

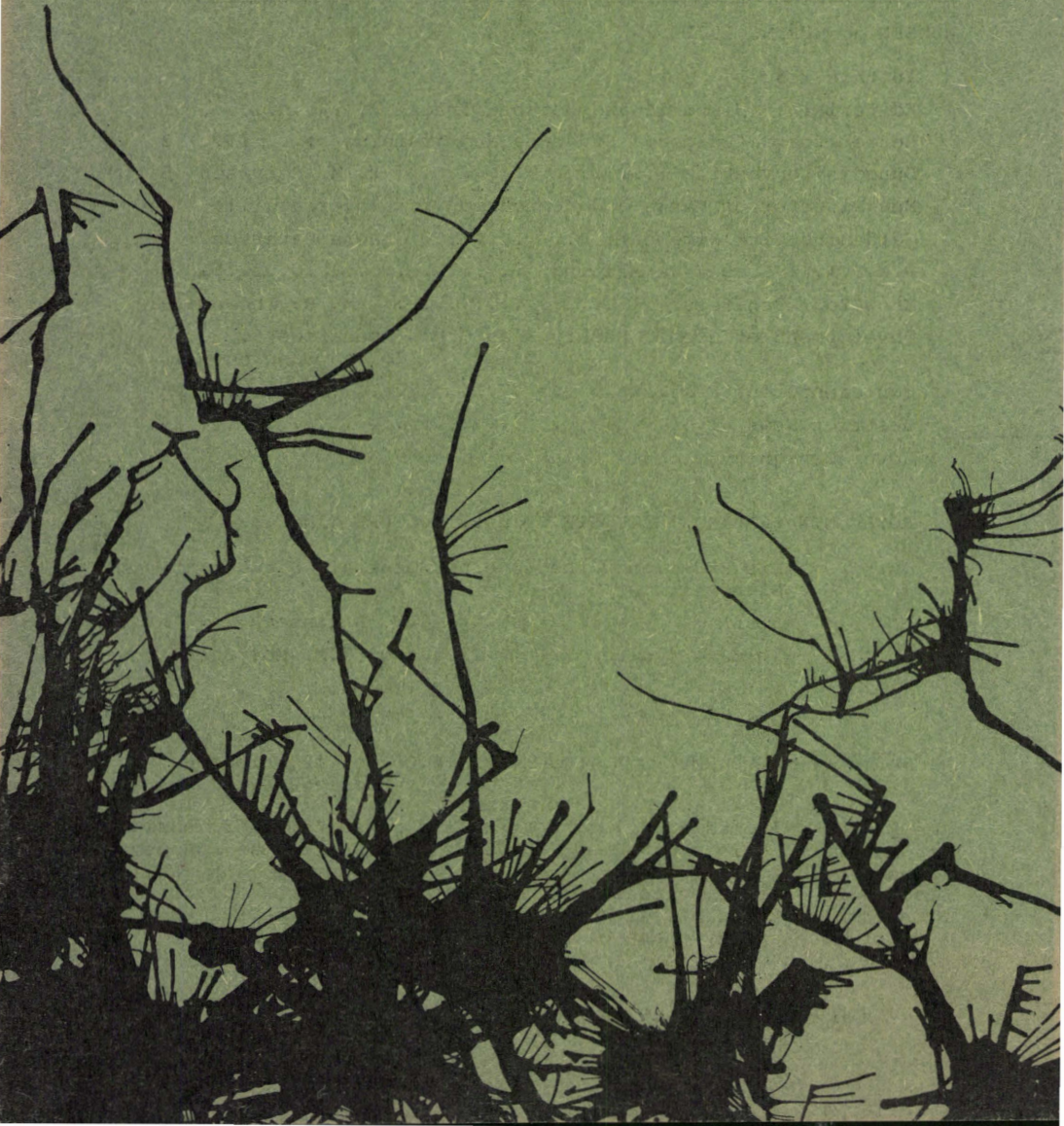
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SPRING 1977

Horticulture

in New Zealand

Bulletin of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)



HORTICULTURE

IN NEW ZEALAND



BULLETIN OF THE ROYAL N.Z. INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

NUMBER 5, SPRING 1977

In this issue

Editorial : Historic and Notable Trees	1
Letter to the Editor: Students and Training	2
Dunedin Convention	T. M. Morrison 5
New Director of Parks and Recreation for Invercargill..	6
Gardening with <u>Pimelea</u>	Graeme Paterson. 7
R.N.Z.I.H. Executive Meeting	8
Know Your Conifers - 1	M. B. Thomas 9
Development of Scenic Reserves as Urban Amenities	Jolyon Manning . 10
Conference for Florists	13
District News	14
Cover Design by Michael Cole	

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)

Patron : His Excellency the Governor General, Sir Denis Blundell

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The Editor welcomes articles, letters and news items for consideration for publication. Deadline dates for material are: Autumn issue, February 20; Winter, May 20; Spring, August 20; Summer, October 20. Contributions should be addressed to the Editor, P.O. Box 12, Lincoln College. Views expressed in the Bulletin are not necessarily those of R.N.Z.I.H.

Editorial

Historic and Notable Trees

The Institute has made headline news recently with the launching of a national scheme to register N.Z.'s notable and historic trees. This is a major achievement and goes hand-in-hand with legislation in the Town and Country Planning Bill which has been presented to Parliament.

I think we should recognise the men behind the scheme. It has taken many years to reach the current position. Dr. H. H. Allan, author of Allan's Flora of New Zealand, was the first worker in the field. He started compiling lists of historic and notable trees in the late 1930's when he was Honorary Botanist to the Institute, in the days when Botany Division was based at the D.S.I.R. in Wellington. His first tree lists were published in the 1940's. Mr. S.W. Burstall was another worker who helped lay the foundations for the current promotion and registration of trees. He painstakingly prepared lists of historic and noteworthy trees over a period of 18 years while he was employed by the Forest Research Institute. His lists are in F.R.I. Mensuration Reports No.'s 16 - 24, each covering a specific area in N.Z. Bob Burstall is now retired and resides in Tauranga.

Arthur Healy was convener of a Canterbury sub-committee which helped keep the interest in tree protection, and in 1970 he published articles on the subject in the R.N.Z.I.H. Annual Journal.

In recent years, organisations and groups like the Tree Society of N.Z., the Urban Trees Committee (Commission for Environment) and the Town and Country Planning Division of the Ministry of Works have contributed in various ways to the protection of N.Z.'s trees. The newly formed R.N.Z.I.H. Tree Register Committee chaired by Chris Howden and supported by workers like Drane Menzies has already done much good work and I am sure all members endorse their efforts along with those of the foundation workers.

M.B. Thomas

Letter to the Editor

STUDENTS AND TRAINING

I read with interest your editorial (Number 4 Winter 1977) and am glad that someone has at last taken up some important issues which will be of benefit to the Institute.

A remit to the Annual Conference recommended that all students should become members at an appropriate subscription rate. Legal views were required before student membership would or could become compulsory. The steps that the Institute has taken so far are excellent and there must be very few people who disagree, particularly if they have the future of New Zealand horticulture, the Institute and the students at heart. Surely the Institute must benefit in many ways with an influx of 10-20% of new members and increased income. It is important that all our students should belong to the Institute.

The problem seems to be which sort of membership should be made compulsory and what benefits are gained from this membership. At present students pay only one initial registration fee of \$6.00, for which they get very little in return. The following is one possible suggestion that could overcome this problem.

All students should become "Registered Students" and pay an annual registration fee. This would entitle them to enrol for the examinations conducted by the Institute. A fee to cover all costs must still be charged to sit individual or groups of examinations. A Registered Student would also be entitled to receive all regular publications (they pay for the Journal like ordinary members) but not to receive any voting rights.

A clause similar to the following could be introduced:

"The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture will acknowledge receipt of an appropriate annual fee and will admit persons as Registered Students entitling the Student to enter for the Institute's Diplomas and other Examinations, and to share in other such privileges as may be provided for such Students."

Registered Students would be able to join the local branch of the Institute as a full member at no extra cost and should be eligible to become a national member by paying an extra fee to make it equivalent to normal membership rates.

Example :	Current full membership	\$7.50
	Registered Students	\$5.00
	Extra to full membership	\$2.50 = \$7.50

Student registrations should be reviewed every two years.

If the Institute adopts this, which it inevitably

must, then it will increase the status of the Institute through a role of Registered Students, it will tap a real source of potential members who are aware of the Institute and its activities, provide a service to its students through regular communications, and benefit the Institute financially. Surely this is a good thing.

Your editorial also touched on a further point which should be greatly expanded.

"Training and education (we don't know the difference)."

In theory we do but in practice we don't. Training by definition is the teaching of the skills required to complete a job competently and correctly. Education, on the other hand, is to train mentally and morally. That is schooling the brain to determine how those skills can be applied to best effect. Education aids the thinking (mental) processes.

Training, that is the teaching of skills, is catered for, or should be, in most cases by employers although it may be necessary for District Councils to set in motion a programme of field days. These field days, preferably held during the week when attendance is assured, would show and teach students some skills and techniques not included in everyday work. Some District Councils may be able to organise a full week of practical workshops covering a wide range of skills and techniques. Alternative workshops could be arranged and students allowed to choose those which interest them most. A one week course may in fact be easier to organise than a continuing series. Practical training of students has still got a long way to go before the best method for the majority can be arranged, and even in the future this method may not prove satisfactory and will need changing. It is time to start using imagination and our organising abilities in this very important field.

Education, the presentation of facts and argument to aid the thinking process, is much more difficult to unite with the Institute's existing functions, but again we must use what we have to start the ball rolling. The very fact that students and members are widespread means that any group activity will reach only a few people.

We are fortunate now that Institute members receive a quarterly Bulletin which, if students were registered under a new system, would be received by students. I suggest that the Institute takes steps to innovate a method of educating members and students through this publication.

Several suggestions come to mind.

One: With increased finance available through student registration the Editor should be free to solicit one or two articles per Bulletin from recognised experts who, if given a good brief, will produce an article which presents facts and argument clearly and concisely.

Two: Through the Executive obtain articles from various examiners of the National Diploma in Horticulture (four schedules). The topic chosen would closely follow the syllabus, or part of, for that subject and introduce as much up to date information as possible. The article should present argument for and/or against different aspects to enable the reader to think about the subject.

Three: Reprint articles from other magazines or publications and for good articles pay the copywriter fees.

Four: In the Bulletin include a Students' Section which would provide articles for students and provide a forum for students. Student contributions could be placed here.

Five: Publishing of model answers by examiners to previous examination papers giving an idea of what is required and to what standard.

Six: Payment on a number of word basis could be made to all members and students for articles published. This is necessary to increase the quality of our publications to increase the status of the Institute.

Over the last few years we have seen a number of changes in our Institute, some excellent and some good, but one question that must be asked is "Have they been effective changes?" Effective in obtaining new members, distributing our philosophies and making our presence felt in the community. If the Institute is to survive effectively in the future then it has got to start cultivating its future leaders now. We can't wait and expect someone else to take over without being previously involved with the Institute. The days of expecting people to join an organisation such as ours are gone. We have to sell it and sell it hard. The sooner we do it the sooner we will see the results and reap the benefits.

After all we are the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

A. G. Jolliffe,
Curator,
Christchurch Botanic Gardens.

Flowers for Shows Handbook

The revised edition of this valuable text for exhibitors and those interested in floral art will be available soon through the R.N.Z.I.H.

Dunedin Convention

T. M. MORRISON*

Attendance : 25 (Including the Speakers)

Cost: \$200

If ever there was a day of lost opportunities this was it. The papers were first class and it was embarrassing that speakers of such quality talked to an empty hall. In the last five years I have gradually developed a pessimism about the future of horticultural exports, although I know there is no country with our potential for production. After the convention my optimism is returning. We started with a discussion on the role of science in horticultural production. This demonstrated the enormous strides that have been taken in fruit exports and convincingly showed that in NZ horticulture, at least, science showed a handsome profit. But we were warned that lack of planning of our resources will catch up with us - should we put most effort into science, or economics, or training, or marketing, into kiwi fruit, or apples, or apricots, or process peas, or wine?

The second paper showed what happens in overproduction, and that until alternative markets are found no one gains from surplus. It showed that with the kiwi fruit we should encourage production providing a vigorous marketing campaign is also carried out.

A paper on engineering highlighted the major contribution that relatively simple machines can make in cultivation and harvesting especially. Most of them were developed in N.Z. or adapted here for our horticulture.

Finally a full account of engineering work at Manapouri showed that the landscape architect is having a very important effect on it. The very extensive and well planned replanting and most of all the influence of the landscape architect on the engineer justifies this new profession. The simple merging of a dam with the shore-line and the prior preparation of 'mature' beaches add to it.

An orchardist asked for trained entrants and that problems be investigated where they are, not just in Auckland. A market gardener was especially concerned about the marketing system. A parks director looked for an appreciation of the importance of recreation and its cost while a lay gardener asked that the mass of horticultural research be made available to her in terms she could understand.

* Chairman, National Executive

Laurie Metcalf

New Director of Parks and Recreation for Invercargill

REPRINTED BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE CHRISTCHURCH STAR

After 22 years as assistant curator and director of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, Mr. Laurie Metcalf will leave on October 20 to take up a new appointment as Director of Parks and Recreation in Invercargill.

Mr. Metcalf, who has done much, not only to maintain, but to upgrade the national and overseas reputation of the botanic gardens, is regarded as one of the leading authorities on New Zealand plants.

He is already the author of one book "The Cultivation of New Zealand Trees and Shrubs," and has another one in preparation on alpine and herbaceous plants. His first book, which was the result of 10 years of research, has become the definitive work on the subject.

Mr. Metcalf sees limitless possibilities in the educational side of the gardens and has already started successful classes for visiting schoolchildren.

"I would like to see qualified staff seconded to the garden from the Education Board just as they are to the Canterbury Museum," he said.

As a boy he wanted to be an entomologist and put all his spare time into the study of insects. He used to go to the museum on Saturday mornings and study insects and talk with the entomologist.

"It's odd how these things happen," he says. "From my study of insects I learnt something of their plant foods and eventually became more interested in plants."

He took botany at Christchurch Boys High School and then went to work at Nairns nursery, under Jack Humm, then a well-known figure in horticulture.

Later, he transferred to the botanic gardens nursery under Maurice Barnett.

"Then when the control of the gardens was vested in the city council, I was transferred as the first trainee, and took over the rock garden section."

He worked for Duncan and Davies, nurserymen, for about a year before going to Australia, where he worked in botanic gardens in Melbourne and Adelaide.

Later, he worked in England for some years in private nurseries.

A dedicated man, he has mixed feelings about leaving Christchurch, where he has spent most of his working life, but considers he will have greater scope in Invercargill.

In Christchurch he has a staff of about 37, and in Invercargill he will have 84 under him.

He has been on many field trips to various parts of New Zealand collecting plants for the gardens, and in 1961 spent a month in New Caledonia on an expedition partly financed by the Christchurch City Council.

He believes the Christchurch Botanic Gardens are highly rated, both locally and overseas.

"But we have always been a little restricted by a lack of technical staff," he says.

Gardening with *Pimelea*

GRAEME PATERSON

Pimelea prostrata is a native plant notable for the sweet scented fragrance emitted from the small flowers. Equally at home on the rock garden or wall garden, or as a potted specimen, it is of easy culture.

P. prostrata is an endemic native found throughout the North and South Islands in rocky open grasslands from the coastal regions to subalpine areas.

The close interwoven stems form a dense prostrate subshrub which flowers from late winter to early summer.

If you are conservation minded you will enjoy greater success from cuttings taken in the wild than with transplanted plants, which do not shift readily. Tip cuttings root in 30 days in a cold frame in all seasons. *Pimelea* belongs to the family Thymelaeaceae along with the genus *Drapetes* and the exotic *Daphne*, also noted for flower fragrance. The search for cancer controlling drugs has also focussed attention on the chemical components of *Pimelea* - a ray of hope perhaps.

R.N.Z.I.H. Executive Meeting

EXTRACTS FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN
WELLINGTON ON 10 AUGUST, 1977.

National Executive Vacancy: Professor Morrison extended a welcome to Mrs. M. De Castro who becomes the new member. Marie De Castro, in partnership with her husband, operates a flourishing horticultural business in Blenheim. A school teacher before marriage she is now an active co-manager of their berry fruit, vegetable, seeds, fat-cattle and grain holding. Her husband Bob is Chairman of the Horticultural Training Committee of the Agricultural Training Council.

In combined discussions Marie represents the R.N.Z.I.H. while Bob represents the Educational Training Council on the opposite side of the table.

Student Membership: The Executive is examining the possibility of students becoming compulsory members of the Institute. R.N.Z.I.H. student fees at \$85.00 per student for the full Diploma Course are very low compared to Dip. Hort. (Lincoln) student costs, even taking into account the bursaries. It was moved that an amendment to the Act be framed requiring students on Institute courses to become Members of the R.N.Z.I.H.

Secretarial: It was moved that the appointment of Mr. R.A. Foubister as secretary be confirmed. Ashley Foubister, ably assisted by typist/clerk Mrs. Barbara McCartney, is happily settling down at Lincoln. He was in the Fleet Air-Arm during the war and became a fighter tactical instructor during later years. As a pilot for 3 years he flew carrier-borne Grumman Wildcats on convoy escort work in the North Atlantic.

He has worked in Britain, Wellington and Dunedin and finally as an Oil Company Sales Manager for the Pacific Region based in Suva. He retired early and is happy to work on a part-time basis for the Institute. Ashley has a sharp sense of humour and can recount some interesting tales.

Historic and Notable Trees: The scheme to register these trees was announced at the N.Z. Institute of Parks and Recreation Conference at Tauranga in September, and was covered nationally in the press. District Councils have been given information and a public brochure on the subject. The scheme will operate through Wellington under the Chairmanship of Chris Howden.

District Council Boundaries: It is hoped to define these boundaries so that all members can feel part of a particular District Council. Each Council will be asked to submit a definition of its boundaries and include an appropriately shaded map if possible.

Know Your Conifers — 1

M.B. THOMAS

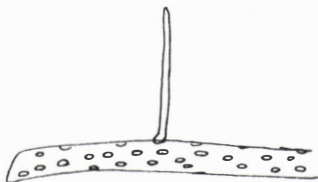
Drawings by B. McCartney

FIRS (*Abies*)

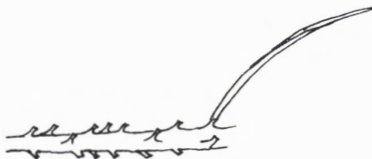
SPRUCES (*Picea*)

Key Differences :

LEAF BASES

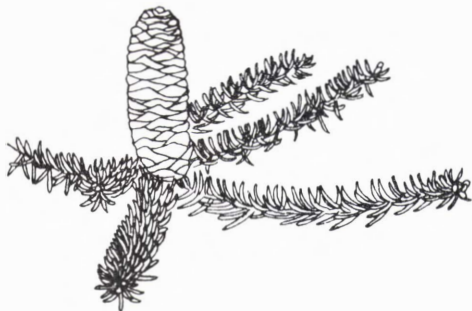


Leaves on falling or pulling off leave a circular scar.

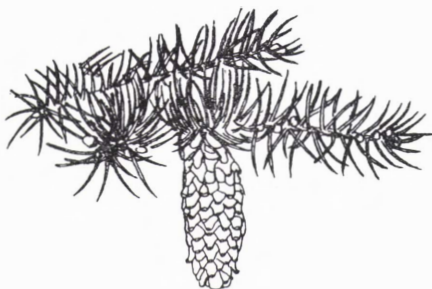


Leaves arising from peg-like projections, and leaving an irregular scar when pulled off.

FOLIAGE AND CONES



Cones upright
- ripen in one year
- usually barrel-shaped
- cones disintegrate when ripe.



Cones usually pendulous
- ripen on one year
- cones scales more or less membranous
- not usually barrel-shaped.

Development of Scenic Reserves as Urban Amenities

JOLYON MANNING*

*EXTRACT FROM A PAPER PRESENTED TO THE ENVIRONMENT '77
CONFERENCE, IN FEBRUARY AT CHRISTCHURCH.*

It has been a characteristic of this generation that we discount long-term commitment to family, community and the environment. With a high level of private ownership of land in New Zealand today the potential for benefaction should not be ignored as land values in distinctive areas soar beyond the financial resources of public bodies.

Good public access to areas containing fine natural features, a sense of spaciousness and remoteness, with protection of the full visual basin, located close to rapidly expanding urban areas, deserve special priority. 'Countryside Parks' with wilderness qualities can provide urban dwellers with the very elements of the rural lifestyle so often sought in the tens of thousands of 10-acre country homes that have become a part of our way of life and a challenge to planners in recent years.

The 1976 U.N. Habitat Conference contained an important message for New Zealand whilst the National Trust concept proposed by Government is timely and deserves wide support. This Conference should direct its attention to these matters.

Amenity tree-planting has always proved to be an excellent community investment as can be seen today to advantage in such Central Otago townships as Queenstown, Arrowtown and Lawrence. This activity leads to a better understanding of land and landscape engineering and can provide an attractive leisure-time pursuit of creative dimensions that speaks to young and old alike. There is a place too for casual personal observation and part-time research.

Leaving this a better place for future generations where people might live quite modestly while being content, satisfied and happy, are desirable goals for those of us privileged to live in New Zealand today.

Throughout Central Otago there are distinctive landscapes that have long captured the imagination and enthusiasm of settlers, gold-miners, visitors and artists. Of special interest are the historic gold-mining settlements often enhanced by tree-

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planting in the early days and the presence of fine early stone buildings and suspension bridges. With the very rapid growth of the tourist and visitor industry in these sun-drenched centres many natural features of the landscape are threatened - not the least, by hydro-electric development.

There is a growing awareness of the need to deliberately set aside distinctive properties close to the existing expanding urban settlements that will supplement the great heritage of "wilderness" areas that comprise our National Park system. Government has recognised this present need when the Coastal and Lake Reserves policy was introduced in 1972/73 to ensure that a brake was applied to the rapid erosion of public access to distinctive littoral zones of special merit - especially in those areas located close to major population concentrations, notably Auckland.

Indeed to my knowledge this programme has not yet penetrated much further than that, a situation closely paralleled by the National Historic Places Trust purchases. The annual budget allocation was set at \$1m. but the real purchasing value has declined by at least 50% if sales of freehold rural land in the Auckland Province is any guide. During the past few years inflation has had greater impact on land and property prices than in other sectors. Section prices rose by 400% throughout New Zealand between 1965 and 1975. Farmland prices doubled in the South Island and rose by 200% in the North Island whilst the Consumer Price Index increased by 116%.

Public Reserves - the private sector's potential role.

In these circumstances it is now quite apparent that neither the State nor indeed territorial local bodies given the parlous state of their finances these days are in a position to win back distinctive properties for public reserve purposes and to protect zones of public access as the urban population increases. The inspiration and motivation may be somewhat lacking also. Roading commitments swamp the limited resources.

A serious endeavour should be made to encourage widespread public support for the proposed National Trust - as I would understand it, something that closely parallels the Royal Society for the Protection of Forests and Birds. "The National Trust will be empowered to negotiate covenants with willing land owners in order to protect private land from the pressures of urban or coastal development. The covenants will create farming or conservation 'preservers'. This will ensure that the character of the New Zealand countryside and coastline is maintained, while at the same time avoiding acquisition of all such land by Government". "Contributions from Government will augment members' funds to allow the National Trust to purchase land for reserves. The Trust may also negotiate the lease or loan of land for the extension of parks, reserves and walkways to ensure that New Zealanders have the maximum opportunity for access to areas

for recreation, sport and leisure."

Commitment to the conservation and enhancement of the environment is a personal thing. It is not sufficient to create organisations and leave it at that. It has been said that the majority in the next generation may find their major satisfaction and fulfilment in life through their self-directed activities.

Everyone is familiar with the special characteristics that have come to be identified with our time - mobility, materialistic consumerism and rapid change in lifestyle complementary. We associate 'quality of life' with a wide range of choice and a high level of material comfort (Thom & Darby). But we too often place a substantial discount on life-time commitment to any cause, be it the Christian religion, community development, or conservation of land and finite resources. "The past decade has seen the dawn of understanding of a singularly unpalatable truth - RESOURCES ARE FINITE" (Thom & Darby).

During the past year two cases have been published where major New Zealand public companies have taken the initiative and purchased fine properties for public reserve purposes.

Of late we have had two splendid examples in Dunedin of individuals who have chosen to share much of their accumulated wealth in their life-time. I refer to the late Sir Alfred Reed (well known throughout New Zealand for his passionate interest in walking but also a very generous benefactor to his home town) and Mr. H.H. Richmond (widely respected for his gifts to the City for the benefit of children and less fortunate elderly citizens).

There has been a great boom in 10-acre countryside subdivisions in recent years. Leaving aside the pros and cons of such settlement patterns and the high cost to the nation through loss of agricultural production in many such areas there now exists the potential to develop some of these properties into useful 'countryside parks' especially when they are located on attractive sites close to urban population concentrations.

Message from U.N. Habitat Conference, Vancouver 1976.

As the Minister for the Environment, The Hon. Venn Young emphasised to the Conference, we in New Zealand take pride in the high level of private ownership of land, especially home ownership, but there can be little satisfaction with the level of land speculation that is resulting too often in exorbitant profit-taking. There is some merit in the idea that much of the incremental value in the land belongs properly to the surrounding community. Nevertheless I am not satisfied that sufficient appeal is being made to the private sector to share inherited wealth by benefaction in appropriate cases. There is real joy in giving during one's life-time.

Conference for Florists

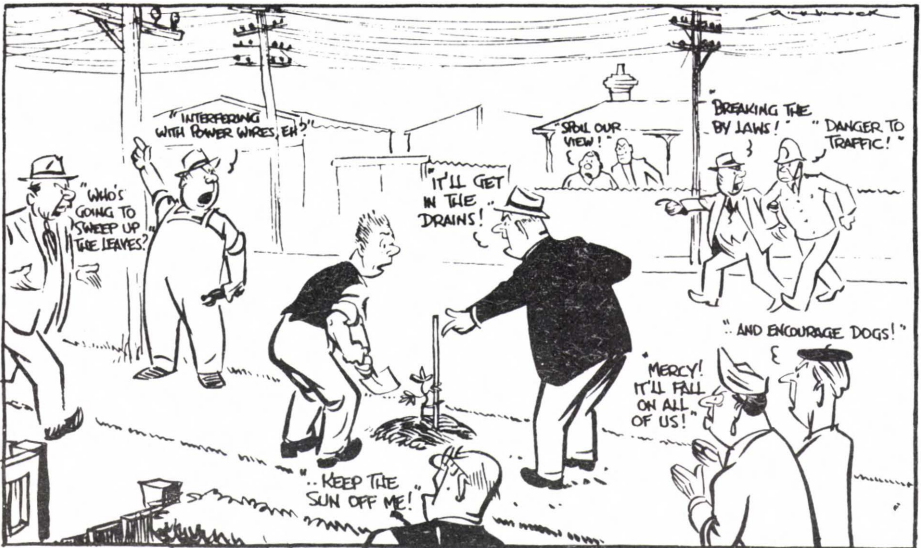
The first annual conference of the Society of N.Z. Professional Florists will be held on the week-end of November 4th - 6th at the St. George Hotel, Wellington. The Conference will provide a full and exciting week-end for those attending.

Saturday will be a full day work session covering every aspect of floristry. A complete florist shop will be set up with florists taking part, arranging flowers, demonstrating sales techniques, taking orders, dealing with customers, complaints etc. Orders taken will be produced in the workroom, the accent being on costing, good communication between sales and workroom staffs, and workroom supervision.

A panel discussion will follow with representatives of N.Z. Commercial Flower Growers. Subjects: Florists' wants and needs, flower fashions and availability, mutual exchange of ideas.

On Sunday the Annual General Meeting will be held followed by a session on interpretive design and floristry.

The Man Who Planted a Tree in His Street



District News

Auckland: Recent activities have included a visit to the Auckland Zoo with Dr. Goodey to view the many interesting plants growing there, an evening meeting at which Mr. Hugh Redgrove spoke on 'Plants Overseas', a visit to the garden of a cactus and succulent specialist and a week-end trip to the Waikato area. Several events are planned for the remainder of the year.

November 12-13: A week-end trip to Whangarei to assist with judging the garden competition.

November 25: 'An Evening with Flowers' to be held in the Auckland Motor Yacht Club Rooms, Westhaven. A social evening with a flower display.

At the A.G.M. earlier this year Mrs. Joy Amos gave a most interesting address on a trip to Europe during which she explored avenues for the sale of plants and cut flowers from N.Z. There is an increasing overseas market for this type of 'produce'. More and more interest is being displayed in cultivars of our indigenous flora particularly when leaf-variegation is present. This meeting co-incided with 'Chelsea Week' and added interest in this Show for Auckland horticulturists were the prize-winning flaxes displayed by the Auckland nurseries and the comprehensive display of rarer native material mounted by another.

Bay of Plenty: An open day was held on May 21st at a local homestead. Several firms mounted displays of their shrubs, plants, spraying equipment, fertilizers, spray materials etc and there were also wooden fences, wrought iron gates, pots and containers on display.

Demonstrations were given by qualified people on pruning of roses, fruit trees and shrubs; on taking and striking of cuttings; wrenching and transplanting of a small conifer and how to use a Flymo lawnmower.

Talks were given on camellias, the pruning and care of fuchsias, dividing and planting of irises and the use and function of different fertilisers. Common garden pests and diseases were described together with control measures to be taken. A well-stocked sales table did good business.

North Taranaki: A meeting was held on August 20 with an illustrated talk on a vegetation and animal survey of the South Island by the Director of the Taranaki Museum, Mr. R. Lambert. On Saturday August 27 five bus loads of members and friends visited local gardens of interest, and another recent event was an illustrated address given by T.V. personality Mr. Eion Scarrow on the highlights of his travels.

Otago: The A.G.M. was held on the evening of June 1st and the guest speaker for the evening was Mrs. Margaret Barker of Larnach Castle who was ably assisted by her husband Barry in the presentation of slides on the horticultural impressions of their recent trip to the Western United States Coastline.

A horticultural forum has been set up at the Otago Polytechnic in the Patrick Building, Room 86. Young people training in horticulture are attending along with Council members to discuss items of interest or concern for their mutual benefit. Any interested person may drop in from 5.15 p.m. to 6.15 p.m. on the following dates: Nov. 1, 15, 29 and Dec. 13.

Dunedin has recently had two overseas visitors of note - Mr. Guy Wilson, the eminent Irish daffodil grower, and Dr. Sleij, a scientific botanist from Leeds University, here to study plants generally and our native flora.

Waikato: Our Seminar in August was attended by 200 people. The day was very full and we have received many messages of thanks and appreciation from those who attended.

Coming events include a visit from Auckland and Bay of Plenty members on October 15 and 16, the Orini Flower Show on November 3, and the Waikato Rose Show on November 8 and 9.

Wellington: The programme for the next 8 months is as follows:

1977

October 2, Sunday 2 p.m. Otari Plant Museum.
Conducted tour by Raymond Mole.
November 24, Thursday 8 p.m. Anderson Park
Pavillion. Xmas Party "Pot Pourri".

1978

February 26, Sunday. Field trip & picnic at
Donnelly's Flat, Tararua Forest Park;
details later.
March 30. Thursday 8 p.m. Mrs. Miller on
"Edible Weeds". Hutt Horticultural Rooms,
members a plate.
April 29, Saturday, landscape & planting
demonstration at Lower Hutt; details in
newsletter.
May 25, Thursday 8 p.m. "Insect Pests"; venue
to be arranged; members a plate.
June 24, Saturday 2 p.m. pruning demonstration,
Tawa. If postponed, next Saturday.
July 23, Sunday 2 p.m. pruning dem. & plant stall,
18 Willoughby St Lower Hutt; if postponed,
next Sunday.
July 17, Thursday 8 p.m. A.G.M. Guest speaker
Mrs. Black "Orchids". Hutt Hort. Rooms;
members a plate.

This year's A.G.M. was held on July 28. Haikai Tane, Land Use Planning Officer with the Lands and Survey Dept., Wellington, spoke about dealing with wasteland areas and how through the use of ecological principles it was possible to upgrade the land. His slides and comments on methods and results in his present project, conservation work on Mt. Victoria, were both interesting and thought provoking.

The Wellington District Council is operating a plant exchange through their newsletter. Each month a list of requests is printed together with names and phone numbers of those wanting the plants. Then members willing to supply the plant material requested can contact the enquirer direct and make arrangements re transfer.

On September 11 a spring vegetable and fruit growing demonstration was held at Porirua. Approximately 150-200 people attended this worthwhile event.

On September 22 at Lower Hutt, Dr. J.S. Teaks gave an illustrated talk on "The Growing and Hybridising of Lilies". He gave detailed instructions on growing lilies from seed and how to propagate them by scales.

Dr. Teaks spends much of his time at his property in Kimbolton where he grows lilies, azaleas and rhododendrons. He selects, breeds and reselects to produce new hybrids. He has bred, but not yet released orange trumpets to compliment the magnificent yellow trumpet lilies "Penelope" that he produced several years ago. Currently he is trying to improve the vigour of the *L.rubellum* hybrids that he is raising.

Whangarei: The July meeting was addressed by Mr. Peter Todd who showed an interesting set of slides on N.Z.'s National Parks, in particular the Arthurs Pass and Urewera Parks. The August meeting was addressed by Mr. Peter Rough, a Landscape Architect with the Dept. of Lands and Survey. His topic was the landscape work being carried out in the Bay of Islands.

Horticultural Employment

"Twenty-seven years old, unmarried, male, holder of U.K. Higher National Diploma in Commercial Horticulture (3 year full-time course), wants to emigrate to N.Z. At present working as a Fruit Farm Technician at a U.K. Agricultural College, but has kept in touch with glasshouse, vegetable and nursery stock work, and is involved in beekeeping. Contact may be made through the Secretary, RNZIH, P.O. Box 12, Lincoln College, Canterbury."

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