



## Chairman's Comments

While we have had the most marvellous summer it has started to take a toll on our plants and landscapes. Watering restrictions are now common throughout the country and the real impact won't become apparent for some months. It does signal that we too must look at our horticultural practices and our plant selections to ensure that we retain our existing plant heritage and diversity in a sustainable way. Those of us managing public gardens and gardens which are open to the public must strive to become ever better models of horticultural sustainability. It will ultimately become an imperative to do so but in the meantime our visitors are increasingly environmentally literate and come to expect to see responses in the face of climate change.

RNZIH is holding its Heritage Trees Symposium *Heritage Trees – Our Future Heritage* on Thursday 8 May 2008. This one-day symposium brings together those who have a passion for heritage trees and aims to increase recognition and protection of trees in New Zealand. It is also an ideal opportunity to explore the role of the new RNZIH Notable Trees Trust of New Zealand. With speakers from the New Zealand Arboricultural Association, New Zealand Historic Places Trust and local authorities though out the country, the symposium will provide an excellent forum for a long overdue discussion. Registration forms will be sent out to members or check the details online at [www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/conference2008.htm](http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/conference2008.htm).

Following on from the RNZIH Symposium is the New Zealand Gardens Trust Conference '*Blown Away by Gardens*' from 9-11 May 2008. Again Liz Morrow has pulled together a great line up of national and international speakers combined with the traditional field trips associated with these conferences. If you haven't received a registration form check the website ([www.gardens.org.nz](http://www.gardens.org.nz)) or contact Liz.

Dr Ross Ferguson is to deliver this year's Banks Memorial Lecture on the Evening of Friday 9 May 2008. Titled '**The greatest service which can be rendered any country...**' this will be a fascinating look into Joseph Banks' colonisation of countries through plants and their impacts. Not to be missed!

This year's Annual General Meeting will also be on 9 May starting at 5.30 pm. This is the chance for you to have your say in the running of the institute and its future. There will be refreshments available before the AGM to carry you through to dinner if you are coming from work or one of the NZGT field trips. All these events will be based at the Duxton Hotel in Wellington.

Looking forward to catching up with you in May.

**David Sole**

# Some interesting dates

Here is a brief timeline on the establishment of the RNZIH:

**18 July 1923:** “The New Zealand Institute of Horticulture” was incorporated.

**15 September 1926:** At the executive meeting on this day Dr Leonard Cockayne moved that the annual public lecture be known as the “Banks Lecture” in honour of Sir Joseph Banks who was one of the most famous botanists to visit New Zealand.

**6 October 1927:** “The NZ Institute of Horticulture Act 1927” passed its final reading. The Act made provision for the Institute to grant Certificates and Diplomas in Horticulture.

**15 May 1929:** the national executive meeting recommended the publication of a quarterly journal to be called “The Journal of the Institute of Horticulture”.

**1939:** The Institute was granted a “Royal Charter”, and the national executive adopted the name “The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture”.

<b>RNZIH National Office</b>	Linda Sallabanks PO Box 12, Lincoln University, Canterbury Phone: (03) 325 2811 Ext. 8670 Email: office@rnzih.org.nz Website: <a href="http://www.rnzih.org.nz">www.rnzih.org.nz</a>
<b>Patron</b>	His Excellency, The Governor General of New Zealand, The Honourable Anand Satyanand, PCNZM
<b>Vice Patron</b>	Ralph Ballinger OBE, AHRH
<b>President</b>	Jack Hobbs AHRH Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens 102 Hill Road, Manurewa, Auckland Phone: (09) 267 4728 Fax: (09) 266 3698 Email: Hobbs.J@rnzih.org.nz
<b>Vice President</b>	Ross Ferguson, ONZM, FRSNZ, AHRH HortResearch, Mt Albert, Private Bag 92 169, Auckland Phone: (09) 815 4200 Ext. 7319 Fax: (09) 815 4201 Email: FergusonR@rnzih.org.nz
<b>Chairman</b>	David Sole FRIH Botanic Gardens of Wellington 101 Glenmore Street, Wellington Phone: (04) 478 0470 (home); (04) 803 8296 (work) Cellphone: 021 227 8296 Fax: (04) 499 1903 Email: SoleD@rnzih.org.nz
<b>National Executive</b>	
Murray Dawson FRIH (RNZIH & NZGT Webmaster; Journal co-editor)	Landcare Research, PO Box 40, Lincoln, Canterbury Phone: (03) 321 9645 Fax: (03) 325 2418 Email: DawsonM@rnzih.org.nz
David Glenn (Notable Trees Registrar)	New Zealand Horticulture Industry Training Organisation, PO Box 8050, Dunedin Phone: (03) 455 7550 Cellphone: 029 200 9242 Fax: (03) 455 1520 Email: GlennD@rnzih.org.nz
Andrew Maloy FRIH (Journal co-editor)	16 Riverlea Road, Whenuapai, Waitakere City Phone: (09) 416 3543 Fax: (09) 416 3548 Email: MaloyA@rnzih.org.nz
Mick Reece FRIH	PO Box 8021, Gardens Post Office, Dunedin Phone: (03) 474 3569 Email: ReeceM@rnzih.org.nz
Eddie Wullems	Hamilton City Council, Private Bag 3010, Hamilton Phone: (07) 838 6934 Cellphone: 021 790 203 Fax: (07) 838 6935 Email: WullemsE@rnzih.org.nz

And during the last few years:

**17 March 2003:** The RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust was established.

**11 March 2004:** The RNZIH Education Trust was established.

**22 November 2007:** The RNZIH New Zealand Notable Tree Trust deed was signed, and the Trust is currently in the final stages of being incorporated.

# Heritage Trees – Our Future Heritage

RNZIH Symposium  
Thursday 8 May 2008

The Duxton Hotel, Wellington



From the magnificent kauri Tāne Mahuta to the humble pine and macrocarpa New Zealand's cultural history is represented by its trees. Today our tree heritage has never been under a greater threat as urbanisation intensifies, landholdings change from family ownership to large company holdings, restructuring programmes see arboreta fall into neglect and early generations of trees become senescent.

The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (RNZIH) established the Notable and Historic Trees Scheme in 1977 to recognise and protect rare, culturally significant and scientifically important heritage trees throughout New Zealand. Initially protection work was based around S. W. Burstall's surveys from the late 1960s. As the scheme gained acceptance the Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM) became widely adopted as the tool for assessing the value of a tree or trees in the landscape. Trees listed as notable trees became listed on district plans and were afforded varying degrees of protection. Nationally some 3000 trees are now listed within 400 registrations.

As RNZIH prepares, in association with the New Zealand Arboricultural Association (NZAA) to establish the Notable Trees Trust of New Zealand, it has become apparent that there are

some key issues surrounding heritage trees which need discussion in a national forum. These include

- How we identify and classify heritage trees
- How we raise the levels of understanding of the role heritage trees play in the physical and cultural landscape
- How we continue to list and verify heritage trees
- The role of our trees in a global context
- The gaps – how much do we really know about our heritage tree population
- Immediate and long term threats to heritage trees including urban infill and tree senescence
- Strengthening protection for listed trees.

This one-day symposium brings together those who have a passion for trees and the professional community, to rekindle the discussion around heritage trees, to stimulate progress towards increased recognition and protection of trees and to increase the breadth and depth of the heritage tree community in New Zealand.

For enquiries contact the Symposium Organiser – David Sole  
Tel: (04) 499 1901, Mob: 021 227 8296  
Email: SoleD@rnzih.org.nz

## **‘Blown Away by Gardens’**

RNZIH NZ Gardens Trust Conference  
9-11 May 2008

The Duxton Hotel  
170 Wakefield Street, Wellington

The fifth NZGT conference is an exciting programme of garden visiting combined with informative lectures.

The gardens visited will be Assisi Garden, Government House, Otari-Wilton's Bush Native Botanic Garden, and Richmond. Speakers include world-renowned designer Vladimir Sittar from Australia, Beverley McConnell of "Ayrilies Garden", Jack Hobbs of Auckland Botanic Gardens, and others. These are always conferences to remember!

For enquiries contact:

Liz Morrow  
C/- RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust  
194 Whitmore Road  
RD 6 Warkworth 0986  
Auckland  
Email: morrowl@rnzih.org.nz

Or visit: [www.gardens.org.nz/resources/news\\_and\\_events/NZGT\\_Conference\\_2008/index.html](http://www.gardens.org.nz/resources/news_and_events/NZGT_Conference_2008/index.html)

# RNZIH 2007 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, 9 May 2007 at 5.30pm  
at The Duxton Hotel, Wellington

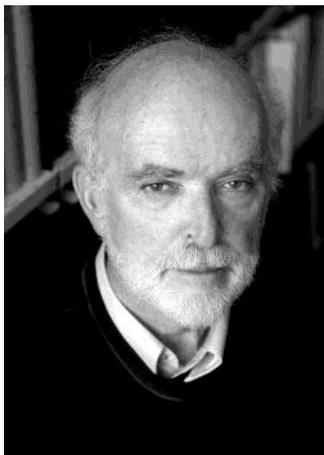
## Agenda

1. Apologies/In Memoriam
2. Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2007 AGM
4. Chairman's Report
5. Statement of Accounts for 2007 and budget for 2008
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 2009
  - 8.7 Other
9. Presentation of Institute Awards will be prior to the Banks Memorial Lecture to be held at 6.30 pm at the same venue.

## 2008 RNZIH Banks Memorial Lecture

A free public lecture  
6.30-7.30 pm, Friday 9 May 2008  
The Duxton Hotel, Wellington

'The greatest service which can be rendered any country...'



Ross Ferguson

Sir Joseph Banks is best known in New Zealand as the botanist who accompanied Cook on his first great voyage in the *Endeavour*. Banks, however, was only a young man when he came to New Zealand and his botanical explorations, although interesting to us, represent a relatively small part of his scientific career. When Banks returned to Britain, his wealth, his friendship with George III and his role as President of the Royal Society of London meant that for nearly 40 years he was the British Government's chief scientific adviser. Banks was particularly interested in the practical application of science and as a large landowner, especially enthusiastic in promoting agricultural improvement. Some of his efforts to bring new crops to the British colonies will be described. Some of the social and historical consequences of plant introduction will then be considered in more detail. The lecture is illustrated by copies of many early prints and paintings.

# RNZIH Education Trust update

---

## **Finance**

The accounts for 2007 are with the auditor at present and will be tabled to the RNZIH executive in due course. In essence they show a small surplus of income over expenditure for the year, which compares favourably with a small loss for the 2006 year.

The Education Trust has received notice of official recognition under the new Charitable Trusts regulations.

## **Service contracts for 2008**

The contract with the NZ Horticulture Industry Training Organisation has been renewed for a further year with some changes to the contract services. Moderation and accreditation remain core activities as does managing the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition. Also included is the production of a marketing plan to increase awareness of the competition to industry and to increase enrolments in the NZHITO's training programmes. Other smaller contracts have been entered into for 2008 with other bodies, including the Sports Turf ITO to provide some moderation services, and some private training providers to provide specialist advice on a consultancy basis.

## **NZHITO Young Horticulturist of the Year competition**

2007 was another very successful year for the competition, with the winner being Emma Taylor (viticulture), second Robert Humphries (fruit) and third Gavin Lodge (landscape). Planning is well in hand for 2008 with about two thirds of the necessary funds already promised by sponsors. NZHITO is naming sponsor again this year. The grand final is in early November with regional competitions being run by sector groups through the year to select their candidate for the final.

## **General**

An approach from New Plymouth to run an Oral and Practical exam in the Taranaki area later this year is being looked into.

David Puflett, training manager for the trust, will probably be attending an international conference on horticultural training on

Thailand in December and may present a paper there. David has been offered partial funding from the NZ Institute of Horticultural Science Advancement Trust. While the Education Trust will also contribute, we are looking for other possible avenues of support. Any suggestions are welcome.

Michael Ayrton, one of our founding trustees, stood down from the board at the end of last year to spend more time on specialist park-related business. I'd like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the great contribution Michael has made both to RNZIH and the Education Trust. He completed several terms as an executive member of RNZIH and during that time became the Institute's representative on the board of NZHITO, a relationship which through Michael's enthusiasm and professional approach led to the formation of the RNZIH Education Trust and the contracts to provide moderation and accreditation services to NZHITO, as well as the birth of the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition. Thank you Mike – for your forward thinking, for your vision, for your support in so many ways, including your gentle cajoling when necessary and, not least, for volunteering Cornwall Park staff to help during competitions and oral and practical exams.

The RNZIH executive has approved the appointment of George Tregidga of Auckland to the board of the Education Trust. George is Project Manager for Status Produce Ltd, a large tomato production enterprise. For many years George and his brother managed the family tomato growing business, PTO Growers, which grew to become the largest of its kind in NZ. Later Status Produce was set up as a separate packhouse operation then in more recent years both PTO Growers and Status were bought by the Turners and Growers Group and George became Project Manager for Status. George has a long interest and involvement in staff training. In the 1980s he was on the management committee of the Auckland Horticultural Cadet Scheme. At present Status has around 20 staff in training from a total of over 100. George is a member of the Manukau

Institute of Technology horticultural advisory board and more recently has been active as a judge for the Young Horticulturist of the Year vegetable sector competitions. He is also a trustee of the Mangere Cemetery Trust. We welcome George to the board.

**Andrew Maloy**  
Chair RNZIH Education Trust

---

## Public lecture by Carrick Chambers

Emeritus Professor Carrick Chambers was Professor of Botany at the University of Melbourne for 20 years and then Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney for 10 years. Carrick is an Auckland graduate and he recently returned to New Zealand to be honoured as a Distinguished Alumnus of the University. While in Auckland he gave a public lecture on 10 March 2008, "Finding and Funding: highlights in the career of an academic botanist". In his lecture he emphasised the need for botanic gardens to educate the public, to tell them more than just the name of a particular plant and where it grows in the wild. He also described his role in the rediscovery and conservation of the Wollemi pine — Carrick was the one responsible for calling the plant the dinosaur plant, a name which made an immediate impact. Amongst his other distinctions, Carrick is an Associate of Honour of our Institute.

**Ross Ferguson**

---

## Congratulations

We congratulate three of our Associates of Honour for further recognition of their horticultural achievements.

### **Dr Keith Hammett**

Dr Hammett, a well known plant breeder in Auckland, was awarded the Queens' Service Medal (QSM) in the 2008 New Year Honours list.

In late 2007, Keith was also awarded the John Brown Memorial Medal at the Wisley Trial, UK, for breeding *Dahlia* 'Magenta Star'. His *Dahlia* selections received earlier recognition from the RNZIH, when he received the 1988 Plant Raisers Award for *Dahlia* 'Showpiece Hybrids', *D.* 'Elizabeth Hammett', and *D.* 'Pineholt Princess'. Keith is a longstanding member of the RNZIH and has been an Associate of Honour since 1994.

### **Margaret Barker**

Mrs Barker, owner of Larnach Castle near Dunedin also received the QSM in the New Year Honours list.

In 2007 she was made an Associate of Honour of the RNZIH. In 2006, Margaret published a

book (reviewed in the *New Zealand Garden Journal*, Vol. 10(1), 2007) *The Garden at Larnach Castle: A New Zealand story*, recounting her experiences of some 40 years developing the castle and grounds from a near ruin into an award winning tourist attraction. Her garden is of National Significance, as first assessed by the RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust in 2004.

### **Bev McConnell**

We also congratulate Mrs McConnell who was recently elected a life member of the Auckland Botanic Gardens. She is a longstanding member of the RNZIH, and an Associate of Honour since 1998. She is highly respected by both the horticultural and landscape design industries in this country, particularly as a mentor and supporter of talented emerging horticulturists and landscape designers. Bev is perhaps best known as the owner and creator of Ayrlies, her large country garden in Whitford, internationally recognised as one of the world's finest private gardens. Although Ayrlies is a large garden, its importance is in its exceptional design and horticultural excellence.

Bev's contributions to horticulture include her work for the Trinity Garden Festival, the Ellerslie Flower Show, the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust and the RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust, for which she has been one of the senior assessors. She has been a member of the Friends of Auckland Botanic Gardens, and she served a term as a Trustee. She has made a hugely significant contribution to the Gardens through her sage advice, as a mentor for staff, and as a generous benefactor. She helped with the preparation of a landscape

development plan for the Botanic Gardens in 1997/1998. Since that time she has given continued strong support to the Botanic Gardens, including privately funding the main welcoming sculpture located at the approach to the new visitor centre 'Huakaiwaka'.

*This account of her activities is based on a citation prepared by Jack Hobbs. Typically, Bev had to leave immediately after the presentation of her award to complete arrangements for 800 visitors to attend an opera evening at Ayrliès the following night.*

---

## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens

The Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 16 March, 2008. A group lead by Liz Powell, the current President of the Friends, prepared a profusely illustrated account of the Friends' activities over that time – their social functions, their assistance with the rambles, the Wiri Rambler (a motorised system for taking the less mobile around the Gardens), the plant sales, the newsletter, the various activities of the volunteers, and the recent, wildly successful sculpture exhibition.

The main aim of the Friends is to promote the Gardens and in this they have been most successful, as a pressure group listened to by

the Regional Council, and as fundraisers. The Friends were largely responsible for the construction and establishment of the library, and are continuing to contribute to book and journal purchases each year. They contributed \$150,000 towards the new Visitors' Centre and have built up a very healthy bank balance with nearly \$0.25 million waiting for suitable projects. Each year they also give the Gardens a birthday gift – this year commissioning a sculpture for the Rose Garden.

The Friends are also active as a social group and it is this that comes through so strongly in their history; their passion for plants and their enjoyment in working with plants.