

# Newsletter



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

## Chairman's Comments

**Report presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, October 21 2003.**

2003 has been an eventful year for the Institute with progress made in several important areas. Regular updates have already been published in the newsletter and you'll be receiving more detailed reports on specific projects at this meeting so I'll just highlight the main points here along with some of the latest updates.

### **New Zealand Gardens Trust**

One of the main achievements of the year has been to see the NZGT formed, with an energetic board of trustees who have made great progress in seeing this project come to fruition. Strong support from founding gardens, Tourism New Zealand, Qualmark and others has ensured NZGT will play an important role in promoting the open garden industry to prospective customers and actively encourage excellence in gardening throughout the country. Thank you to Jayson Kelly and his team for all the work you have done thus far and in advance for all that is yet to come.

### **Education**

As you know we have been in discussion with NZ Horticulture Industry Training Organisation (HITO) with a view to the Institute having an involvement in horticulture education and training at a national level. At the time of writing, further talks have still to take place. I should be able to give more definite details in person at our meeting. Thanks to Michael Ayton for representing the Institute at HITO board meetings, which has been a catalyst for this new development.

### **Journal**

Although we have an enthusiastic editor in John Clemens, as usual the stumbling block to getting the journal published by the due date is receiving sufficient material from writers in good time. The aim is to produce two issues each year, in July and December. The journal should be a flagship for the Institute – please support it by offering to write or help persuade others to submit articles. Short offerings on a favourite plant species are as welcome as more technical reports. Thanks John for your sterling efforts this year.

### **Notable Trees NZ**

This year sees the 400<sup>th</sup> tree registered by NTNZ - quite an achievement considering most of the coordination work and administration is managed by one person, Ron Flook. Thanks Ron for your ongoing support in this and many other areas, we look forward to celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> registration in the not too distant future.

### **Website**

rnzih.org has now become a major source of information for those wishing to learn what the Institute is about, as well as a useful way of promoting RNZIH activities to the wider world. Several new membership applications have been received via the internet. Thanks to Murray Dawson for your hard work and the ongoing commitment in keeping up with the technology required in this area. Thanks also to Landcare Research who now host our website on their server, allowing us greater expansion as well as some financial savings.

### **Canterbury Branch**

This year I'd particularly like to thank those members of the Canterbury Branch who have worked hard, in two areas particularly. For years now the Institute newsletter has been put together and posted out by a group of Canterbury members. And this year many of that same group have been responsible for the Greening the City/Biodiversity conference that brings us here today. Thanks to David Moyle, Murray Dawson, David Given, David Shillito and the many others who helped turn this idea, which first emerged at a meeting two years ago, into reality.

### **Administration**

We are fortunate to have two hard working people who keep the day to day paperwork under control. Thank you, David Shillito, for continuing to manage our finances and the supervision of our Lincoln office. And thank you, Linda Sallabanks, for your work and efficiency as office administrator.

### **RNZIH executive**

To all of those on the national executive - thanks for your input and support throughout the year especially at

telephone conferences. I know some were rather long and tedious but there have been major issues to discuss and as a result the Institute is moving steadily forward.

Richard Nanson is standing down from the executive this year – thanks Richard for your many years of service to the Institute.

Also resigning is our long-serving president John Taylor. On behalf of the whole membership, many thanks, John, for years of commitment to the Institute. We're not allowing John to get away altogether though, he has been elected vice-patron and will continue in this capacity alongside Ralph Ballinger and Peter Skellerup.

After due deliberation the national executive will be nominating Jack Hobbs, manager of the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens, for the position of president, and Dr Ross Ferguson, of HortResearch, as vice-president. If accepted by the AGM they will officially take up their roles following the AGM and completion of the conference.

### The Future

The great strength of the Institute is that as an independent body it represents all areas of horticulture, professional as well as amateur, scientific, commercial, private or public. It's partly because of this that we can again be involved in education – as an independent body we can comment on standards, content and delivery methods, among others. Any organisation is only as good as its membership though, and ours has been declining over the years. However, I believe we have rounded the corner and recent membership applications, combined with the possibility of being able to provide an incentive for horticultural students to participate, bodes well for the future.

**Andrew Maloy**  
Chair, RNZIH National Executive.



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# News

## **Ron Flook honoured**

Congratulations to Ron Flook, the National Convenor of Notable Trees of New Zealand, on being recently honoured with a life membership of the New Zealand Arboricultural Association.

## **Welcome to New Members**

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following people who have become members of the Institute during 2003.

Mr D Askin  
Mr Michael Bailey  
Mr Varsha Belwalkar  
Mr Gilbert Brakey  
Ms Jane Christensen  
City Care Limited  
Ms Jodie Denton  
Mr Andrew Douglas  
Mr Alex Gardiner  
Mr Chris Hinton  
Lady Diana Isaac  
Mr Grant Lorimer  
Mr Michael Macdonald  
Ms Mylene Mariette  
Ms Christine Meo

NZ Landcare Trust  
Mrs Lynne Napier  
Mrs Diane Perry  
Dr Cullen Pope  
Mr John Prentice  
Mr Stephen Shaw  
Mr Philip Smith  
Ms Joanne Sutherland  
Ms Helen Swinburne  
Ms Suzanne Vallance  
Wai-Ora Forest Landscapes  
Mr Andrew Walker  
Mrs Rose Walker  
Mr John Whittaker  
Mr Eddie Wullems

## **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 (AHRH)**

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

### **Fellow (FRH)**

Awarded to members to who 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.

**Closing Dates:** All nominations will close on 30 April

## 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 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 31 March 2004 with:

The Scholarship Manager  
P O Box 94  
Lincoln University  
Canterbury

*Newsletter*



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