of the discussion paper were Mark Richardson, Paul Scannell, Rob Small, Kingsley Dixon and Frank Howarth with contributions from the Council of Heads of Botanic Gardens members.

# Notes For Authors of the New Zealand Garden Journal

- The NZ Garden Journal is a professional journal aimed at those with an in depth interest in plants, gardens and open space. Articles should treat issues in detail but are not expected to be of refereed journal standard.
- The Journal is published twice a year in June and December. Copy dates are April 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> respectively.
- Papers should be a maximum of 4000 words.
- Papers should be typed in double spacing on A4 sized paper, leaving a margin of at least 30mm on the left. Type face should be a minimum of point size 12 in Times New Roman or similar. Sheets should be numbered consecutively. One hard copy of the article is required.
- Papers should include photographs and/or illustrations if necessary. Photographs should be supplied ideally as black and white prints of at least 150 x 200mm with identification in pencil in reverse. Colour slides are acceptable provided they are identified on the cover. Captions should be typed at the end of the paper. All original photographs and slides will be returned.
- Articles should be supplied on disc in Microsoft Word or RTF format. Any particularly complex tables should be supplied as separate excel files. They can also be e mailed to the editor as an attachment.
- Authors will not receive papers back for proofing unless they specify this when submitting the paper. Papers will only be returned to authors if major editorial changes are required.
- Authors will receive a complimentary copy of the Journal on publication. Additional copies will be available at cost.
- References should follow the convention of author and date in the text - Naylor and Johnson (1937) - and should be listed at the end of the paper as follows:

Naylor, E.E. and Johnson, B. 1937: A Histological Study of Vegetative Reproduction in *Saintpaulia ionantha*. *American Journal of Botany*. 24: 673 – 678.

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# INTERNATIONAL REGISTER OF HEBE CULTIVARS

PREPARED BY LAWRIE METCALF AHRIH

On behalf of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc)

This major work, prepared over the past fifteen years will provide an invaluable reference for all those interested in growing Hebe as garden plants, as well as those involved in correct naming of cultivars. It contains

- Names and descriptions of nearly 800 Hebe cultivars, including synonyms, incorrect and invalid names,
- Major sections on the taxonomy of Hebe prepared by Professor Philip Garnock Jones and on the history of Hebe as a garden plant by Dr Peter Heenan,

The 224-page booklet contains colour plates of a selection of Hebe cultivars and is attractively bound.

## Special Membership offer (20% discount) of \$48 plus \$3.50 p&p

To order your copy of the Hebe Register please complete the form below and send it with your remittance to RNZIH, Box 12, Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand.

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INTERNATIONAL REGISTER OF  
*Hebe Cultivars*

L.J. Metcalf



*Newsletter*



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