

## Chairman's Comments

I have great pleasure in announcing that two major projects your executive have been working on for some time now have come to fruition.

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

March 25 saw the official launch of the Institute's New Zealand Gardens Trust (NZGT) by our patron Her Excellency, The Governor General Dame Silvia Cartwright. The launch, at Government House, Auckland, was attended by garden owners who funded the setting up of the trust, NZGT trustees, RNZIH executive and media representatives. It has been five years since the original idea of an "open garden database" was broached at a 1998 seminar in Dunedin and now NZGT is a reality and has already formed partnerships with Tourism NZ and Qualmark to promote garden tourism both locally and internationally.

Without external financial support NZGT would never have got off the ground. Twenty eight gardens from Waitangi to Invercargill each contributed \$2000 to the trust whose aims include promotion of excellence among open gardens through setting standards as well as providing educational opportunities for both member and non-member gardens. Of the 28 founding gardens, 18 are from the North and 10 from the South Island, with 14 publicly and 14 privately owned.

All gardens open to the public can now join the scheme, regardless of whether they're open every day of the year or for a limited time only. Applicant gardens have the choice of applying to be "assessed" or "unassessed". Furthermore, gardens wanting to have a formal critique undertaken can apply to be assessed as a Garden of Significance. If they meet the minimum quality standards set by the Trust, they will be endorsed as either a Garden of Regional or National Significance.

NZGT garden assessors, Bev McConnell and Gordon Collier, visited all the founding gardens over a three month period late last year to carry out formal assessments of the original founding gardens. Gordon reports:

*"What is a garden? When asked, ten gardeners will give ten different answers. I am sometimes directed to a 'good garden' only on arrival to find, in my opinion, it is not. Beverley and I were entrusted to rate the gardens that came forward. We did not want to give a view that would pass muster to the casual observer or one that was just publishable, but a view that would be acceptable to the very high standards of the horticulturists and knowledgeable gardeners of the world who come to see what New Zealand has to offer.*

*It's an honour to be assessors for the New Zealand Gardens Trust. Having acted in this capacity before we knew some of the pitfalls and we knew not everyone would be pleased with the outcome. Of course this proved to be the case as this was never intended to be a popularity contest. The assessing of gardens could be said to be subjective and it is to a degree but having been trusted with this task and with a number of strict attributes to work to, the way appeared straightforward.*

*We undertook to provide each garden owner with a critique as a constructive outcome of our visit. These were to be written in a positive way to provide an explanation of what we thought could help them to achieve a higher ranking. Bev wrote to each owner after the visit while I wrote, with the owners input, the description of each garden for the website. This description was the key to potential visitor enjoyment and it was most important to present an accurate picture."*

The public face of NZGT is the website, [www.gardens.org.nz](http://www.gardens.org.nz) which lists and profiles member gardens. At the time of writing a total of 37 gardens have joined NZGT and enquiries regularly come in from other interested garden owners. All member gardens become RNZIH members which strengthens the Institute. Interested gardens can find out more about the scheme and joining details by visiting the website.

Future aims of NZGT include playing a representative and advocacy role for open gardens, exchange programmes, best practice garden tours, scholarships and awards. On the

education front, NZGT's inaugural seminar, 'Managing, Marketing & Promoting Your Garden', is being held at Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Gardens (a founding garden and Garden of National Significance) in Taranaki from 23-25 April. Keynote speakers include Maggie Barry and Jack Hobbs who, along with national industry experts, will cover aspects of garden and eco-tourism, marketing, promotion and customer service relating to managing private and publicly owned open gardens.

#### **RNZIH Education Trust**

Another major achievement in the last few weeks has been finalizing the formation of the RNZIH Education Trust and signing of an agreement with the NZ Horticulture Industry Training Organisation (HITO) which puts the Institute back in a position to have influence in horticultural training and education. The Education Trust has been set up to assist and promote, in any way possible, horticultural training and education at both the regional and national level in New Zealand and in particular to:

- assist training organisations, and in particular the New Zealand Horticultural Industry Training Organisation, in the establishment and review of training and unit standards;
- set and assess professional standards of workmanship expected of students in all sectors of the horticultural industry;
- promote and provide scholarship and prize schemes for horticultural students.

As with NZGT, the Education Trust has been set up to be financially independent so existing RNZIH funds are not at risk. At present the board of trustees includes myself as acting chair, Michael Ayrton, Director of Parks Manager, Hamilton City Council and Alex Gardiner Parks Supervisor, Cornwall Park, and we have appointed Neville Haydon as treasurer.

It is intended further trustees will be invited to join the board to represent all sectors of the horticulture industry as well as regions of the country. Education Trust income will come mainly from a contract with HITO to provide services which will include accreditation of training providers, moderation of assessment practices to ensure standards are maintained, revision and rewriting of unit standards (training modules) including assessment guidelines. Other major commitments are the implementation of an optional RNZIH exam offering holders of a National Certificate in Horticulture Level 4 the opportunity to attend an RNZIH oral and practical examination with a view to having their National Certificate endorsed with either Merit or Distinction.

It is considered an RNZIH endorsement will add significant value to the qualification. Employers in the horticulture

### **RNZIH DIRECTORY**

<b>RNZIH National Office</b>	P.O. Box 12 Lincoln University Canterbury. Phone: (03) 325 2811 Ext. 8670 Email: rnzih@xtra.co.nz
<b>Patron</b>	Her Excellency, The Governor General Dame Silvia Cartwright
<b>Vice Patrons</b>	Ralph Ballinger OBE, AHRIH, 19 Brooklyn Drive, Blenheim Peter Skellerup CBE, AHRIH, 24 Poynder Ave, Christchurch 1 John Taylor MBE, AHRIH, 9 Karitane Drive, Christchurch 2
<b>President</b>	Jack Hobbs AHRIH, Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens, 102 Hill Road, Manurewa, Auckland 1702. Phone: (09) 267 4728 Fax: (09) 266 3698 Email: jack.hobbs@arc.govt.nz
<b>Vice President</b>	Dr Ross Ferguson FRSNZ, AHRIH, HortResearch, Mount Albert Centre, Private Bag 92 169, Auckland Phone: (09) 815 4200 Ext 7319 Fax: (09) 815 4201 Email: RFerguson@hortresearch.co.nz
<b>Chairman</b>	Andrew Maloy FRIH, 26 Pomaria Rd, Henderson, Auckland Phone: (09) 836 1913 Fax: (09) 836 1938 Email: ra.maloy@xtra.co.nz
<b>National Executive</b> Michael Ayrton	P.O. Box 26-072, Epsom, Auckland. Phone: (09) 524 6442 Cell Phone: 0274 999903 Fax: (09) 524 6433 Email: cornwall.park@xtra.co.nz
Murray Dawson FRIH (RNZIH Webmaster)	Landcare Research, P O Box 69, Lincoln, Canterbury Phone: (03) 325 6700 ext 3793 Email: dawsonm@LandcareResearch.co.nz
Ron Flook AHRIH	539 Rocks Road, Nelson Phone/Fax: (03) 548 6539. Email: flook@netaccess.co.nz
Jayson Kelly FRIH	114 Cliffs Road, St Clair, Dunedin Phone: (03) 456 2242 Email: jkelly@clear.net.nz
Graeme Mander FRIH	R297-SH2, Bethlehem, Taunanga. Phone: (07) 576 6829. Email: gjmander@ihug.co.nz
David Moyle FRIH	6 Winslow Street, Christchurch 5 Phone: (03) 358 8914 Fax: (03) 358 1363
David Shillito AHRIH	'Graylands', Robisons Road, RD5, Christchurch Phone: (03) 325 2811 Ext.8440 Email: shillito@lincoln.ac.nz
Eddie Wullems	Hamilton City Council, Private Bag 3010, Hamilton Phone: (07) 846 1869 Cellphone: 021 790 203 Fax: (07) 846 1877 Email: eddie.wullems@hcc.govt.nz

industry have for many years accepted the value of RNZIH oral and practical examinations and are very keen to see their re-introduction. The oral and practical examination is not compulsory for National Certificate holders but it is anticipated that over time it will become an accepted standard for employers looking for staff.

A further commitment of the trust is to organise a Horticultural Trainee of the Year Award, to be implemented in 2005 and annually thereafter. The purpose of this competition is to raise the profile of horticultural training in general and, with sponsorship, it is envisaged this could eventually become the horticultural equivalent of the highly successful Young Farmer of the Year competition.

To carry out these roles the Education Trust will employ a full-time National Training Manager. We've carried out a series of interviews over the past weeks and are pleased to announce the appointment of David Puffett to this position. David comes with excellent qualifications and relevant experience. He has been Head of School of Horticulture at Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT) since its inception in 1986, during which time he established and managed a successful School of Horticulture where he has been responsible for the design, implementation and promotion of courses at levels from beginners to diploma level. He has been chair of the Primary Industry Polytechnics Tutors Association for the past five years

and represented polytechnics teaching on the board of HITO. Prior to joining MIT David was Senior Agricultural Training Officer for the upper North Island working with a wide range of rural organizations in the development of both agricultural and horticultural training programmes including cadet schemes. David commences employment with the Education Trust in mid-May and will be based in south Auckland, though will travel extensively throughout the country in his new role. As well as fulfilling the purposes of the Education Trust David will promote all aspects of the RNZIH.

### Journal

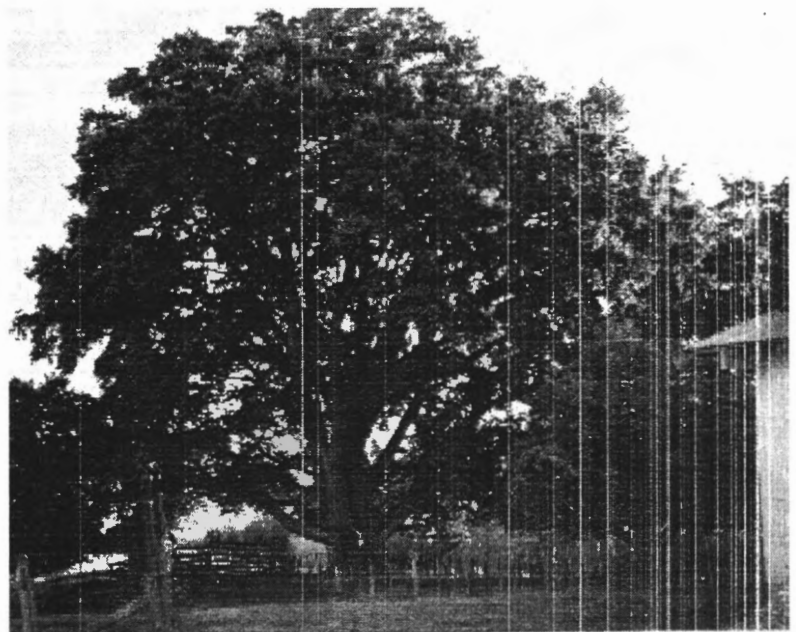
Unfortunately several things conspired to hold up the December 2003 issue of the New Zealand Garden Journal. We intend to do everything in our power to get three issues of the journal out this year and get back on track. Please, any members who are willing to join the journal production team, contact me or journal editor, John Clemens. All offers of help are welcome, whether it is contributing or soliciting articles, proof reading or liaising with writers to make sure deadlines are achieved.

These are exciting times for the Institute and I look forward to further interesting times ahead.

**Andrew Maloy**  
Chair RNZIH Executive Committee

## Notable Trees New Zealand

Tree	ID 779
Registration	No 392
Botanical Name	Quercus robur
Common Name	English oak
Tree Type	Exotic
Noble	Yes
Number of Trees	1
Year Planted	1880
Year Estimated	Yes
Year Registered	2003
Registered By	Bishop J.
Tree Height (m)	27
Canopy Spread (m)	32
Trunk Girth (m)	7.5
Girth Measured At (m)	1.4
Address 1	'The Brow' 190 Argyll East Street
Address 2	Argyll East
Town	Waipawa
District	Hawkes Bay
STEM Score	168



This outstanding Quercus robur is a very large tree. It is multistemmed with the lower structural branches being extreme.

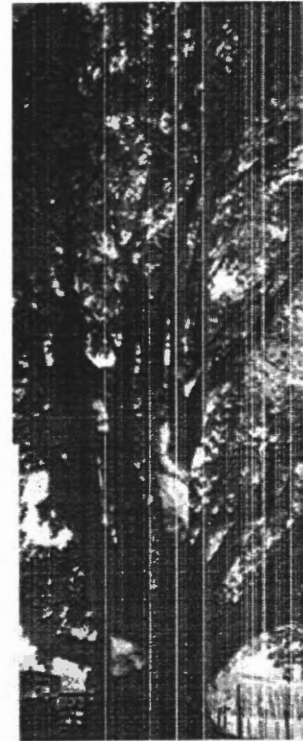


I am 1.90m tall, so this photo gives some indication to the size of the branch removed from the low trunk. This was removed due to storm damage. On closer examination it appears to be two branches that have grown together. The tree dominates the site even when it is on a down hill.

Bishop 2003.

The owners have requested that it be included in the Central Hawkes Bay District Plan at the next review.

**Ron Flook**  
National Convenor  
Notable Trees NZ



Postage Paid  
Lincoln University  
Permit No 111

2004  
No 1  
May