

Newsletter



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Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

Chairman's Comments

Your executive committee has been busy over the last few months and I'm pleased to report positive progress is being made in all key areas of the Institute's sphere of operations. Full reports will be tabled at the Annual General Meeting on 30 October in Hamilton, so I'll just cover some of the main points here.

'Happening in Hamilton' (Saturday 30 October)

This has become the informal title for the day organised by a group of members from Auckland and Waikato to visit the exceptional Hamilton City themed gardens complex and at the same time attend the Institute's AGM, an evening meal and Banks Memorial Lecture. Full details and booking form are included in this newsletter. I urge you to support this day. Hamilton City Gardens is a world class gardening experience and deserves our support. I've visited these gardens a couple of times a year for many years now and they never fail to impress me. The scale of the initiatives and methods used to raise funds for their implementation are a lesson in what can be achieved when strong links are formed with local community groups. Watching the Italian Renaissance Garden, for example, making the transition from empty paddock beside the Waikato River six or seven years ago to the amazing construction that exists today has been an inspiration. Not to mention the Japanese Garden, the Modernist American Garden and so on...!

The programme for the day also includes our annual general meeting and again I urge you to attend, to support your national executive and participate in your Institute's affairs.

In the evening, following presentation of

RNZIH Awards, the 2004 Banks Memorial Lecture will be presented by well known plant specialist Peter Cave of Cave's Tree Nursery in Cambridge. In his talk entitled 'New Zealand Needs New Plants' Peter promises to not only discuss the thrill of plant hunting overseas but to highlight the often controversial trials and tribulations of bringing plants from their countries of origin and importing them into this country. The Banks Memorial Lecture is a free lecture sponsored by RNZIH and as such is open to the public, so please spread the word – everyone, member or non-member, is welcome to attend.

New Zealand Gardens Trust

Following the very successful launch in March, subsequent publicity and the seminar in Taranaki, interest from garden owners has snowballed. The number of gardens applying for assessment has increased to the point where further assessors are to be appointed for the spring 2004 round of assessments. The hugely successful New Zealand garden at Chelsea Flower Show has placed our gardens in the international spotlight and public and private garden owners who open their gardens and can see the potential of NZGT assessment are preparing for the demand from overseas visitors which must inevitably follow.

For more on the business of the Trust contact Jayson Kelly, NZGT chair, via our Lincoln office, or visit our website at www.rnzih.org.nz

RNZIH Education Trust

Our National Training Manager, David Pufflett, started in mid-May and has achieved a great deal since then. The first of the new RNZIH Oral & Practical exams was held in Auckland on 12

August at which 13 candidates presented themselves. This year's exam was for the Amenity sector only, in future other sectors and locations will be included to cater for demand. David has also been busy revising and rewriting unit standards for the framework as well as laying the foundation for the Trust to take over the role of accreditation and moderation of horticultural training providers from 2005. For further information on future oral and practical exams or for information about Trust activities contact David on rnzih@ps.gen.nz or phone him on 09 236 3043.

New Zealand Garden Journal

If it hasn't already arrived the mid-year issue of the journal should be in your letterbox soon. Our editor, John Clemens, has managed to catch up the lost ground of last year so you should be receiving three journals this year. I've seen proofs of the latest issue and it makes an interesting and informative read. From anthuriums to landscaping there's something for everybody. Thanks to all who contributed and again I encourage you all to consider what you too can offer, be it half a page on a particular plant or several pages on a larger topic. Contact John by email j.clemens@massey.ac.nz to offer articles, papers or help in any way, or via our Lincoln office.

Website

This continues to grow from strength to strength as webmaster Murray Dawson adds more and more information. You can now visit www.rnzih.org.nz to not only check out Institute matters but also you can delve into a myriad of other useful horticultural topics such as searching for answers to your plant problems, identifying weeds, book reviews or links to other useful sites.

All the best with your gardening endeavours. I look forward to seeing many of you in Hamilton in October.

Andrew Maloy
Chair RNZIH Executive Committee

RNZIH DIRECTORY

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RNZIH 2004 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, 30 October 2004 at 3.30 pm in the Rotary Lounge at Hamilton Gardens, off Cobham Drive, Hamilton

Agenda

1. Apologies/In Memoriam
2. Minutes of the 2003 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2003 AGM
4. Chairman's Report
5. Statement of Accounts for 2003 and budget for 2005.
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 NZ Gardens Trust
 - 8.5 RNZIH Education Trust
 - 8.6 Annual Conference 2005
 - 8.7 Other
9. Presentation of Institute Awards will be prior to the Banks Memorial Lecture to be held in the Chart Room, Hamilton Gardens, Hamilton on Saturday, 30 October 2004 at 7.30 pm.



Mrs Rene Orchiston, AHRH receiving her award certificate from John Taylor and Andrew Maloy at the 2003 Conference

Photo kindly supplied by Mrs Orchiston

HAPPENING IN HAMILTON

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30TH 2004

RNZIH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. 3.30PM

Rotary Lounge at Hamilton Gardens complex off Cobham drive Hamilton.

ANNUAL BANKS MEMORIAL LECTURE 7.30PM

Chartwell Room at Hamilton Gardens complex off Cobham Drive Hamilton.

Speaker: Peter Cave, well known grower, traveller and surfer.

Subject: *New Zealand needs new plants - the challenges of discovering new plants and the difficulties of getting them from their originating countries and into New Zealand*

The Banks Lecture commemorates Sir Joseph Banks who accompanied Captain Cook on his first voyage of discovery to New Zealand in 1769. Banks was a great promoter of science in Britain in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. He later became President of the Royal Society, London for many years and controlled the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

Banks was particularly interested in plants that could be used for practical purposes. He encouraged the introduction of such plants into other countries for possible commercial use and he fostered the exchange of plants and animals between the old world and the new worlds then being made known by exploration.

It is therefore fitting that the 2004 Banks Lecture deals with the role of introduced plants in New Zealand. In our agriculture, our horticulture and our forestry New Zealand is almost completely dependent on introduced plants. Ultimately we depend on them for our livelihood. Yet it is fashionable for introduced plants to receive a bad press, being often portrayed as unwelcome aliens, inappropriate for our landscape.

Peter Cave is a nurseryman from Cambridge who specialises in novel, cool-temperate plants, especially from Asia. Peter is not a narrow-minded plant chauvinist. He believes that we should take advantage of the enormous diversity of plants available to us, that we should choose to use the very best of plants irrespective of their country of origin. In his lecture he will discuss the need to introduce new plants to New Zealand. He will relay his own experiences in plant hunting following in the footsteps of some of the great plant explorers and finding the plants that should do well in New Zealand. He will then describe possibly the hardest part, the many regulatory hurdles to actually introducing new plants.

BIG DAY OUT:

To make a day of these events, we have organised a total package for a big day out to have an in depth look at Hamilton Gardens.

The day includes:

- Guided tours of the gardens –
10.30am with Gardens' Director Peter Sergel
Afternoon -Specialist talks and tours of particular gardens of interest
- Finger food lunch
- Pre dinner social hour
- Set menu dinner
- AGM and the Banks lecture

Cost for the day package will be

Members: \$50.00 Non members: \$60.00

Bookings received later than October 15th will incur a late fee of \$5.00

Please send booking form with payment to;

Bronwen Rowse

P. O. Box 34

Patumahoe.

Phone 09 2363884

Email bmrowse@xtra.co.nz

SUNDAY MORNING:

If there is sufficient interest we will organise a tour on Sunday morning to Taitua Arboretum, a large collection of mature trees planted by John and Bunny Mortimer, authors of "Trees for the New Zealand Countryside". The Mortimers gifted this unique property to the public – it is now managed by Hamilton City and Adrian Jepson, arboretum manager, will be available to guide the group.

Please indicate your interest on the booking form. This will be costed separately (for transport only) from the day out.

Some accommodation options (in the vicinity of Hamilton Gardens) are:

J.S. Backpackers 8 Grey St, Hamilton East Ph: (07)856 8934

Rates from \$25 per person

Hamilton Gardens Motel 93 Grey St, Hamilton East Ph: (07)856 5446

Rates: Single \$70, Double \$85

Hillcrest Lodge 334 Cobham Drive Hamilton East Ph: (07)856 7075

Rates from \$59 to \$149 (2 people)

Aspen Manor Inn 209 Grey St Hamilton East Ph: (07)856 9029

Rates from \$90 to \$115 (2 people)

**ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003**

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
INCOME:		
Conference Fees	11,346.40	880
Donations	1,019.90	570
Hebe Register	265.73	997
Interest Received	231.00	254
Notable Trees	756.45	1,052
Publications Services	76.45	237
Subscriptions	19,423.08	8,199
Sundry Income	208.72	58
GROSS INCOME	33,327.73	12,247
Less EXPENSES:		
Accident Compensation Levies	0.00	103
Accountancy and Audit	1,600.00	1,600
AGM Expenses	551.51	1,099
Bank Charges	30.90	49
Computer Software	0.00	37
Honorarium - Journal Editor & Website Maintenance	2,000.00	2,000
Insurances	368.31	369
Internet Expenses	321.82	679
Notable Trees	486.39	1,271
Newsletters and Journals	2,528.93	3,440
Printing and Stationery	1,720.24	700
Postage and Telephone	1,780.75	1,904
Rent	1,499.95	1,500
Repairs and Maintenance	544.75	178
Salary and Office Wages	5,461.00	6,024
Sundry Expenses	634.93	267
TOTAL EXPENSES	19,529.48	21,220
NET CASH PROFIT (LOSS)	13,798.25	(8,973)
FIXED ASSET COSTS:		
Depreciation	245.00	450
TOTAL FIXED ASSET COSTS	245.00	450
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	13,553.25	(9,423)
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$ 13,553.25	(\$9,423)

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 2003**

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
Equity at Beginning of the Year: 1.1.03	7,966.46	17,389
Plus:		
Net Surplus (Deficit) for the year	13,553.25	(9,423)
	<u>21,519.71</u>	<u>7,966</u>
Equity at End of the Year: 31.12.03	<u>\$21,519.71</u>	<u>\$7,966</u>

**ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003**

2. TRUST ACCOUNT PRIZES

	CAPITAL	INCOME	EXPENSES PAID OUT / SCHOLARSHIPS	TOTAL 2003	2002
Sir Victor Davies Award	3,650.00	4,482.88		8,132.88	7,683.00
Junior Memorial Prize Award	500.00	1,261.72		1,761.72	1,664.00
Dugald MacKenzie Memorial Prize Award	500.00	1,998.80		2,498.80	2,362.00
Notable Trees Trust	2,509.58	608.29		3,117.87	2,942.00
Peter Skellerup Prize Fund No.1	37,000.00	24,888.21		61,888.21	58,599.00
Peter Skellerup Prize Fund No.2	10,000.00	4,178.33		14,178.33	13,506.00
Rita Skellerup Prize Fund	2,500.00	5,732.77		8,232.77	7,820.00
David Tannock Memorial Prize Fund	500.00	1,594.25		2,094.25	1,977.00
	<u>\$57,159.58</u>	<u>\$44,745.25</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$101,904.83</u>	<u>96,553.00</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 2003**

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
CURRENT ASSETS		
BNZ Cheque Account	16,043.05	3,019
BNZ Publishing Account	3,900.13	3,810
GST Retention Account	2,191.68	477
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>22,134.86</u>	<u>7,306</u>
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	3,840.10	2,755
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>3,840.10</u>	<u>2,755</u>
WORKING CAPITAL	<u>18,294.76</u>	<u>4,551</u>
INVESTMENTS		
BNZ - DD Baker Account	2,821.95	2,767
TRUSTS and BEQUESTS - Bank of New Zealand	101,904.83	96,553
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	<u>104,726.78</u>	<u>99,320</u>
FIXED ASSETS		
Fixed Assets as per Schedule	403.00	648
	<u>\$123,424.54</u>	<u>\$104,519</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trust Account Prizes (Note 2)	101,904.83	96,553
CAPITAL		
Accumulated Funds	21,519.71	7,966
	<u>\$123,424.54</u>	<u>\$104,519</u>

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Chairperson

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



New Zealand Gardens Trust

NZGT BOARD STRUCTURING

Now that the New Zealand Gardens Trust has successfully established itself, it is time to structure the workload and responsibilities of the Trustees to meet the demands of future. To this end each Trustee has been assigned a particular portfolio important for the future growth and development of the Trust's work.

These portfolios and appointed Trustees are:

Newsletter	Gordon Collier
Membership	Liz Morrow
Tourism Liaison/Promotion	Margaret Barker
Seminars/Training	Andrew Maloy/Terry Hatch
Website	Jayson Kelly
Assessments	Beverly McConnell/Gordon Collier/Jayson Kelly

The Board is also investigating establishing a Deputy Chairperson portfolio to ensure there is backup for the Chairperson, and to provide for continuity when each Chairperson retires.

Jayson Kelly FRIH
CHAIRMAN

The following report was presented by Gordon at the Trust seminar held at Pukeiti on 25 March 2004

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Some Reflections on the 2003 Assessment

While traveling around NZ over the past years I have seen many gardens, large and small, unknown and famous, ranging from the excellent to the not so worthy. It has always surprised me that in most of these there is a good story, and more than likely a photo shoot that would pass muster in a glossy magazine. But the camera can lie and it often does as it only selects the images the photographer wants it to see. Looking more closely at some of these gardens a different overall picture emerges.

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 McConnell, AHRIH, 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 simply 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 an assessor for the New Zealand Gardens Trust. Having acted in this capacity before we knew some of the pitfalls and we knew that 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 straight forward. 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 assessment of 30 gardens from the Bay of Islands to Invercargill was carried out over a three month period late last year concluding in Wellington just seven days before Christmas. We were received with friendship and hospitality on all occasions and apart from an encounter with a tow truck up north and another with a police officer (female) somewhere south, the way was smooth.

As we had worked together before we were comfortable with each others views, in fact when we got down to brass tacks there was only one garden on which we differed. When it came to drawing a line between each grouping we were faced with difficult decisions - should we raise or lower the barrier?

What were we looking for? Did the garden achieve its purpose?

I was looking for the complete garden - the finished garden that showed cultivation skills combined with good design, good plantings, attention to detail and excellent maintenance. I tried to view each garden through the eyes of an overseas horticulturist accustomed to seeing the best - the object being that a visitor with a limited amount of time to spend could see the best garden sites New Zealand has to offer. Those with more time at their disposal or when geographically placed could perhaps visit the many other good gardens featured

on the web site.

On arrival at each garden we asked the owners whether or not there was any part of the garden that they did not want us to see. This was their chance to conceal their sins! If required, time was then spent discussing the assessment process and answering questions that arose. Depending on the size of the garden each visit took up to two hours - the larger properties took much longer than that. We marked our sheets as soon as possible and spent hours discussing the assessment as we drove.

The addition of the marks and the calculation according to each sections weighting was done in Dunedin after we had finished the journey. Sections such as maintenance, safety, hard landscape, design and plant material each had their own attributes and scored marks out of ten. However the biggest mark went to overall impression - what we came to call the 'wow factor'. It is interesting that the scores for this section were high with all gardens scoring between 7 and 9 out of 10. This mark represents just what it says - the overall impression, the cameras view as it were, and we found this relatively simple to apply. This score indicates just how good each of the 30 gardens is regardless of their final ranking.

However when we applied the other factors - maintenance, safety, design, plant content and facilities etc the gardens were more closely examined according to each attribute. Maintenance was generally high and we did expect this to be so. However, while a few weeds are almost inevitable and acceptable, visitors do not want to see plants engulfed in cleavers nor do they need to see piles of garden waste which could be disposed of out of sight or chipped to provide mulch. Untrimmed edges in a formal setting and murky ponds also received a low mark. Plant material usually scored well. Overall the toilet facilities were only adequate and there was room for improvement in many gardens - this applies equally to the Botanic Gardens and the other public gardens we visited. While it is not my intention to signal out any particular individual,

everyone should see for themselves Larnach Castle's facilities.

One of the difficulties we faced was the inclusion of the diverse gardens we had to assess. New Zealand's Botanic gardens with highly trained staff and considerable resources were lumped together with smaller private gardens many of which were worked part time by their owners. There was no way around this, no factor which differentiated, for example, ten hectares with one labour unit and the same area with ten labour units. No matter how interesting the garden nor how devoted the operators these invariably lost out to the better staffed or to gardens of a more manageable size. When it came to maintenance and an acceptable level of cultivation it just was not possible for them to compete - Pukeiti would have to be the outstanding exception to this. Unfortunately big is not necessarily better and anyone attempting to run an area on their own or over, say, one hectare unless their management skills were sharp, was seriously compromised by this particular process.. But those whose gardens did not make a higher ranking should not be discouraged on these counts.

Another difficulty lay in the diverse types of gardens we looked at. How could they be compared one with the other? There was no alternative but to mark strictly to the assessment sheets. If for instance a garden had a rock garden, this had to have well placed rocks, be of a good standard of cultivation with interesting plants - good rock gardens were few and far between. Rock gardens are notoriously labour intensive as are herbaceous borders. Again, fortunately, there were few that attempted the latter display. The best herbaceous borders - by a country mile - were in Dunedin, where they were superb. Hedges in several instances were exceptional - those at Richmond for example - while the lawns at Woodbridge were remarkable.

Then there were the old friends, the ones who had worked hard on their properties for years and the large broad-brush gardens with extensive plant collections. How were they to be judged? In the end these factors could not be

considered - and the sheer size of a garden could only partially enter the equation. Ideally I wanted to see all cultivated soil covered either by well chosen plants or by a suitable mulch and the outer sometimes rougher, perimeters well screened. But it was design, the quality of finish coupled with high standards of gardening and the owners' innate flair with plants that were the deciding factors.

This scheme broke new ground for horticulture in this country. It was not perfect but never before have our gardens been subject to such scrutiny. Bev and I were privileged to get a unique oversight like that of viewing a slow moving slide show. Thus we were able to compare each garden, one with the other, helping us make our decisions. There will be changes to the protocol - for instance ornamentation was not examined and safety attributes may need to be revisited. But in any issue such as this a line has to be drawn between the good and the very good. This was not easy. I can say with confidence however that each of the gardens we saw was of great interest and well worth visiting.

Concluding, I trust you, and the wider audience who may read this will have a better understanding of the judging process and the difficulties that Beverley and I faced in making our decisions. I would say to all the Founding Gardens that each can close the gap and reach a higher rank.

Our thanks are due to our fellow trustees for their support, and to Jayson especially for all the hard miles he has run to make the New Zealand Gardens Trust an effective force in this business of gardening.

Gordon Collier Dip Hort (Hons.) AHRIH



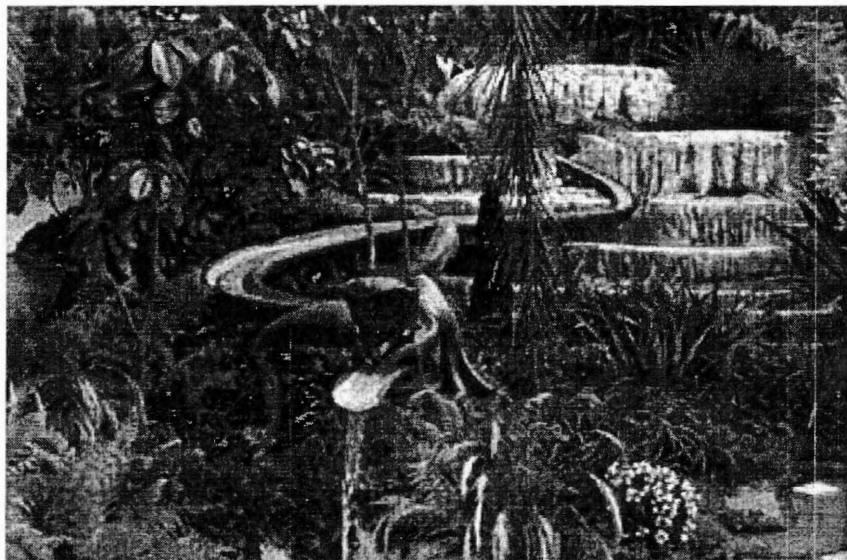
Chelsea Gold

Anyone even remotely interested in gardening was thrilled with the gold medal winning effort of the New Zealand team at the recent Chelsea Flower Show. That this was a first time attempt was an extraordinary achievement. New Zealand plants and gardens were showcased in the very best possible place giving us unprecedented exposure to the market place. The Queen was one of the first to view and spent a long time at our garden. According to bystanders she loved the bird noises and was fascinated by the steaming fumaroles

Beverley McConnell of Ayrlires and a trustee of the NZGT was invited to assist at nearby Julian Dowles' garden; (Julian, well known for his judging role at Ellerslie won the Peoples Choice award.) Bev said that despite the early inclement weather and the difficulties to be overcome, the New Zealand garden came together very well in the end. *"It was a fresh and innovative exhibit and the plants were put together creatively against a backdrop of pongas. People had not seen cabbage trees in flower, nor lancewoods, or our beautiful native geranium. These plants were an absolute 'wow'!"*

There were many different elements, Bev says, – circular paving, authentic looking pink and white terraces, a cave and a taniwha spilling water into a hot pool. In the end, she thought it was the clever garden planting that pulled it all together. And the plants were presented in immaculate condition.

It seems any New Zealanders within cooe were rostered to help when the crowds rolled in. Bev McConnell and Margaret Barker of Larnach Castle, (also a NZGT trustee,) were two of these. "From the front of the garden we handed out neatly packaged packets of seed of iconic native plants – pohutakawa, leptospermum, kowhai and hebe. These were well received by the patient queues," Bev recalls. "Our tourism people really loved the garden, they enjoyed being part of it – they were so excited. Australia also produced an excellent exhibit but we pipped them for the gold. That was great!



Tourism New Zealand
100% Pure New Zealand - Ora Garden of well-being

Garden Assessments

Having surmounted the difficulties of the first year of garden assessments a few changes have been made to the process mainly adjusting the weighting between the various attributes. Mindful of the need not only to be impartial but to appear impartial, as well as to spread the work load, extra helpers are being called in this year from outside the Trustees to assist with the assessment process.

In our first year there were 30 gardens to be visited from the Bay of Islands to Invercargill – a strenuous schedule finishing just before Christmas. This season there are currently 83 gardens, two of which are in the Gisborne area. Of these 67 have asked to be in the Assessed category and 16 are trying for Garden of Regional or National Significance. Although in the former grouping only the published details – time of opening etc, need to be checked, the entire garden has to be looked at so that an accurate description can be written for the web site. This is extremely important. However similar time is needed to report on either category of garden. With the re-assessment of the year 2003 gardens due in two years time a larger experienced team will be needed to cope with these and the number of gardens joining the NZGT.

After careful consideration the following have been appointed as NZ Gardens Trust assessors:

Jan Woodhouse - Auckland. Jan is a successful landscape architect and well known judge at the Ellerslie Flower Show and for the NZ Institute of Landscape Awards held early this year. Her design skills will be invaluable to the team.

Kerei Thompson - Wellington. Kerei is a qualified arborist and prominent horticultural contractor. He currently manages the gardens and grounds of Government House (Wellington & Auckland,) Parliament Buildings, Premier House, Vogel House, Mercy Hospital and Kings College. His eye for detail and practical knowledge will bring a new perspective.

Pauline Murphy - Cromwell. Pauline has a

Batchelor of Horticultural Science and has worked in ornamental horticulture in a number of private and public gardens throughout New Zealand. She has a keen sense of design, a good knowledge of plants and is an experienced garden observer.

Beverley and Gordon will together visit all the gardens to be assessed for the National category. Jan, Kerei and Pauline will join where geographically appropriate. Next year these experiences will be built on; hopefully further team members will be called in as appropriate.

Consistency of assessment is the foremost priority.

A Note from Woodlands Trust

Woodlands was assessed in October 2003 as a Garden of Regional Significance. We were very encouraged by the report given by the New Zealand Garden Trusts assessors regarding our ability to reach the Garden of Significance standard and we realized how important from a tourism point of view this rating could be.

The assessors were very direct with their advice, pointing out that our goal would be hard to achieve unless we made some significant landscape changes.

With two full time gardeners and an ever decreasing group of volunteers, any development of the estate had given way to the enormous amount of maintenance involved in its upkeep. We realized we would need to employ an extra gardener if we were to achieve our goal.

Woodlands Homestead and Gardens is owned by the Waikato District Council who pay the garden maintenance costs and gardener wages. We needed the Council to share the same 'Garden of Significance' vision for Woodlands as shared by its staff and trustees.

After attending the Seminar in New Plymouth it was obvious to us that the NZGT had made enormous steps towards organizing and lead-

ing the garden industry and they would be able to add weight to our case with Council.

Bryan Gould of NZGT provided us with a letter of support which along with our own petitioning was successful in demonstrating to Council the potential benefits of 'Garden of Significance' rating.

Council responded by granting the Woodlands Trust enough money to employ an additional part-time fixed term gardener and carry out the landscape changes advocated. We are hopeful that Council will make the additional gardeners position a permanent one next year.

The Woodlands Trust is grateful to the NZGT and Bryan for their advocacy and firmly believes our submission was given the attention it deserved because of this.

Rae Mellsope, Manager Woodlands Trust.

Footnote:

Extensive alterations to the driveway and entrance to Woodlands are currently being completed.

Gordon Collier

The First Inaugural NZGT Seminar

Pukeiti provided the perfect venue for gardeners from around New Zealand to attend the inaugural seminar of the recently formed New Zealand Gardens Trust (NZGT), held over 23-25 April. The event gave owners and managers managing private and public gardens an opportunity to hear the latest updates on the ever-expanding garden tourism and independent traveller market. It was also an ideal chance to hear about the NZGT's Assessed Garden Scheme.

The trust aims to encourage and support the best in gardens and gardening - and to this end over 55 people spent an enjoyable weekend listening to several professional speakers discussing issues concerning the theme

Managing, Marketing and Promoting Your Garden. The seminar proved very successful in bringing together a diverse range of people to learn more about innovation and customer service in gardens.

Keynote speakers Maggie Barry and Jack Hobbs discussed contemporary garden care, trends in tourism and visitor expectations through illustrated presentations.

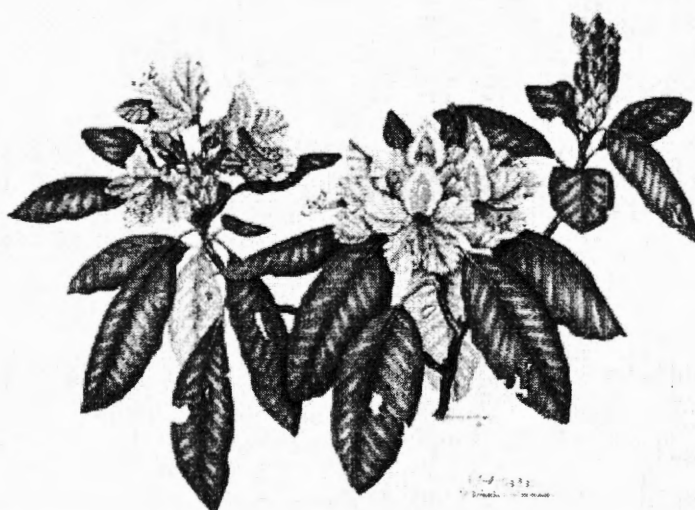
Bev McConnell and Gordon Collier - the NZGT's Gardens Assessors - talked about their roles and gave a personal perspective on what makes a good garden great.

Fiona Luhrs, CEO of Qualmark and David Burt from Tourism New Zealand, presented valuable information about standards and the need to meet visitor expectations.

Bruce Gatward-Cook from Destination Taranaki, Geoff Burn from Fernmade and Jim Monahan from ITOC supported the programme with facts and insights which defined the market segment. Their comprehensive overview showed how the horticultural and environmental sector of inbound visitors is growing annually.

Andrea Leadbetter, from TGM Design, gave everyone an appreciation of how to create the right impression through design and promotion.

Overall the delegates received plenty of fresh ideas to consider within their own gardens - and the potential to market their properties



through NZGT and Qualmark to an increasingly discerning visitor group.

Pukeiti looked splendid as the backdrop to the seminar. Many delegates were seeing the gardens for the first time and, as expected, were charmed by the uniqueness of the setting and the size and scale of the landscape. The New Zealand Gardens Trust, of which Pukeiti is both a Founding Garden and a Garden of National Significance, has consolidated its purpose as the key industry organisation for New Zealand Gardens. It was appropriate that Pukeiti should host the inaugural seminar and, in doing so, confirm its own status as one of the countries leading gardens.

Bryan Gould

This article appeared originally in the Pukeiti Bulletin and is reproduced by kind permission of the author

Down to Earth Talks

Stuart Dixon is a lecturer in horticulture and travels widely, sharing his love of gardening and gardens with 'down to earth' talks to horticultural societies, groups and clubs. He is a Royal Horticultural Society, Hardy Plant and National Trust speaker. Much of his knowledge and expertise being gained from the restoration of his own 18th Century garden at Hebb's Farmhouse, which has been featured on BBC TV. He has a wide range of topics on which he addresses, including gardens of various countries, perennials, alpines, roses and other interesting plant genera. Stuart can be contacted by email at dixons.hebbsfarm@binternet.com, or by writing to Hebb's Farmhouse, 22 Stoke Bardolph, Nottingham, NG14 5HS, England.



Members of the Executive with Mrs Rene Orchiston at the 2003 Conference
Back row from left to right: Ron Flook, David Shillito, Andrew Maloy, Jayson Kelly, Murray Dawson
Front Row: John Taylor and Mrs Orchiston
Photograph kindly supplied by Mrs Orchiston

Newsletter



Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

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HAPPENING IN HAMILTON

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30TH 2004

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration includes:

Tours and talks in Hamilton Gardens
Finger food lunch and afternoon tea
Set menu dinner before the Banks Lecture – please indicate
if you require a vegetarian meal
(You are responsible for your own morning tea arrangements
– Gardens' Café will be open.)

Please register the following people for the Happening

Name(s): _____

Mailing address: _____

Payment \$50.00 for members or \$60.00 for non-members must
accompany this form.

Cheques to be made out to Auckland Branch, RNZIH

Registrations received after October 15th must include a late fee of \$5.00
per registration to be accepted.

Please post to,

Bronwen Rowse
P. O. Box 34
Patumahoe
Phone 09 2363 884
Mob 029 9048248

I/we are interested in a trip on Sunday morning 31st October to Taitua
Arboretum

Yes

No