

Newsletter



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Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

Chairman's Comments

The last twelve months have again been busy and eventful for the Institute in its various activities. A major downside was the sad loss in July of our Vice-patron and immediate Past President, John Taylor. John's first official involvement in the Institute began in 1951 and he served in a variety of roles including Chair of this committee for 6 years and 25 years on the examining board. I'll long remember John for his down to earth approach, good manners and humour. A full eulogy will be published in the December issue of the New Zealand Garden Journal.

More fully detailed reports of the specialist groups under the Institutes' umbrella will be presented by others on executive so here I'll just touch briefly on some of the main achievements and topics for discussion.

New Zealand Gardens Trust

Under the capable leadership of Jayson Kelly and the enthusiastic and highly competent board of trustees NZGT continues to thrive. National and international recognition of NZGT as a source of up to date and reliable information on the best public and privately owned gardens open to visit in NZ is growing. The garden-owner members of NZGT (and so also members of RNZIH) are a motivated bunch and proved this by attending the May seminar in Dunedin in good numbers. I recently attended the NZGT annual general meeting, both to maintain links with the trustees as well as to allow them the opportunity to provide verbal feedback to the national body. Given present

interest by new gardens applying for assessment this spring, coupled with ongoing publicity and media exposure NZGT looks set to grow steadily over the next few years. I'd like to formally thank the NZGT board of trustees along with their secretary and treasurer who give freely of their time and energy, mostly with little or no recompense. A full list of those involved appears on page four.

RNZIH Education Trust

National Training Manager, David Pufflett, continues to carry out most of the services the trust contracted to provide to the NZ Horticultural Training Organisation. These include accreditation and moderation of horticultural training providers, organising and running oral and practical exams, preliminary work towards organising a Symposium on Horticultural Training in 2006 and some training-needs based research. Another major project the trust contracted to carry out this year was the implementation of the Young Horticulturist of The Year competition (YHOTY) which involved employing on a contractual basis the services of Elenka Nikoloff. Interest in this competition from sponsors has been such that, assuming a successful end result to the competition in late November, I believe the YHOTY competition is likely to be in a position to be largely self funding from 2006. The achievements of the Education Trust are in large due to the skills and hard work of both David and Elenka but would not have even been possible in the first instance

(Continued from page 1)

without the ongoing voluntary input from the board of trustees and treasurer, a list of whom appears on page four. Thank you one and all, your efforts are appreciated, not just within the Institute but by the horticultural industry at large.

Notable Trees NZ

Since its conception, Ron Flook has done the great bulk of the work in establishing and maintaining this important database of historic and important trees, encouraging appreciation and giving protection measures a better chance of success. Ron has achieved a great deal on an almost non-existent budget. Notable Trees NZ is now accessible on the web. There is much work that can still be done in this area as I'm sure Ron will describe in his report. Thank you, Ron, from the Institute as well as on behalf of the trees, and for your continued contribution and support in other areas.

Website

From its humble beginnings www.rnzih.org.nz is now a world class website. As well as promoting the Institute it provides information about RNZIH affairs, on plants both native and exotic, plant pests and diseases, horticultural book reviews and a myriad of other horticultural topics. All this is due to the tireless efforts of Murray Dawson who also acts as webmaster for the NZGT website, www.gardens.org.nz.

New Zealand Garden Journal

With Murray Dawson and myself taking over the editing and working as a team we managed to get the mid-year issue out, albeit a few weeks late. With printing costs coming down we have achieved a journal with more colour for roughly the same price. There is a good supply of material for the next two journals and I'm confident in more coming in. We aim to have the December issue delivered to members before Christmas.

RNZIH Awards and Scholarships

One of the great strengths of the Institute should be its portfolio of awards and

scholarships that can be awarded across all sectors of horticulture to both members and non-members. Yet at times this seems also to be the Institute's best kept secret. The Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Scholarship, for example, is worth \$5000 a year and so should attract several applications each year, yet not one application was received this year. We have other awards of lesser value that are also infrequently applied for or awarded. Along with the Plant Raisers' Award, Associate of Honour and others, this is an area where the Institute should be able to gain much publicity and recognition. We must do more to promote our awards and scholarships. We owe it to those who have entrusted us with funds and in doing so may encourage further endowments with which we can further advance our objectives of encouraging excellence in all aspects of horticulture.

Ellerslie Flower Show

This year the Ellerslie Flower Show (EFS) has allocated a marquee, the "Hort Galore Marquee", with space made available free to garden-related societies to put on a display and promote their activities. Liz Morrow of NZGT has taken over responsibility for arranging the Institute's display with input and support promised from several local members. EFS policy requires each display to show quality plants and flowers in a well-designed manner rather than a poster, banner and photo type display. There will, however, be RNZIH signage, brochures for the public to pick up and the possibility of a poster display on the marquee walls close to the entrance and exit. EFS management have suggested that if successful this year the Hort Galore Marquee could become a regular feature.

Thank you

I'd like to thank all those who contribute so much to the running and decision-making of the Institute. Thanks to our President, Jack Hobbs and Vice-president, Ross Ferguson for their wisdom and support. And to those on executive not previously mentioned who,

along with regular executive meeting duties, take on other responsibilities; Michael Ayrton for his involvement in the Education Trust and for representing RNZIH on the NZHITO board; Eddie Wullems, for the Education Trust; David Sole, new to executive this year but taking an active role; Mick Reece, for taking part when practicable. And a particularly heartfelt thank you to David Shillito who is standing down this year after many years on executive including a spell as chair, and who, during a most difficult time in the Institute's history, was responsible for getting the financial affairs back into order and in doing so laid the foundations for the organisation that we are today. Thanks also to Linda Sallabanks, our administration manager in the Lincoln office.

Vision for the Future

The RNZIH is quite a different organisation now to that of five years ago, yet its membership base has not grown significantly. Whether greatly increased membership is a realistic expectation in this day and age is open for discussion, as are many aspects of how the Institute manages its affairs. Thanks to the impetus provided by Ron Flook and recent work by David Sole on a strategic plan the executive are closer to resolving some of these issues. I believe there is a strong future ahead for RNZIH as an impartial body with no allegiance to any particular sector of the horticultural industry, and I look forward to more actively fulfilling the objectives of our constitution which, while broad-ranging, are summed up quite concisely in this one, "To encourage, foster and improve every branch of horticulture." It is interesting to note that, at this time when some sectors are finding the going extremely difficult, there is still

substantial support, financial and in other ways, for RNZIH-related activities, the YHOTY competition for example.

Andrew Maloy
Chair RNZIH Executive Committee

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RNZIH EDUCATION TRUST		RNZIH NEW ZEALAND GARDENS TRUST	
Chair	Andrew Maloy	Chair	Jayson Kelly
		Vice-chair	Bryan Gould
Trustees	Michael Ayrton Alex Gardiner Eddie Wullems Andrew Taylor	Trustees	Margaret Barker Liz Morrow Bev McConnell Gordon Collier Terry Hatch Tony Peak
National Training			
Manager	David Pufflett	Treasurer	Neville Haydon
Treasurer	Neville Haydon	Minutes	Sue Davison
YHOTY	Elenka Nikoloff		

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 visit www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/awards.html or write to the RNZIH, PO 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 (FRIH)

Awarded to members 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 31 March 2006

The Margaret Watling Scholarship

This scholarship was established in 1991 as a result of a bequest from Mrs Mary Watling who, throughout her life, promoted and worked for the advancement of parks and amenity horticulture. 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 purpose of the award is to assist people to undertake further study, or to obtain practical experience in amenity horticulture, ornamental horticulture, nursery management or an allied field. The scholarship is administered by Lincoln University. Applications close on 31 March in each year. The value of the award is up to \$5,000. One or two scholarships shall be awarded annually to person aged between 19 and 35 who have studied horticulture. They must have resided in the South Island for at least two years prior to the award.

In 2005 the Scholarship has been awarded to Richard Pender. Richard worked at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens from 1996 to 1999, and during this time he completed the RNZIH National Certificate in Amenity Horticulture. Subsequently, he has completed the RHS Diploma at Wisley, and then a BSc in botany at Canterbury University. Richard plans to study at the University of Hawaii, and to gain a Masters degree in Botany focusing on plant ecology, systematics, and plant conservation.

Further information about this scholarship, plus an application form, can be obtained from the Scholarships Officer, PO Box 94, Lincoln University, Canterbury.

Ron Close

E-mail: closer@plantwise.co.nz

In Memoriam

It is with much regret that we record the passing of one of the Institute's Associates of Honour. Thomas Robert Noel Lothian OBE died in Australia on 24 September 2005. Mr Lothian became a member of the RNZIH in 1977 and received the award of Associate of Honour in 1988. A full obituary for Mr Lothian will appear in the first issue of the New Zealand Garden Journal in 2006.

We have also just received news that Mr Lothian has made a bequest to the RNZIH with the request that his gift be used to further the aims and objects of the Institute.

Notable Trees Report

Ralph Ballinger has again made a substantial donation to the cost of label production and engraving which is a great encouragement and we would like to record our grateful thanks.

This year has had the website fully integrated with the NTNZ registration records as far as possible. Full documentation e.g. newspaper cuttings, book extracts etc, is impractical due to time consuming downloading of printed material.

All photo records that are legible have also been included. This makes quite a gallery of photo technology of the last century. Scanning photos and tweaking for best effect takes on average six minutes per photo. Fortunately the scanner is owned by me or the commercial cost would have been prohibitive. The gallery consists of over 800 photos and the time sum has to include cleaning the material and remounting the photos for A4 uniformity within the registration documentation.

There are now 16 registrations pending. It is a time consuming co-ordination and processing problem for checking documentation, assembling material, photocopying, enamel labelling and engraving as well as website recording. It could be handled within an equipped office and not done in a domestic situation without normal office equipment. Trips into town are the norm to complete the registrations.

Enquiries from overseas show that our NTNZ website is viewed internationally. The website cost of \$65 pa does an inexpensive job of advertising the role of the RNZIH work in this country. A recent humorous request from Rebecca Steffansrud of Friction Zone Magazine Spokane USA as follows:

“Can you help me? I bought a tree in the US supposedly called a New Zealand Kiwi Willow...member of the Royal Salix family. It's noted for extremely fast growth, 8-20 ft per year with lots of water. The leaf looks like a bamboo leaf, but the trunks look like a slim tree trunk. They tend to grow straight up and are very attractive. They look similar to a Raywood Ash, in my opinion”.

My guess was *Nestegia montana* (Willow leaved Maire)

A new development of great interest is the offer from NZGT to advertise to their garden owners about the option for recording any Notable Trees in their domain. It has also been a long held wish that the lead on from NZGT would be the establishment of an updated RNZIH Plant Collection Register in tandem with our NZ Botanic gardens.

We look forward to another year in the continued regeneration of the RNZIH.

Ron Flook
National Registrar

Education Trust News

Horticulture Moderation

During 2005 I have run about 40 workshops in horticulture moderation; this has been to ensure that the assessing of horticulture subjects is of the same level throughout the country. Moderation involves not only the providers of training such as polytechnics, schools, and private training enterprises, but also growers and those teaching apprentices in the horticulture industry.

This probably takes up about 60% of my time and overall the standard of assessment throughout the country is good to very good. The polytechnics have been involved in this process for some time now, and the standard in both workshops is well above average. I have set up a National Moderation Panel which will be reviewing the moderation process this year and looking at changes if any that need to be brought in for next year.

HortFertplus Young Horticulturist of the Year 2005

Well, this is only three weeks away and the programme is set in place for an exciting event. We have five contestants, one from each sector:

- fruit production;
- nursery production;
- amenity horticulture;
- landscaping; and
- arboriculture.

All the contestants will be going through a range of practical events as well as interviews, speeches, a computer project and culminating in a 30-question buzzer session, after which the winner will be announced. Tickets are available for the Friday 18 November night session from:

Elenka Nikoloff

Phone 09 636 5922, Fax 09 636 0122
email elenka.nikoloff@xtra.co.nz, and

Neville Haydon

Phone/Fax 09 296 1893
email nevhaydon@xtra.co.nz.

This will be a great night with Te Radar, our celebrity speaker, contestant's speeches, a la carte dinner, followed by a band/dancing etc. Wine and food is all included in the \$75.00 ticket.

2006 Horticulture Symposium

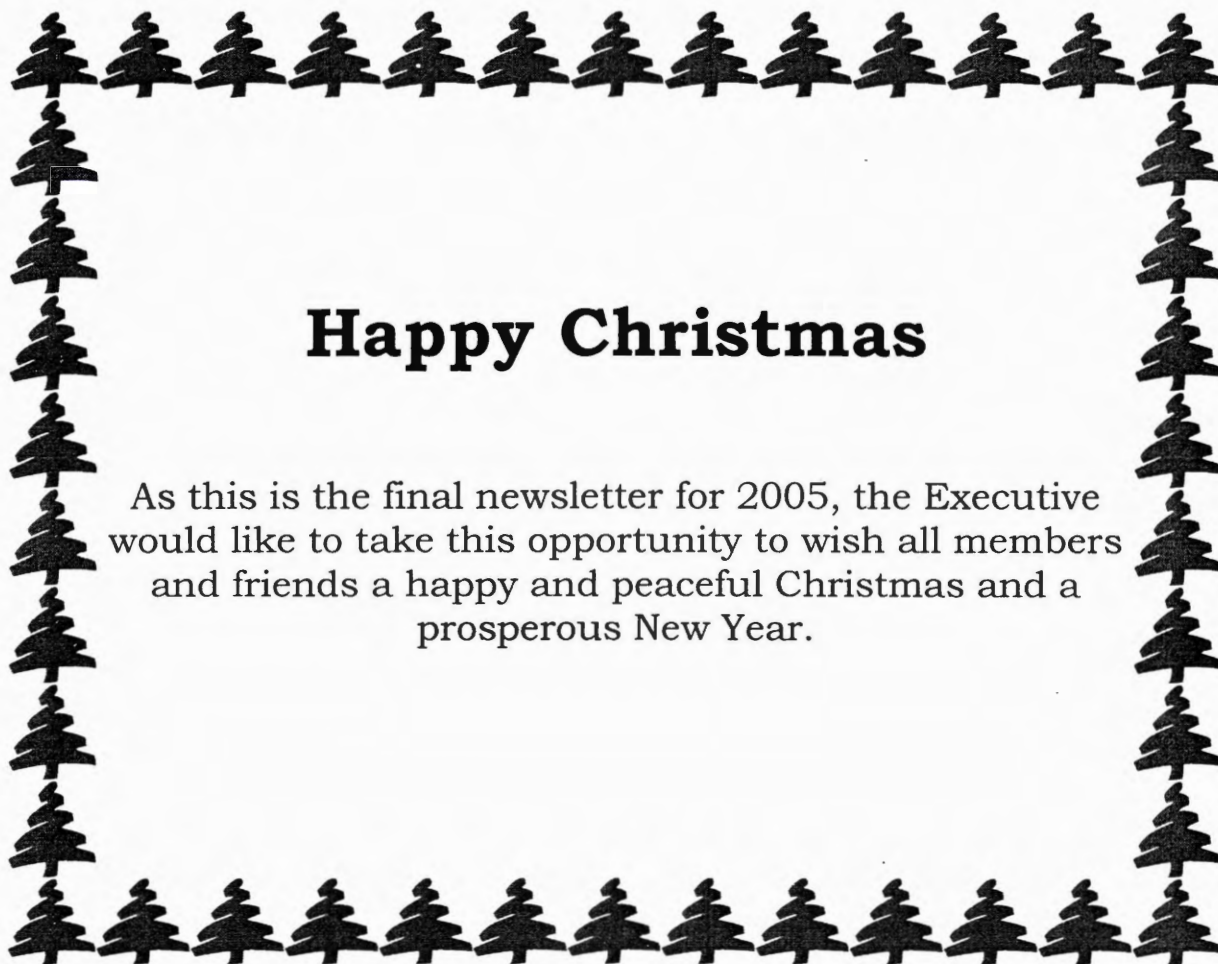
Next year we are looking at having a three day Horticulture Education and Training Symposium at Lincoln University. This will be held on 16-18 August and run in conjunction with the HortITO. The objective of the symposium is to look at where horticulture education is going and give some direction as to where horticulture training should be heading over the next 5-10 years. Those attending will be horticulture teachers from secondary schools, PTE staff, polytechnic tutors/lecturers, Lincoln and Massey University staff, Hort ITO staff and representatives from the horticulture industry sectors. It will be a good chance to see what's happening out there and look at some of the new technology on delivery, catch up with other tutors and industry personnel teaching similar topics and be involved in where horticulture training and education should be going during the next decade. I will put out a press release to everyone asking for papers to speak at this event before the end of the year.

Oral and Practical Exams

During 2005, 25 candidates completed the RHZIH Education Trust Oral and Practical Exams. To be eligible to sit these exams candidates must have completed their National Certificate Level 4 qualifications. In order to pass the one day exam, candidates must achieve 65-84% for a merit pass or over 85% for distinction. Next year more exams will be held in three regions throughout the country.

If you would like to know more about any of the above please give me an email rnhzi@ps.gen.nz.

David Pufflett
National Training Manager



Happy Christmas

As this is the final newsletter for 2005, the Executive would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and friends a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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