

Newsletter



2002
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Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

Chairman's Comments

Eighty years on

This year sees the 80th anniversary of the Institute. At a meeting of the Dominion conference of nurserymen in 1922 a motion was put forward to set up a school of horticulture. This led to the formation of "The New Zealand Institute of Horticulture" which in 1939 was granted approval by the King, "to make use of the prefix Royal in the title of the Institute." The Institute was registered as an incorporated society in 1923 and District Councils (now Branches) were soon established.

In November last year members and Associates of Honour attended a lunch held by Auckland Branch to celebrate their 75 years as an active group. Started in 1923, the branch was in abeyance for several years during the war. I urge other District Branches and members everywhere to take the opportunity this year to get together, make new friendships and renew old acquaintances. Let's all celebrate 80 years of horticultural progress.

Journal

Dr John Clemens of Massey University has taken over as editor of our publication, the New Zealand Garden Journal. John has a background in horticultural research, much of it with practical application. He has published many papers in his own right and for several years edited the New Zealand papers destined for publication in the International Plant Propagators' Society Combined Proceedings. See elsewhere in this newsletter for a short piece from John.

On the subject of the journal, please don't hesitate to offer material for publication. There's a vast wealth of experience and knowledge among our membership that can, and should, be shared. If you have an interest in a particular group of plants, have developed particular growing techniques or visited a place of horticultural or botanical interest for example, the rest of us would like to read about it. Short articles are welcome. Think about it now – what can you offer in

the way of a piece in the next newsletter or journal? Feel free to contact any of the committee, contact details in this newsletter or Dr John Clemens direct at IMBS, Massey University, Palmerston North. Horticultural Training

As mentioned in the last newsletter the Institute is now represented on the Board of Management of the NZ Horticultural Training Organisation. Last month Michael Ayrton attended a meeting in Christchurch and met the other board members, representatives from the NZ Recreation Organisation, NZ Vegetable and Potato Growers Federation, Nursery and Garden Industry Association, NZ Fruitgrowers Association, Landscape Industries Association of NZ, NZ Arboricultural Association, NZ Professional Florists Inc. and Bio-Gro NZ, as well as the HITO personnel. These meetings give us the opportunity to have real input into improving and updating horticultural training. We'll keep you posted, Michael will report regularly about what's going on within HITO.

Conference/AGM 2002

The "Putting Biodiversity Back Into the City" conference in Christchurch proved to be a good idea but various other parties who wished to participate needed more time to plan for the event. So this has now become our focus for 2003. This year we're looking towards Taranaki. Planning is still at an early stage but we expect it to be either mid-late October or mid-November. With the needs and interests of members in mind we'll be aiming at keeping costs to the minimum, lots of garden and nursery visits and a few speakers of interest. Taranaki in springtime is a horticultural bonanza, so start planning now. We'll let you know dates, programme of events and other details soon.

Let's keep growing.
Andrew Maloy
Chairman RNZIH.

Notable Trees NZ.

In the January edition of the American Arboricultural Journal 28(1): Jan 2002 p. 11-18 article headed 'Comparing Formula Methods of Tree Appraisal' by Gary Watson was published. This article reviewed five methods of International Tree Appraisal.

Guide for Plant Appraisal 8th Edition (CTLA United States)

Appraised value = (trunk area in sq. inches) x basic price/square inches x species x condition x location.

Revised Burnley method (Australia)

Appraised value = tree volume x base value x life expectancy x form and vigour x location.

Amenity valuation of Trees and woodlands (Helliwell Great Britain)

Appraised tree value = tree size x life expectancy x importance in the landscape x presence of other trees x relation to setting x form x special factors x British pounds sterling 14.

Standard Tree Evaluation Method (New Zealand)

General categories of Condition criteria (5) + Amenity criteria (5) + Notable (5) = points added for Evaluation not valuation which is a regional option.

Norma Granada (Spain)

Appraised value = (value factor x wholesale cost x condition x cost x condition) x [1 + life expectancy + (aesthetic value + species rarity + site suitability + extraordinary)]

Each method was examined in detail and strengths and weaknesses explored. Six trees were selected for appraisal by a panel of nine individuals. The trees used for the study were the Pin oak (*Quercus palustris*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), Linden (*Tilia* spp.), Kentucky coffee tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*), European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), European ash (*Fraxinus europea*). An average VALUE difference (percentage) was calculated.

The results summary was that "Multiplication increases variation, addition minimises it. Though more explicit rating scales may help in some cases the most effective way of reducing appraiser subjectivity appears to be by minimizing the number of multiplication operations used in the formulae".

Certain items we find questionable.

1. There is confusion in the application of the method between evaluation and valuation.
2. Tree species vary in growth country by country.
3. That geographic (climatic) areas say, across the USA by example are not accounted for.

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Newsletter Copy Deadlines

All contributions from members are welcome.

These can be sent to :
News Letter Editors, RNZIH, P.O. Box 12, Lincoln University, Canterbury.

Deadline Dates :

- | | |
|-------|-------------|
| No. 1 | 28 February |
| No. 2 | 30 June |
| No. 3 | 31 August |
| No. 4 | 23 November |

4. Australia and New Zealand both have native and exotic species but the exotic species are relatively new plantings by Northern Hemisphere standards.
5. A criticism was that STEM only accounted for Notable Trees which is simply not correct as it is used successfully by NZ local authorities for their heritage and landscape tree evaluations which are not necessarily notable.

6. STEM only uses addition for evaluation. The difference between evaluation and valuation is clearly defined. You have to evaluate before putting a valuation on the tree only then are the points multiplied by dollars.

It is re-assuring that we are still on safe ground by being as definitively objective as we can in evaluating an organic object.

Ron Flook National Registrar.

RNZIH Awards and Honours

The RNZIH runs a comprehensive system of awards and honours for both members and non-members. There is one major scholarship awarded annually, worth several thousand dollars. For detailed information on these please write to the RNZIH, P.O. Box 12, Lincoln University, Canterbury. The awards are briefly as follows :

Associate of Honour (AHRIH)

Awarded to persons who have given distinguished service to horticulture in New Zealand. Only 60 people can hold the award at one time.

Fellow (FRIH)

Awarded to members who have made a significant contribution to horticulture and the Institute.

Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Scholarship

A scholarship granted for research, field work, publication, propagation and/or cultivation of plants and any other activity likely to promote and assist the conservation of New Zealand's indigenous and exotic plant genetic resources. Up to \$5,000 is available each year.

Sir Victor Davies Award

Awarded annually to a young person who has demonstrated an outstanding plant knowledge. The recipient receives a certificate plus monetary prize.

Plant Raisers' Award

Awarded to an individual or organisation who has raised in New Zealand a cultivar(s) of outstanding merit.

Ronald Flook Award

Awarded by the New Zealand Arboricultural Association to a person who has contributed to the advancement of arboriculture in New Zealand.

The Memorial Prize Fund

To assist RNZIH members who are horticultural students with the costs of attending seminars, conferences or workshops that are being held in NZ.

Closing Dates: The closing date for these awards **30 April, 2002..**

New RNZIH Student Award THE MEMORIAL PRIZE FUND

PURPOSE:

To assist RNZIH members who are bone fide full or part time horticultural students with the costs of attending seminars, conferences or workshops that are being held within New Zealand.

THE FUND:

The Memorial Prize Fund is made up from a number of previous RNZIH awards. These were: Rita Skellerup Prize, David Tannock Memorial Prize, Dugald McKenzie Prize, Junior Memorial Prize

ELIGIBILITY:

Any financial member of the RNZIH who has been a member for a minimum period of one year and who is a registered full or part time horticultural student at an institution in New Zealand.

CONDITIONS:

- 1 It is expected that the member would make a contribution towards the cost of attending the seminar/conference/workshop to demonstrate their commitment.
- 2 The RNZIH will consider applications for up to 75% of the cost of attending, including travel registration and accommodation.
- 3 Successful applicants must provide evidence of attending by way of receipts or other papers following the event. Failure to comply with this condition the applicant shall be liable to refund all award moneys to the RNZIH.
- 4 The National Executive of the RNZIH reserves the right not to make an award if in its opinion the application is not of sufficient merit, or for any other reason National Executive may decide from time to time.

Applications should be submitted at least **two months** prior to the conference, seminar or workshop:

Chile and New Zealand

(Kindly reprinted from the Auckland Branch Newsletter, June 2001)

Peter Wardle, Cecilia Ezcurra, Carlos Ramírez, Steve Wagstaff 2001. Comparison of the flora and vegetation of the southern Andes and New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 39: 69-108.

Most of us are aware of the floristic relationships between New Zealand and Chile. Both countries were once part of Gondwana so it would not be too surprising if some species or genera turned up in both places. However, it is all too easy to ascribe every relationship to Gondwana and this detailed paper in the latest *NZ Journal of Botany* supplies a very necessary corrective reinforcing earlier suggestions that the floristic similarities mainly results from recent "transoceanic dispersal of propagules". This is reinforced by pointing out that nearly half of the species shared are actually coastal - well placed for long journeys across the Pacific. Seeds could have been carried by birds or on floating logs as well as

travelling by themselves or by wind (although up wind to come here from South America). New Zealand separated from Australia before Australia itself separated from Gondwana so some plants may have arrived secondarily from Australia, coming down wind over the Tasman Sea. There is also some evidence for genera in New Zealand, such as *Nothofagus*, having become extinct and then being re-introduced. A very few species, such as *Hectorella*, a monotypic genus in the Southern Alps, may be "refugees from a formerly vegetated Antarctica".

This is an important paper well worth careful reading.

The Margaret Watling Scholarship

The purpose of this scholarship is to assist people to undertake further study or obtain practical experience in amenity horticulture, ornamental horticulture, nursery management or any other closely allied field. The conditions for this scholarship were reviewed at the end of 2001 and some changes were introduced. The main one was that the scholarship may be held at a teaching or training institute, preferably in the United Kingdom, but also at such Institutes in the United States, Canada, Australia, or New Zealand.

Another change was to increase the age of applicants, those under the age of 35 are eligible to apply. The

value of the award is up to \$5,000.

Applicants must have studied or are studying for an approved qualification at the RNZIH or at Lincoln University, or at an equivalent horticultural training organisation. Applicants must have resided in the South Island for at least two years prior to the award.

Applications close on the 31 March 2002 with: The Scholarship Manager, P.O. Box 94, Lincoln University, Canterbury. Full details of this scholarship and the application form are available from the Scholarship manager.

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