

Newsletter



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Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

Chairman's Comments

Spring is definitely in the air. In Auckland at least, most magnolias are past their best, plum trees are coming into flower and the best of the *Prunus* is yet to come. Soon gardens everywhere will spring fully into life and that part of horticulture compulsory to us all (visiting other people's gardens for pleasure and inspiration) will be in full swing.

Garden Registration Scheme

Most of you will be aware that for the last two or three years the executive committee has been investigating the feasibility of such a scheme. At our last executive meeting (a teleconference) the motion was passed that a RNZIH National Register of Gardens be established. Executive committee member Jayson Kelly has been instrumental in producing and revising business plans, proposals and budgets, which have eventually led to this decision. It has always been of paramount importance to the executive that any such scheme should in no way jeopardise the finances of the Institute. The scheme approved thus far is based on a self-funding principle. It requires 15 'Founding' gardens to sign up to the scheme, or equivalent sponsorship, to get things up and running. The NRG sub-committee consisting of representatives from the Institute, tourism industry and garden owners has already procured some sponsorship to help promote the scheme to potential founding garden owners.

The aim of the NRG is to set up a database that will contain accurate and objective information on gardens that are open to visitors, both public and private. The difference between the Institute NRG and other similar websites, books and databases is that the information provided by the Institute will be true and correct, verified and endorsed by the reputation of the RNZIH. Garden owners will pay to have their gardens assessed and for the information to be available on our database, which will fund the scheme. The database will be made available to tourism and public sector organisations, to be used for garden promotions, both nationally and internationally. Research has shown there is a demand for this type of database. Providing this service will not only raise the profile of the RNZIH and lead to an increase in membership (all gardens on the database will be required to be members) it will go a long way towards

furthering one of the main objectives of the Institute, to promote excellence in gardening and horticulture.

Already owners of gardens open to the public are being sent information packs about the scheme and being invited to participate. Depending on founding gardens signing up a final decision to proceed will be made in November, providing the business of the NRG will not put the assets of the RNZIH at risk in any way.

We owe Jayson Kelly a vote of thanks for the huge effort it has taken to finally get this seed, which was sown several years ago, to the point of germinating.

Conference 2002

Mark your calendars and diaries. November 15, 16 and 17 are the dates. With the help of members in Taranaki and the generosity of the NZ Arboricultural Association who are holding their annual conference at the same time, an interesting programme of garden and nursery visits, Banks Memorial Lecture and a chance to view the vegetation on Mt Taranaki has been arranged. We hope to attract as many members as possible. The weekend in question is after the Taranaki Rhododendron Festival so there will be plenty of reasonably priced accommodation, and it's before the Ellerslie Flower Show, so you won't miss out!

Further details and a registration form are in this newsletter. Please register early to make life easier for the organisers.

The Institute Annual General Meeting will be held at 4.30pm Saturday 16 November at the Plymouth International Hotel, New Plymouth.

Taranaki in springtime is a great experience. Don't miss this opportunity to visit some of the most interesting and unique gardens and nurseries in the country.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

Andrew Maloy
Chair RNZIH Executive Committee

A New Direction for the Institute

Horticulture and gardening are becoming increasingly popular worldwide both as a leisure pursuit and as a profession. The latest RNZIH initiative will cater to this growing demand through the National Register of Gardens (NRG) — a database of New Zealand gardens open to the public. With increased exposure both nationally and internationally the NRG will assist the Institute in reaching a far wider audience and also promote horticulture through the public and private gardens of New Zealand.

The information stored on the Register's database will be made available to the tourism industry for national and international garden promotion, including specialised garden tours and also to the independent garden visitor via the NRG website and associated publications.

So, benefits all-round but how does this scheme actually work? There are two categories of membership — **Assessed gardens and Gardens of Excellence**. All gardens begin as Assessed gardens; an RNZIH appointed assessor visits each garden to verify that the information supplied to the Register is accurate; reassessment will occur once every 5 years. The website can include a photograph of the garden along with the information given by garden owners. Two assessors will visit garden owners wishing to apply for the second category; the garden will be graded according to a set of strict criteria such as design, plant content and presentation. Gardens in this category are ones that the RNZIH endorses as gardens of outstanding quality; a Garden of Excellence logo on the website, accompanied by up to five photographs will distinguish these two categories. Reassessment will take place every 3 years to ensure high standards are maintained. All member gardens in both categories benefit from automatic membership to the RNZIH.

In order to establish the Register a third one-off category is being created. Garden owners who wish to support the NRG by way of a monetary donation will be known as **Founding Gardens**. This valuable contribution in assisting to launch the NRG will be acknowledged by the addition of a distinctive logo on the website, and an acknowledgement of their founding contribution. Without this support from the industry, the NRG will not be possible.

At present a five person NRG sub-committee, based in Dunedin, is working furiously and against the clock in an attempt to promote the scheme and raise sufficient funds in order to establish the Register. This is an exciting opportunity for both the Institute and garden owners throughout the country, an opportunity that we must seize if we are to ensure the future success of our horticulture industry. Promoting our gardens worldwide will further enhance New Zealand's reputation and with RNZIH backing elevate gardening and horticulture to its' rightful place in society.

The NRG will only be successful if the information published is credible and accurate. This sets it apart from other schemes. To achieve this, the RNZIH has to identify suitably qualified, experienced and respected people to undertake the role of assessors. It is intended to bring in assessors from outside the region for "Gardens of Excellence" so as to keep the assessments as objective as possible. At this stage, the NRG will need approximately 8 assessors nationally to give the coverage. If you know of

RNZIH DIRECTORY

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someone who fits the shoes as an assessor, please let the NRG sub-committee know. Potential assessors will be approached with more information in September. Also if you have a garden open to the public, and have not yet received a letter, please contact Jayson Kelly, Chairperson of the sub-committee, either via the Institutes office, or by email to jkelly@dcc.govt.nz to get onto the mailing list.

RNZIH 2002 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 16 November 2002 at 4.30pm
at the Plymouth International Hotel, New Plymouth.

Agenda

1. Apologies/In Memoriam
2. Minutes of the 2001 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2001 AGM
4. Chairman's Report
5. Statement of Accounts for 2002 and Budget for 2003
6. Branch Reports
7. Election of Officers, Patron, Vice Patrons, President, National Executive, Auditor and Hon
Solicitor
8. General Business
 - 8.1. Subscriptions
 - 8.2. Notable Trees
 - 8.3. Publications
 - 8.4. Garden Registration Scheme
 - 8.5. Annual Conference 2003
 - 8.6. Other
9. Presentation of Institute Awards will be prior to the Banks Memorial Lecture to be held at the
Plymouth Hotel.

CONGRATULATIONS — CHARLIE CHALLENGER AHRIH

The founder of Landscape Architecture teaching and research at Lincoln University, Charlie Challenger of Okuti Valley, Central Canterbury, received the degree of Doctor of Natural Resources *honoris cause* at Lincoln University Graduation Ceremony on 12 April 2002.

Charlie Challenger, appointed as a Lecturer in Horticulture in 1956, pursued landscape architecture qualifications in Britain in the mid-1960s and returned to Lincoln to establish the discipline here. Indeed Lincoln set the Australasian precedent by establishing the first full-time course (Australia at the time had only part-time post graduate courses). He was the driving force behind the establishment of the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects in the early 1970s and essentially Charlie was responsible for bringing into being the profession of landscape architecture as we know it today in New Zealand.

Albie Smith's lasting legacy

By Ralph Ballinger

This article appeared in the Marlborough Express on 8 February 2002 and is reproduced by kind permission of the author

A lasting memorial to Albie Ellwood Smith, who passed away recently, is the registration of more than 200 Marlborough trees on the national register of Notable Trees of New Zealand and the planting of more than 3000 trees in various projects around the province.

At a time when many people are rueing the loss of many of our valuable trees, Albie's work carried out of the last 20 years becomes all the more notable.

The research, recording and photographing of these historic trees, many planted in the middle of last century, have been a valuable contribution to the Notable Trees scheme operated by the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture. They also form the central core of the Marlborough District Council's list of important trees for the district schemes.

Albie had a lifelong love of plants, starting off after he left school, when he assisted his father in the running of a plant nursery in Auckland raising trees and shrubs.

While serving overseas in World War 2 he made the most of his time in Italy. Visiting and observing notable trees of that country. On his return to New Zealand, he became involved with landscaping, working in closely with the Forestry Research Institute and Lincoln College.

Joining the Rangiora Borough Council he became superintendent of parks and reserves and was instrumental in setting up the Matawhai Park, which has now become a notable reserve for native trees.

On retiring to Picton about 1989 Albie and his wife Dorothy became closely involved with the Marlborough Branch of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, and this led on to his involvement in the registration of trees for the institute.

This interest took Albie, at his own expense, all over Marlborough recording the Norfolk pines at Kaikoura, the oak tree planted in 1930 at the Rev Samuel Ironside's memorial site in Port Underwood, and the historic

collection of trees on Hillersden Farm in the Wairau Valley.

This farm, first known as Hillersden Run No 6, was squatted on by Edward Sweet in 1849. In 1854 the Carter brothers took up this run and planted a collection of plants collected from Europe and America, both on the farm and in Burleigh Park. It is in this way that the registration of these notable trees records not only the trees themselves, but also the history of the people and the development of Marlborough.

Albie's interest in trees did not stop there. He also became involved in 10 major plantings throughout the province. Working with the Marlborough District Council, service groups, Outward Bound, the Forest and Bird Society, local schools and periodic detention workers, he took every opportunity to plant more trees for the future.

In 1990, he took a leading role in the Greening of Marlborough project. Through his contact with the Forestry Research Institute he was able to source a supply of young trees and also supplemented these with hundreds of plants which he propagated on his own property.

His dedicated work on trees was recognised nationally with the presentation to him by the New Zealand Arboricultural Association's prestigious Ronald Flook Award which honours people who "will have demonstrated a deep empathy with trees whether functional or aesthetic".

Albie's interest in plants did not stop at trees, as for many years he took a great interest in the hybridising of the rarer species of camellias, producing some outstanding new hybrids which he took great delight in giving away to his friends.

Besides narrating details of Marlborough's trees in words, Albie also recorded their description with photographs and it was his wish that these be stored in the archives at Brayshaw Park and so become a permanent part of the history of Marlborough.

CRAIG PHILLIPS BCM CA
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CA-PDC
Springston
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Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture
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Canterbury

24/4/2002

MANAGEMENT LETTER

Dear Sir/Madam

The Audit for the year ending 31 December 2001 was completed on the 22 April 2002.

The Institute has reported a loss of \$12,052 this financial year. The prime reason for the loss is due to the Hebe checklist project. The cost of the project was \$11,134 with revenues of \$5,249 leaving a shortfall of \$5,885. The overall shortfall may be less as further copies of the book are sold in the coming year. Wages had also increased by \$3,694 as the replacement to Enid settles in.

The cashflow statement continues to work well however there are no workings that reconcile it back to the bank statement. The cashflow statement could be done on a cash basis which would mean coding directly off the bank statement. Balancing back to the bank statement then becomes automatic. As the GST is on a payments basis these figures can easily be calculated by formula. I can discuss this further if needed.

Bank Reconciliations on the cheque account were performed on a monthly basis when Enid Reeves was employed. Unfortunately this has not continued with Andrew McDrury. Reconciling the bank statement for the cheque account each month is good accounting practice. I recommend that the Cheque account bank statement be reconciled each month and is retained on file for audit purposes.

GST input calculations for the return ending the 30 September 2001 were incorrect according to audit calculations. Wages and PAYE were included in the input tax. There is no GST on wages or PAYE so these items must be excluded from input tax. The result of this error is an over claim of \$570.91 of GST.

I recommend the next GST return be adjusted for this error. In addition it would be good if the GST return be reviewed by David Shilletto before filing.

Should you have any queries with this letter or the audit, please don't hesitate to contact the writer.

Yours Sincerely



CRAIG PHILLIPS
Auditor

Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants

Auditing, Cashflows, Financial Accounts, GST Returns, Tax Returns

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2001

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
INCOME:		
Conference Fees	350.00	0
Donations	944.00	486
Hebe Register	5,249.26	0
Interest Received	576.04	820
Notable Trees	948.65	1,275
Publications Services	2,855.24	3,383
Subscriptions	16,865.28	9,701
Sundry Income	0.00	127
Wellington Conference Surplus	0.00	4,000
GROSS INCOME	27,788.47	19,792
Less EXPENSES:		
Accident Compensation Levies	44.94	67
Accountancy and Audit	1,600.00	1,600
Advertising / Publicity	195.00	0
AGM Expenses	1,101.99	0
Bank Charges	51.10	45
Hebe Checklist	11,134.00	0
Insurances	368.30	333
Internet Expenses	328.99	224
Notable Trees	1,050.83	391
Newsletters and Journals	9,074.08	5,617
Printing and Stationery	167.06	1,244
Postage and Telephone	1,246.89	1,166
Publication Services	843.63	2,345
Rent	1,500.00	1,500
Salary and Office Wages	9,832.76	6,138
Sundry Expenses	460.52	700
TOTAL EXPENSES	39,000.09	21,370
NET CASH PROFIT (LOSS)	(11,211.62)	(1,578)
FIXED ASSET COSTS:		
Depreciation	841.00	1,307
TOTAL FIXED ASSET COSTS	841.00	1,307
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(12,052.62)	(2,885)
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	<u><u>\$(12,052.62)</u></u>	<u><u>\$(2,885)</u></u>

NOTE: This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements

**ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2001**

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
CURRENT ASSETS		
BNZ Cheque Account	16,152.58	11,946
BNZ Publishing Account	3,715.65	15,199
GST Retention Account	0	253
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>19,868.23</u>	<u>27,398</u>
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	5,185.26	2,555
GST Retention Account	1,104.81	0
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>6,290.07</u>	<u>2,555</u>
WORKING CAPITAL	<u>13,578.16</u>	<u>24,843</u>
INVESTMENTS		
BNZ - DD Baker Account	2,713.31	2,660
TRUSTS and BEQUESTS - Bank of New Zealand	91,957.48	86,852
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	<u>94,670.79</u>	<u>89,512</u>
FIXED ASSETS		
Fixed Assets as per Schedule	1,098.00	1,939
	<u>\$109,346.95</u>	<u>\$116,294</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trust Account Prizes (Note 2)	91,957.48	86,852
CAPITAL		
Accumulated Funds	17,389.47	29,442
	<u>\$109,346.95</u>	<u>\$116,294</u>

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Chairperson

NOTE: This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements

**ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS OF EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2001**

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
Equity at Beginning of the Year: 1.1.01	29,442.09	32,327
Plus:		
Net Surplus (Deficit) for the year	(12,052.62)	(2,885)
Transfer of Trusts & Bequests	0.00	4,500
	<u>17,389.47</u>	<u>33,942</u>
Less:		
Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Scholarship - Dr John Clemens	0.00	4,500
Equity at End of the Year: 31.12.01	<u><u>\$17,389.47</u></u>	<u><u>\$29,442</u></u>

NOTE: This Statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Financial Statements

**ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2001**

2. TRUST ACCOUNT PRIZES

	CAPITAL	INCOME	EXPENSES PAID OUT / SCHOLARSHIPS	TOTAL 2001	2000
Sir Victor Davies Award	3,650.00	3,676.91		7,326.91	6,987.04
Junior Memorial Prize Award	500.00	1,086.76		1,586.76	1,513.34
Dugald MacKenzie Memorial Prize Award	500.00	1,753.22		2,253.22	2,148.76
Notable Trees Trust	2,509.58	296.25		2,805.83	2,654.80
Peter Skellerup Prize Fund No.1	37,000.00	18,772.81		55,772.81	52,557.78
Peter Skellerup Prize Fund No.2	10,000.00	2,861.20		12,861.20	12,131.14
Rita Skellerup Prize Fund	2,500.00	4,965.32		7,465.32	7,061.85
David Tannock Memorial Prize Fund	500.00	1,385.43		1,885.43	1,797.25
	\$57,159.58	\$34,797.90	\$0.00	\$91,957.48	86,851.96

AUDITORS NOTE

The Institute has reported a loss of \$12,052 this financial year. The prime reason for the loss is due to the Hebe Checklist project. The cost of the project was \$11,134 with revenues of \$5,249 leaving a shortfall of \$5,885. The overall shortfall may be less as further copies of the book are sold in the coming year.

Craig Phillips
Auditor



Notable Trees NZ



Recent registration No. 376

Tribute to a Queen

By Vigo Skov Nielsen, the owner, 130 McHendry Road, Outram

Joseph Cookson came by way of the goldfields in Australia, to settle at Roseburn, our lifestyle property. He brought with him several seeds of *Eucalyptus regnans*, which he planted 136 years ago. Only two of the seeds grew, and this is their story.

Recently the largest tree was measured by experts from the Taieri Historical Society to ascertain whether it might be the largest of its kind in New Zealand. The height is 57m, canopy width 50m, girth 11m. It would take 9 average people holding hands to reach around its girth. The tree stands across the valley from our cottage, where the mighty giant completely dominates the view. On days when the wind blows, the long streamers of loose bark hanging down the trunk flutter and the leaves shimmer like a thousand sequins on the dress of this undisputed queen of our valley. A crystal clear mountain stream, with its source deep in the heart of Maungatua, flows gently past the feet of Her Majesty, sustaining her with all the essential mineral leached from the ancient rocks of the mountain.

The Queen starts her day in the grey light of dawn, with three magpies yodelling from the topmost branch. Four native pigeons are already in position to take advantage of the first rays of the sun as it reaches Her Majesty. A white faced heron alights on a branch, with a view over the fish pond, and before long flaps down to search for a meal. When the sun warms the huge buttresses at the base, lizards come out below, but they must be wary because soon the kingfisher will be there with breakfast in mind. Two rabbits frolic in the long grass with cottontails erect. This is the place where Mary, the wife of Joseph, used to boil her laundry in the copper and rinse it in the stream.

The Queen's jewels, the Rosella Parakeets, dressed in red, green and royal blue, arrive at noon in a chattering group, stopping briefly before they move to the apple tree nearby to munch on the ripening fruit. There is a moment of disquiet when a dancing stoat appears at the foot of the gum. The rabbits and lizards are nowhere to be seen now. They know when to make themselves scarce. A flock of starlings, congregating on the branches overhanging the creek, take flight towards their nightly roost in the cedars above. The shadows begin to fall over the mill house cradled by the roots of the Queen's consort as he stands there, reaching for the sky with his double trunks. The mighty waterwheel, which once powered Joseph Cookson's chaffcutter, no longer turns. The creek changed course during a powerful rainstorm. No longer will the Queen hear the creaking from the wheel below. Only nature's enchanting music reaches her ears as she grows old with grace. She has not been barren. Next to her stands the Crown Prince. A tree of magnificent proportions, and already taller than his mum, destined to become a worthy heir of the realm. At dusk the Morepork flies in to sing his solo, to the orchestral tunes of the whistling frogs. Soon the possums will leave Her Majesty to feast on a bountiful repast of fresh green leaves. The nimble bush rats with their quivering whiskers will also pay homage. A fitting end to a perfect day.

Of all living things on this earth, trees to me are the most impressive, because of their sheer size and beauty. For too long they have been felled and burnt needlessly to pander to human greed. They are very much part of our ecosystem and we ignore that at our peril.

Weeds on the web

Our website has a comprehensive new section profiling Weeds of New Zealand.

Descriptions and illustrations of some 40 species are reproduced with kind permission by the New Zealand Plant Protection Society from their publication "An Illustrated guide to Common Weeds of New Zealand".

Botanical and common names of weeds are listed on the RNZIH site at <http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/weednameslist.htm>, or you can navigate using an Image Gallery at <http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/imagesNZweeds1.htm>

Our website currently attracts more than 1000 visitors per week, and the numbers have been steadily increasing since the site was relaunched in October 2000.

Other than the home page, some of the most popular pages visited feature book reviews, image galleries, alpine plants, hebes, notable trees, sundials, and horticultural links.

Murray Dawson
Webmaster RNZIH

The Magnificent “Mike”

The best farm shade and shelter of the 1930's was the macrocarpa. They were planted by the hundreds. Almost every farm of appreciable age sports a few. There are 'mikes' still recorded as in good health and standing which were planted in 1860¹.

There are other specimens in Auckland City, Killarney Park near the Pumphouse on the North Shore has a big tree with twin trunks. There is a smaller specimen in the grounds of Takapuna Grammar School and a trio in Remuera can be seen from the Southern Motorway so, I ask, why have they fallen so far from favour? You can't buy a macrocarpa seedling for love nor money. Now, 'Leyton Greens' are the flavour of the month.

It must be the 'mikes' growth potential. Once up and going they keep going. In 20 years they can be as tall as 15 to 20 metres. Hey, but wait a minute. Given time and space a Leyton Green will also reach a magnificent size. I sight some 20 year olds every day in a shelter belt around an avocado orchard. On one side they are trimmed to a startling, smooth wall of green. Nice! On the outer side, even sheltered by high gums, they have grown every bit as rugged and bare branched as any ugly old macrocarpa.

The conclusion must be that the advent of high tech cutting machines came too late to save the reputation of macrocarpas, which, from early on, have just been battered and biffed by all sorts, winds and fellas in a hurry with a chainsaw, and grown mighty stropopy in the process. Properly pruned farm trees are rare, too much else to do of more importance, and of course a lot were planted before the appearance of power lines. That spelled the end of them. Wrong place, and massive root systems.

Yet, here and there, some 'mikes' still persist, extending, because of their great height, shelter over 10 to 15 times that height. Some perceive this windbreak as not only useful, but economically viable! Increased productivity, for both animals and pasture, results from such protection from drying winds and inclement weather. Not snow though. Under that weight of white, branches split.

The root structure to support height and weight is deep and abiding. Ten years ago I watched as macrocarpa stumps, 14 of them, were wrested from the earth along a road.

They'd been planted before the advent of power in 1920, so they had to go. They did not give up without a tremendous struggle. After the lateral roots were broken with the brute force of a very large digger and winch, the central roots had to be severed one by one before the stump of approximately 1.6 metres diameter (it was fluted) could be carted away and buried. You could have dug halfway to China in the hole, and that's maybe where the roots ended.

In their native habitat of California, Monterey Cypress grow in groves and thickets. They are, in the main, nothing like the New Zealanders. There it is common to see a long dead one, bleached quite white by weather, still standing amongst its fellows, years after it has died, supported by an outstretched branch and no more. I have seen these.

The root system is the last to deteriorate. I have had to pull over a dead one with a tractor and winch so that it might provide better shelter for young breeding stock. There it lies 15 years later, poking white fingers at the sky, the thick wood still as hard as the hobs of hell.

The wood is extremely dense. This gives it the quality and reputation of good burning for fires. It also make the tree extremely strong, and when branches splinter in a high wind they hang and swing and, in my experience anyway, do not drop straight down as pine branches do.

Older macrocarpas don't succumb quite so readily to canker as do the younger saplings of cryptomeria and other cupressus. I'm told by a good authority at Forest Research that salt spray seems to afford some protection from this disease, especially to the more geriatric, and the strength of a co-dominant trunk has to be seen to be believed!

All in all it seems that perhaps the bad reputation that farm 'mikes' have, in particular amongst the older generation of farmers, could be tempered with a little caution. Who agrees? Or, like some of us, has their 'mustard' just got too old to cut any more.

¹References: *Notable Trees of NZ by Ron Flook*
Great Tree of New Zealand by Burstall & Sale
"Trees of North America" by Alan Mitchell

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR THE 2002 RNZIH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE AND AGM, TO BE HELD IN NEW PLYMOUTH FROM 15–17 NOVEMBER.**

Friday 15 November

Plymouth International Hotel

7.30pm Presentation of Institute awards.

8.00pm The New Zealand Arboricultural Association, in collaboration with the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture present The Banks Memorial Lecture: "*The Flora of Taranaki.Mt Egmont: understanding natural and garden experiments*" presented by Dr Bruce Clarkson.

Bruce Clarkson is Associate Professor and Director of the Centre for Biodiversity and Ecology at the University of Waikato. He has had a lifelong interest in growing and researching native plants and has published more than 40 papers on various aspects of the systematics and ecology of native plants and vegetation. He has also written or co-authored several books including "Vegetation of Egmont National Park", "Botany of Rotorua", "Gully Restoration Guide" and "Botany of the Waikato".

His topic for the Banks Lecture will be The Flora of Taranaki/Mt Egmont: understanding natural and garden experiments. The lecture will trace what has been discovered since Banks scanned the mountain from the deck of Cook's Endeavour in 1770 to the present day. Special attention will be paid to some of the notable or taxonomically problematic species and the prospects for conservation and restoration of the flora was also be reviewed.

Saturday 16 November

8.00am Bus trip to gardens and parks of horticultural interest in the New Plymouth area, including Jury garden and nursery, Glyn Church garden and nursery, and notable private gardens. Also Pukekura Park, with the opportunity to view the NZ Arboricultural Association (NZAA) national climbing championships.

4.30pm RNZIH Annual General Meeting.

5.30pm (approx) Dinner (optional extra).

Sunday 17 November

Optional Join with members of NZAA on a trip to Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust gardens, or a walk to view the vegetation on the slopes of Mt Taranaki.

Registration fee: \$70 per person (\$60 if received by 21 October) which covers:

Bus trip Saturday

Lunch Saturday

Garden entry fees

Sunday tour



TRIPS ORGANISED FOR SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2002

Both trips return to New Plymouth in time for later flight connections.

PUKEITI RHODODENDRON TRUST GARDENS

One of New Zealand's foremost rhododendron collections set within 320 hectares. This landscaped rain forest garden is located at 500 m above sea level in the Pouakai Ranges at the foot of Mt Taranaki. The deep volcanic soils and 4,000 mm annual rainfall provide perfect conditions for a stunning range of rhododendrons and associated plants.

This visit will be conducted by Janica Amooore, Team Leader Horticulture, Parkscape Services (NPDC), and will involve guidance, comment, insight and information from Graham Smith, Director.

Participants should wear comfortable clothes — with the obligatory sun hat and rain jacket just in case. Lunch will be

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provided in the conservatory, with other refreshments available from the garden's café. For those who enjoy fine gardens the plant collection and dramatic setting of Pukeiti is not to be missed.

Timetable:

10.00 am	Bus departs — from Plymouth International Hotel
10.45 am	Arrival — at Pukeiti for coffee and introductions
12.30 pm	Lunch — in the Conservatory
3.30 pm	Bus departs — from Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Gardens
4.00 pm	Arrival — Plymouth International Hotel

MT TARANAKI — 2581m

Explore the mid-slope areas of montane forest, scrub, tussock grasslands and alpine herbfields. A chance to get close to this awe-inspiring mountain, with excellent views to the summit and across the surrounding ringplain.

Note: This walk is for people with a good level of fitness. Track surfaces are rocky and uneven. Some slopes are steep and exposed.

Walkers must wear appropriate boots and outdoor clothing and carry all essential personal equipment.

The weather on the mountain can change very quickly — from, warm sun and calm conditions to strong winds, cold cloud and severe rain.

Participants in this walk are required to take responsibility for ensuring they are properly equipped and accept liability for their own actions.

This visit will be conducted by Bryan Gould, Manager Premier Parks, Parkscape Services (NPDC). The planned route — from *The Plateau* to *Tahurangi Lodge* and *North Egmont Visitor Centre* via the *Around the Mountain Track* is moderately easy, involving 7–8 kms uphill and downhill walking on rough ground. Duration approximately 5–6 hours.

The walk will take place in sun or rain, but will be abandoned if conditions are unsuitable. In the event of deteriorating weather en route, several tracks provide escape and rapid descent to shelter.

Timetable:

8.45 am	Bus departs — from Plymouth International Hotel
9.45 am	Arrival — at The Plateau car park – 1140m.
	Lunch — at Tahurangi Lodge (Taranaki Alpine Club) — 1508m
3.30 pm	Bus departs — from North Egmont Visitor Centre — 950m
4.00 pm	Arrival — Plymouth International Hotel

THE LOTUS IS THE CLEANEST PLANT OF ALL

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

The lotus, *Nymphaea*, is one of the most beautiful of all plants and has long been honoured as a symbol of purity, especially by Hindus and Buddhists. Even though the plant grows in what are often the filthiest of filthy ponds, its leaves never seem to get dirty and the flower itself is perfection. How does the plant manage this? Simple. An article by Peter Forbes on the *Guardian Weekly* describes how Wilhelm Barthlott of the University of Bonn found that the lotus leaf is not perfectly smooth as might be imagined, but is instead highly waxed and corrugated. The leaf is not wetted by a drop of water — there is no flat area for the drop to cling to — and instead the drop of water rolls off the leaf, taking with it any dirt. Such dirt has a greater attraction for the surface tension of the water than it has for the leaf itself. So the leaf is self-cleansing and the effect has come to be known as the Lotus Effect.

This is not just an interesting phenomenon found in plants. There has been extensive development work on possible applications. Already in Germany there are Lotusan, a silicon, self-cleansing exterior coating for houses, and Lotus Effect roof tiles which are also self-cleansing. The ultimate is a self-cleansing car — presumably a Lotus Effect Lotus.

Lotus Effect coatings are bumpy and hydrophobic (water-repellent). Self-cleansing glass as developed by companies such as Pilkington, relies on the converse, a hydrophilic (water-attracting) surface which prevents water droplets from forming. The rain “sheets” on the surface, carrying away any dirt. There is also a photocatalytic layer which oxidises organic matter such as bird droppings.

RNZIH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2002 REGISTRATION FORM

Surname: _____ First Name: (as preferred on name badge)

Address:

Phone No: _____ Email address:

Accompanying Person's Name (if attending):

Number attending: _____ Number attending Saturday dinner (provisional):

Cheque enclosed \$ _____

Please make cheques payable to the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture and post with this registration form to the Institute Office, P.O. Box 12, Lincoln University.

Sunday programme (optional):- Please tick the boxes to show which activity you will be attending.

Conference trip — Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust

Conference trip — Mt Taranaki

Greetings from the new Office Administrator

I have been told that I should introduce myself to everyone, so, for the record, my name is Linda Sallabanks and you could probably describe me as horticulturally challenged.

My husband will attest to the fact that, while I enjoy looking at gardens, I'm not that keen on working in them. I would sooner be working my horses. Anyone who has seen a garden after a horse has been involved in it would agree that horses and gardens don't mix — although a friend of mine insists that her Timor stallion makes a better job of pruning her roses than she does.

Anyway, my background is secretarial work going back further than I care to recall, and I have also done a lengthy stint as a club secretary, so hopefully things will run smoothly here. I look forward to meeting everyone by phone or email at some stage.

For Sale

**Royal Horticultural Society
Dictionary of Gardening, 4
volumes 1981 reprint, plus
Supplement 1979 reprint**

\$130.00

Contact: Chris Cook

(03) 442 2112

or email:

cookie98@adinet.com.uy

Newsletter



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