

# Newsletter



2003  
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*Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)*

## Chairman's Comments

In most parts of the country there are signs the worst of winter is nearly over and that another gardening year is almost upon us. I visited Eden Garden in Mt Eden recently and while much of Auckland still wears its rather drab winter coat, Eden Garden seemed teeming with the joys of spring. Flowers were everywhere - camellias, vireya rhododendrons, hellebores, violets, magnolias, michelias, cherry blossom and daffodils, just to name a few. Though typically winter flowering species, experiencing so many in close proximity was like stepping forward in time – a leap into spring, a sign of what's to come. And I found myself anxiously counting the weeks. Only ten or so to go and, for many, the busiest months on the gardening calendar will be upon us, with the RNZIH Conference in Christchurch, Trinity Garden Festival and Ellerslie Flower Show in Auckland and similarly demanding and hectic events in other regions. Here's hoping the weather will be kind.

Your executive committee have been busy lately with regular two-monthly teleconference calls to deal with the various major projects the Institute is involved in this year. Here's a brief update – there's more detail on some items in this newsletter as well as in your next issue of the New Zealand Garden Journal which you should receive soon.

### **RNZIH Conference on Urban Biodiversity**

To be held in Christchurch 21-24 October, this has proved to be a timely topic with a great deal of enthusiasm shown, both from experts offering to present papers and interested parties in attending. Generous sponsorship has enabled us to invite keynote speakers from Australia, Singapore and the UK. The venue can hold 250 people and already, mainly through the RNZIH website, more than 160 have expressed interest in attending. You'll find registration details in this newsletter – if this is a topic you're interested in, it would be a good idea to register early.

### **Banks Memorial Lecture**

This free public lecture sponsored by RNZIH will also be held in Christchurch, to coincide with the conference. Colin Meurk of Landcare Research, Lincoln will present the 2003 Banks Lecture, *Cities are Cultural and Ecological Keys to Biodiversity Futures*, in the auditorium of Christchurch Girl's High School, commencing 7.30pm on Wednesday 22 October. Spread the word, everyone is welcome.

### **RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust**

As mentioned in the last newsletter the New Zealand Gardens Trust (NZGT) has been formed. The Board of Trustees has now met twice and the work of getting

NZGT up and running is well in hand. Two further trustees have been appointed, Bev McConnell of Ayrilies, Whitford and Gordon Collier of Taupo. Bev and Gordon's role is to be as garden assessors, and two more qualified people to carry out this task would be hard to find. They intend to start visiting those gardens that have applied to be members in the next few weeks. NZGT has been funded through donations from Founding Gardens and other contributions – thanks to all those concerned for your generosity and support in this project. Look for a more detailed account of the workings of NZGT and a list of the Founding Gardens and contributors in your next issue of the New Zealand Garden Journal.

### Training

The Institute has been approached by the NZ Horticultural Industry Training Organisation (HITO) with a view to RNZIH having input into training. The executive are unanimously agreed this is an area where we could, and should, play a role. A discussion paper from Mike Finlayson, HITO chief executive, was tabled at our last meeting. A working party has been formed to examine ways RNZIH and HITO can form a working partnership which maintains the integrity of both organisations yet benefits horticultural training in general.

### Website

This continues to grow from strength to strength. More information is added as webmaster Murray Dawson finds time from his already busy schedule. RNZIH information, the latest updates on this year's conference, articles, book reviews, plant information – the list goes on and on. And there are links to many other related websites. Don't forget that the RNZIH Notable Trees New Zealand database is also online – look for the links from our main site (rnzih.org.nz). And a big

## RNZIH DIRECTORY

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thankyou to Landcare Research, Lincoln who recently generously agreed to host our website on their server.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Christchurch in October.

All the best in your gardening endeavours,

**Andrew Maloy**  
**Chair RNZIH Executive Committee.**



## Greening the City: Bringing Biodiversity Back into the Urban Environment

**2003 Conference of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture  
Chateau on the Park, Christchurch**

### Provisional Programme

Draft: 11 August 2003 — subject to change

#### Tuesday 21 October

5.30-6.15	Registration and pre-conference social: cocktails and light food	
6.15-6.30	John Taylor (President RNZIH), Lesley Keast (Deputy Mayor of Christchurch) & Richard Johnson (Environment Canterbury)	Welcome to the Conference
6.30-7.00	Keynote address: Dr Morgan Williams (Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, New Zealand)	The Ecologies of Liveability – Why Cities Need Biodiversity
7.00-7.15	Book Launch: Going Native – a Future for New Zealand Plants	

#### Wednesday 22 October

8.30-9.00	Registration and brief welcome – Andrew Maloy (Chairman, RNZIH)	
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#### People, Biodiversity and the Urban Environment

9.00-9.40	Keynote speaker: Chris Baines (United Kingdom)	The Nature of Sustainable City Living
9.40-10.00	John Craig (SGES, University of Auckland)	Metapopulations with People
10.00-10.20	Margaret Kilvington & Will Allen (Landcare Research, Lincoln)	The Social Aspect of Biodiversity in Cities
10.20-10.50	Morning tea	

#### Nature Friendly Environments: Communities Making it Happen

10.50-11.10	Mike Peters (NZ Ecological Restoration Network)	Community Involvement in Urban Biodiversity Restoration
11.10-11.30	Gilbert Brakey (Gecko NZ)	Backyard Biodiversity
11.30-11.50	Chris Ferkins (Waitakere City Council)	Waitakere's Green Network, a 10 Year Anniversary – the Challenges and Successes of Implementing a Biodiversity Programme Begun in 1993
11.50-12.10	Tricia Austin (Department of Planning, University of Auckland)	Restoration and Revegetation Projects in Urban Parks and Community Perceptions of Personal Safety: Learning from Waitakere's Green Network
12.10-12.30	Questions and discussion	
12.30-1.30	Lunch & NZERN demonstration of website and databases – Mike Peters & Ryan Young	
1.30-1.50	Willie Shaw (Wildland Consultants, Rotorua)	Indigenous Biodiversity in Bay of Plenty Cities
1.50-2.10	Bruce Clarkson (Centre for Biodiversity and Ecology Research, Hamilton)	Ecological Restoration in Hamilton City
2.10-2.30	Adrienne (Adie) Leng (Environment Network Manawatu)	Developing a Greening Strategy – a Community Effort in Partnership with a City Council
2.30-2.50	John Sawyer (Department of Conservation, Wellington)	Saving Threatened Native Plant Species in Cities: from Traffic Islands to Real Islands
2.50-3.20	Afternoon tea	
	Announcement of NZ Plant Conservation Network – John Sawyer (Department of Conservation, Wellington)	
3.20-4.00	Keynote speaker: Mark McDonnell (Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology — ARCUE, Melbourne, Australia)	The Challenge of Preserving Biodiversity in Urban and Suburban Environments: The Melbourne Example
4.00-4.20	Kate Matysek (Centre for Environmental Studies, University of Tasmania, Australia)	The Planning and Management of the Urban Biosphere Reserve: Towards a Paradigm for Conservation in Australian Working Landscapes
4.20-4.40	Eric Dorfman (Department of Conservation, Wellington) & Kate Ravich (Birds Australia)	Birdscaping the Suburbs: the "Birds in Backyards" Initiative in Australia and its Potential for use in the Wellington Region of New Zealand
4.40-5.00	Plenary discussion on the days sessions	



5.00-5.15	Transfer to Christchurch Botanic Gardens	
5.15-6.15	Visit to the Christchurch Botanic Gardens – meet the staff and Friends of the Gardens	

**2003 Banks Memorial Lecture**  
**Auditorium, Christchurch Girls' High, 10 Matai Street**  
**(free evening lecture open to the public)**

7.30-onwards	Banks Lecture: Colin Meurk (Landcare Research, Lincoln)	Cities are Cultural and Ecological Keys to Biodiversity Futures

**Thursday 23 October**

8.45-9.00	Notices	
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**Focus on Canterbury**

9.00-9.20	Frances Schmechel (NZ Landcare Trust, Christchurch)	Banks Peninsula – a Connected Island
9.20-9.40	Simon Fenwick & Nancy Simovic (Boffa Miskell, Christchurch)	A Visual Commentary on Biodiversity in Christchurch
9.40-10.00	Jenny Ridgen, Kelvin McMillan & Kelly Hansen (Biodiversity Strategy Team, Christchurch City Council)	A Biodiversity Strategy for Christchurch
10.00-10.30	Morning tea	
10.30-10.50	Robert Watts (Parks & Waterways Unit, Christchurch City Council)	A Strategy for the Protection and Restoration of Waterways and Wetlands in Christchurch
10.50-11.10	Leanne O'Brien (University of Canterbury) & Rachel Barker (Parks & Waterways Unit, Christchurch City Council)	Restoring In-stream Values and Habitat for Canterbury Mudfish in Okeover Stream, Christchurch
11.10-11.30	Andrew Crossland (Parks & Waterways Unit, Christchurch City Council)	A National Biodiversity Hot-spot from the Treatment of Urban Wastewater – The Bromley Oxidation Ponds and Te Huingi Manu Wildlife Reserve, Christchurch
11.30-11.50	Jenny Bond (Environment Canterbury) & Alex Drysdale (Avon-Heathcote Estuary/Ihutai Trust)	Avon-Heathcote Estuary/Ihutai: a Community-based Approach to Integrated Environmental Management
11.50-12.10	Philip Grove (Environment Canterbury)	Coastal Dune Biodiversity – Challenges for Management
12.10-12.30	Questions and discussion	
12.30-1.30	Lunch	
1.30-6.00	<b>Christchurch Field Trips (hosted by CCC, ECAN, Landcare Research and Trust Members)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Riccarton Bush (John Moore, Charles Dean &amp; Brian Molloy, Trust members)</li> <li>▪ Styx (Christine Heremaia, CCC &amp; Dennis Hills, Guardians of the Styx)</li> <li>▪ Travis Wetland (Colin Meurk, Travis Wetland Trust)</li> <li>▪ Avon-Heathcote Estuary/Ihutai (Kevin O'Connor, Avon-Heathcote Estuary/Ihutai Trust &amp; Trevor Partridge, Bexley Wetland Trust)</li> </ul>	
6.00-7.00	Free time	
7.00-7.30	Pre-dinner cocktails	
7.30-onwards	Conference dinner (Great Hall, Chateau on the Park)	After-dinner speaker: Brian Molloy (Riccarrton Bush Trust)

**Friday 24 October**

8.45-9.00	Notices	
	Trees in the Urban Environment	
9.00-9.20	Penny Clifflin (UNITEC, Auckland)	Tree Collections of Auckland – Biodiversity and Management
9.20-9.40	Dieter Steinegg (Tree Officer, Parks & Waterways Unit, Christchurch City Council)	The Ageing Tree Population of Christchurch
9.40-10.00	Eva-Terezia Vesely (SGES, Auckland)	) Green for Green – The Perceived Value of a Quantitative Change in the Urban Tree Estate of New Zealand
10.00-10.30	Morning tea	

**A Healthy Green City: Using Plants to Create Healthy Environments**

10.30-11.10	Keynote speaker: Mason Tan (Mace Studio, Singapore)	Urban Biodiversity and Greening Strategies in Singapore
11.10-11.30	Simon Swaffield (Environment Society and Design, Lincoln University, Canterbury)	Shaping Landscape Policy and Strategy to Promote Biodiversity – Issues and Options
11.30-11.50	Claire Freeman (Director Planning Programme, Geography Department, University of Otago)	Planning for Urban Nature in New Zealand
11.50-12.10	Di Lucas (Lucas and Associates, Christchurch)	Reading the Layers: Knowing the Past to Plan for the Future



12.10-12.30	Questions and discussion	
12.30-1.30	Lunch	
1.30-1.50	Alan Stewart (PGG Seeds, Christchurch)	The Potential for Domestication and Seed Propagation of Native New Zealand Grasses for Turf
1.50-2.10	Sarah Burke (School of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Auckland)	Restoration's Holy Grail – Synthesising Theory and Practice in the Development of a Holistic Framework for Urban Restoration
2.10-2.30	David Given (IUCN Species Survival Commission Plant Programme and Botanical Services Manager, Christchurch City Council)	Globalisation, Conservation and the Urban Environment

#### Future Directions

2.30-2.50	Plenary session with keynote speakers as a panel	Where to From Here? Resolutions and Statements
2.50-3.10	Summary speaker: Diana Shand (Environment Canterbury)	Where to From Here – What are the Conference Challenges and Outcomes?
3.10-3.30	Wrap up of conference and thanks	
3.30-onwards	Afternoon tea and departures	

Saturday 25 October

8.30-onwards (all day)	Field trip to Akaroa and Hinewai (host: Hugh Wilson)
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#### Poster Presentations

Mike Peters (NZ Ecological Restoration Network)	Community Involvement in Urban Biodiversity Restoration
Gilbert Brakey (Gecko NZ)	1. Beyond Backyard Biodiversity: Gecko NZ's Bushways Programme 2. Beyond Backyard Biodiversity: Biodiversity in Business
Shelley Washington (NZ Landcare Trust, Christchurch)	Community Involvement in Restoration
Friends of the Whau Inc. (supplied by Gilbert Brakey, Gecko NZ)	1. The Whau River Project 2. Biodiversity of the Whau River Catchment
Penny Cliffin, Leslie Haines & Katrina Simon (UNITEC, Auckland)	Waikumete Cemetery, its Biodiversity and Management
Gerard Kelly (Parks and Gardens Unit, Hamilton City Council)	Back Yard Gully's in Hamilton
Liz Hallsworth (Sustainable Environment Team, Hamilton City Council)	Public Gully's in Hamilton
Julia Chard & Carly Pannell (University of Auckland)	Community Groups and Urban Freshwater Quality — Measuring the Outcomes
Christine Heremaia (Christchurch City Council)	1. Styx Mill Conservation Reserve 2. The Styx Storyboard
Department of Conservation poster (supplied by Jorge Santos, Motukarara Conservation Nursery)	1. Plants that are Pure Canterbury – Promoting Genetic Purity 2. Planning a Project – Interested in Protection, Management and Restoration of Natural Ecosystems?
Margaret Stanley (Landcare Research, Auckland)	Do Weeds Benefit Native Wildlife in Urban Areas?
Wendy Baker (Environment B-O-P)	Weed Education and Encouraging Community Participation in Active Weed Control Groups
Philip Smith (O2 Landscapes)	The suitability of a native grass species, <i>Microlaena stipoides</i> , for use as an amenity turfgrass in the Auckland region
Heather North, Eric Spurr, Colin Meurk, Claire Newell, Kev Drew & Steve Ferriss (Landcare Research, Lincoln)	Habitat and Distribution of Korimako/Bellbird in and around Christchurch
Takerei Norton (Kaupapa Taiao, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu)	Community Involvement and Ecological Research for Enhancing New Zealand Native Pigeon (Kererū) on Banks Peninsula
Steve Pawson (University of Canterbury, Forest Research) & Lisa Berndt (University of Canterbury)	Monarchs in the City: Ambassadors for Invertebrate Biodiversity

# Canterbury Conservationist wins Loder Cup

Lifetime champion of New Zealand's native plants, Dr Gerry McSweeney, has been awarded the prestigious Loder Cup award for 2003.

Announcing this award, Conservation Minister Chris Carter said:

“Dr McSweeney has made a significant contribution to preserving New Zealand's native flora.

His work has included close involvement in the creation of the Department of Conservation, the establishment of the South West New Zealand World Heritage Area, winning a halt to forest clearance and wetland drainage, the signing of the West Coast Forest Accord and the Tasman Forest Accord.

Dr McSweeney was on the Government's expert panel on the future management of the 130,000 hectares of Timberlands West Coast native forests, with an outcome that all of the forests were added to public conservation lands.

His advocacy for tussock grasslands has led to the establishment of the Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park.

Since 1990 Dr McSweeney has been instrumental as a member of the Nature Heritage Fund in protecting 180,000 hectares of conservation land.

These are some of the contributions which demonstrate how Dr McSweeney's outstanding leadership and campaigning skills have resulted in the protection of large tracts of native flora in perpetuity for all New Zealanders.

Dr McSweeney's energy and passion for the indigenous flora of New Zealand extends to his private business, where he has set an important example to the industry that conservation and sensitive tourism can be compatible.

It is a great pleasure to be able to give recognition to members of the community, like Dr McSweeney, who make huge contributions to conservation.”

***The Loder Cup is one of New Zealand's oldest conservation awards. It is awarded annually by the Minister of Conservation for outstanding contributions to the conservation of New Zealand's native plant life.***

***Last year's winner was Miss Marge Maddren of Whangarei.***



## RNZIH 2003 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 October 2003 at 4.00 pm at the  
Chateau on the Park, Christchurch

### Agenda

1. Apologies/In Memoriam
2. Minutes of the 2002 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2002 AGM
4. Chairman's Report
5. Statement of Accounts for 2002 and Budget for 2004
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 2004
  - 8.6 Other
9. Presentation of Institute Awards will be prior to the Banks Memorial Lecture to be held at the Auditorium, Christchurch Girls High School, Christchurch on Wednesday 22 October at 7.30 pm.

### Conference Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$300 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Number

Dinner: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$70 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Number

Field Trip: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$55 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Number

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All fees include GST. GST No: 10-575-036

Please make cheques payable to RNZIH and send to The Office Administrator, RNZIH,  
P O Box 12, Lincoln University, Canterbury

# Newsletter



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

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**2003  
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**RESERVATION REQUEST FORM FOR THE  
2003 CONFERENCE OF THE ROYAL NZ INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE  
WEDNESDAY 22 - FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER 2003**

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Please forward this reservation form direct to the Chateau on the Park Reservations Manager, in order to secure your accommodation for the RNZIH (Inc) Conference, Wednesday 22 - Friday 24 October 2003.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF ARRIVAL: \_\_\_\_\_ E.T.A. \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE: \_\_\_\_\_

NO OF GUESTS OCCUPYING ROOM:

ACCOMMODATION:

DOUBLE  TWIN SHARE  SINGLE

SMOKING  NON SMOKING

PLEASE GUARANTEE MY BOOKING WITH THE CREDIT CARD NUMBER LISTED BELOW:

CARD TYPE: AMEX DINERS MASTERCARD VISA JCB

CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRY DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

NB: We note that all charges will be settled on checkout.

**CONFERENCE ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION:**

Check-in time at the Hotel is 1300h and check-out time is 10.30am. We are unable to guarantee access to guest rooms outside these times, however we will endeavour to meet any early check-in and late check-out requests as required. (Please note that there may be a late departure fee for check-outs after 10.30am).

In the event that you no longer require your accommodation, please contact the Hotel immediately to avoid any possible cancellation fees.

If this reservation "no shows" on the arrival date given above, one night's accommodation will be payable as a no-show fee. Once a booking no-shows, the whole booking is automatically cancelled and any further accommodation requirements will be on a space availability basis only.

**This form is to be returned to the Hotel no later than 19 September 2003 to qualify for the special room rate of \$150.75 inclusive of GST per room per night and to guarantee availability. This is for single or double occupancy.**

**The Chateau on the Park, PO Box 8161, Riccarton, Christchurch.**

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