



Chairman's Comments

As I look out from my office I see the first harbingers of Spring – a magnificent *Magnolia campbelli* and *Rhododendron* 'Sir Robert Peel' – bursting into flower. I never cease to be surprised by the earliness of their flowering and the cheer they bring to the garden.

Jack Hobbs provides a further report in this newsletter but I wish to acknowledge those who attended the Heritage Trees symposium in May. Their attendance and participation made the day a great success. I hope that the symposium has stimulated new conversations around the country and look forward to the RNZIH Notable Trees Trust picking up on the discussions. It is clear that there are problems with recording heritage trees throughout the country and that the horticultural and arboricultural communities are in a position to identify and act upon them via the new Notable Trees Trust.

Some early discussions have been circulating about revisiting the New Zealand Plant Collections Register. The closer we look the larger this project could be and there are many contributors who could potentially work together in specialist fields to feed into a centralised database. There is certainly keen interest in getting this project underway.

I met with the Notable Trees Trust Board

in early June to discuss how they see the board operating and its fields of interest. Our partnership with the New Zealand Arboricultural Association in the Trust is an important one. There are some large tasks ahead for the board as it sets out to create an online database and verify the existing Notable and Historic Tree registrations. For this to succeed many of us will have to play a role in supporting the Trust, especially with the verifications.

Coming up shortly is a meeting with the RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust. This is an opportunity to identify how we can create better value for our members. I am hoping that we will also look at how we can more effectively represent member's views via the RNZIH executive and investigate collaborative opportunities for both groups.

With that in mind I must congratulate NZGT for their successful conference in Wellington. Well attended and with an excellent programme it demonstrated an organisation that provides ever increasing credibility in the tourism sector. Of course my thanks must go to Liz Morrow for her inimitable organisational skills and for her assistance with the Heritage Trees Symposium. Landscape architect Vladimir Sittar's customer service principles of three 'O's' – *Open minded*, *Open wallet* and preferably *Overseas*, struck

a chord as I reflect on my earlier experiences as a Landscape contractor!

The Horticultural Amenity Advisory Group to the New Zealand Horticulture Industry Training Organisation meets shortly. There has been concern from within the RNZIH at the levels and standards of training under unit standards. While we have had a role in moderation and accreditation through our Education Trust it is important that the need for high levels of skill development are not bypassed and that achieving those skills is appropriately recognised by strong qualification structures. Hosted by the New Zealand Recreation Association, I look forward to the influence the advisory group will have on the quality of our training outcomes.

Over the coming months, we will:

- Be working to support the Notable Trees Trust in their planning and programme delivery
- Begin reviewing and updating the National Plant Collections Register. While I had hoped to progress this in 2007, establishment of the Notable Trees Trust and the Symposium have taken priority
- Identify and put in place ways to make the website, journal, and newsletter more effective tools for the RNZIH
- Review the RNZIH awards system to ensure that maximum benefit can be gained from them
- Review the way executive is appointed and its composition in the Trust environment
- Review the RNZIH Constitution (last updated 1996) and bring any recommended changes to the 2009 AGM.

I wish to acknowledge the retirement of Michael Ayrton from the board of the New Zealand Education Trust. Michael was one of the key instigators of the establishment of the Trust, its links with NZHITO, and ultimately the formation of the Young

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Horticulturist of the Year Competition. Michael has been a tireless advocate for horticulture for which we are in his debt.

And look out for the Young Horticulturist of the Year coming up in November!

**David Sole
Chairman**

New Members

We warmly welcome the following new members who joined the RNZIH since March 2008:

George Tregidga Auckland

Pat Davidson Picton

Maree Jordan Nelson

Student members via Education Trust

Sean Lawrence Rotorua

Mark Fielder Auckland

Kerry Gillbanks Auckland

Shaun Trevan Auckland

Russell Van Wijngaarden Auckland

Glen MacRae Auckland

Joanne Alder Auckland

Andrea Short Taupo

Paul Ward Hamilton

Teresa Parry Hamilton

2008 RNZIH Banks Memorial Lecture, Awards and Remembrances

Congratulations to Ross Ferguson for delivering this years' Banks Memorial Lecture and to the RNZIH award recipients.

Prior to the awards ceremony, we held a moment of silence at the AGM to remember the passing of several eminent horticulturists.

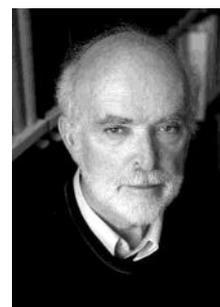
These events were on 9 May 2008, during the symposium 'Heritage Trees - Our Future Heritage' and the NZ Gardens Trust conference 'Blown Away by Gardens' in Wellington.

Banks Memorial Lecture

The 2008 RNZIH Banks Memorial Lecture was delivered by our Vice-President Ross Ferguson.

Ross's talk was a fascinating historical account of Sir Joseph Banks life and his efforts to bring new crops to the British colonies. Ross recounts some of the social and historical consequences of plant introduction.

It is somewhat ironic that the title of his talk on Banks, "The greatest service



which can be rendered any country..." is actually part of a quote from a famous American! Thomas Jefferson finishes "...is to add a useful plant to its culture."

Awards

Helen Leach received the Award in Garden History. She is a recently-retired Professor of Anthropology at the University of Otago and has published several books on European and Maori garden history including *Subsistence patterns in prehistoric New Zealand* (1969), *1000 years of gardening in New Zealand* (1984), and *Cultivating myths: fiction, fact and fashion in garden history* (2000). The following article and photograph appeared in the Otago Daily Times when she received her award, and is reprinted here with their kind permission:



Prof Helen Leach, of Dunedin, with the garden history medal awarded to her by the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture. Photo by Linda Robertson.

A love of gardening and the history behind it has led Prof Helen Leach to write several books on the subject and taught her to be happy with the state of her lawn.

The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture recognised Dr Leach's contributions to raising public awareness about horticultural history by giving her an Award in Garden History in Dunedin this week.

A keen gardener, Prof Leach said her research into the history of gardening influenced what she did in her own 1000sq m garden.

*A chapter of her book *Cultivating myths:**

fiction, fact and fashion in garden history (2000) is dedicated to the 20th-century problem of trying to have a perfect "bowling green" lawn.

Research into the history of lawns had revealed they were a "dreadful hybrid" of grasses from bowling greens, meadows and medieval gardens.

"After just doing a little bit of research, I suddenly felt better about my lawn. I'm now happy about it because I have realised the closest thing to it is a meadow."

Prof Leach, who is a member of the department of anthropology, gender and sociology at the University of Otago, said her interest in gardening began when she went flatting.

"We were really poor students and we knew that we could grow things."

Today, her garden still combines with her passion for cooking.

"I'm one of those people that believe your garden should work for you. I try to grow as much produce as I can.

"I give priority to useful things as opposed to botanic plants."

*Her book *The Cook's Salad Garden* won the New Zealand Guild of Food Writers food book of the year award in 1999, and she wrote *The Cook's Herb Garden* more recently.*

As agriculture was so dominant in New Zealand's economy, horticultural traditions were often forgotten, but gardening traditions began long before the arrival of Europeans, she said.

The successful cultivation of tropical plants in a temperate climate by Maori was an incredible achievement, Prof Leach said.

Our new Associates of Honour are Peter Sergel and Peter Arthur. Peter Sergel is the Director of Hamilton Gardens and

has orchestrated the development of themed gardens involving community interest groups. Peter authored *Inspiration in the Garden* (2004) based on the Paradise Gardens developed at Hamilton, and in 2005 delivered the Banks Memorial Lecture.

In 1987 Peter Arthur and his wife Diane set up the mail order business Touchwood Books. They now have some 20,000



horticultural titles in stock. Peter was there to receive his award and was also manning the Touchwood Books stand at the garden conference and tree symposium.

Remembrances

We recorded the passing of five horticulturists, and the first four were Associates of Honour of the RNZIH.

Joan Dingley was a stalwart of the Institute, a member of the Auckland Botanical Society, and also a generous benefactor of the Botanic Gardens in Auckland.



John Hudson was one of our long-standing UK-based members. During his short time in New Zealand (1945-1948), he was elected an Associate of Honour, and had received our journal ever since.

Dr Lindsay Poole was a professional forester and botanist based in Wellington and co-author of the well-known *Trees and shrubs of New Zealand* (first published 1963).



Ted Sweetman was a well-known *Fuchsia* breeder from Wellington and former president of the NZ Fuchsia Society.

Max Goodey was a physician by trade, but also a skilled grower and avid plant collector based in Auckland.

We plan to publish the Banks Memorial Lecture, full award citations, and obituaries in the next issue of the RNZIH journal (Vol. 11, No. 2, Dec. 2008).

Early Associates of Honour – where are they now?

The Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (AHRH) is awarded to persons who have given distinguished service to horticulture in New Zealand. This is a select group because the current rules state that no more than 60 people can hold the award, and no more than three awards are given per year.

This honour dates back to the late 1940s, the earlier days of the Institute and the award citations have always been published on a regular basis in our journal.

However, because of the long legacy of this award there are inevitably some members who have resigned or passed away. We feel that it is important to record the life of these eminent horticulturists in obituaries also published in the RNZIH journal.

While we hold good records of our 48 current and 85 previous Associates, there are 18 individuals who are no longer paid members that we are less sure about. We would greatly appreciate it if anyone could help with the following records. We need exact details of their names, home towns, and would also like a reference to any published obituaries or years of death.

Thanks to those who have already helped with information on our AHRIH

members, including Alan Jellyman, Alison Simpson, David Glenn, David Moyle, David Shillito, George Malcolm, Gordon Collier, Lawrie Metcalf, Michael Ayrton, Mick Reece, Mike Wilcox, Peter Sergel, Ralph Ballinger, Ross Fergusson, and Sue Davison. They have provided some interesting information as well as clarifying the status of many of our past Associates.

It may well be that some of the following, although not paid members at the moment, are certainly still current Associates of Honour – please let us know!

Thanks very much for your help

Murray Dawson

Associates of Honour – older uncertain records			
Name	Year of Award	City/Town	Joining Date
Mrs D. A. Hardwick	AHRIH (1980)	Tauranga	15-Apr-66
Mr D. G. Anyon	AHRIH (1979)	Wellington	
Mr H. J. Poole	AHRIH (1975)	Lower Hutt	2-Dec-47
Mrs D. Benstead	AHRIH (1974)	Lower Hutt	10-Nov-66
Mr C. V. Holyoake	AHRIH (1973)	Auckland	2-May-50
Mr Ralph T. Fear	AHRIH (1971)	Waikato	
Mr J. (Jack) E. Hume	AHRIH (1968?)	Palmerston North	2-Aug-63
Mr C. H. J. Wiley	AHRIH (1968?)	Auckland	
Mrs N. V. Anderson	AHRIH (1967)	Mangataki	
Mr Jonathan Bennett	AHRIH (1964)	?	
Mr Percy J. Cox	AHRIH (1963)	Wanganui	
Mr T. Y. Turner	AHRIH (1963)	Otago	
Mr John Houston	AHRIH (1960)	Hawera	
J. S. Dakers (= JS Dakins?) ⁷	AHRIH (pre-1959)	?	
F. R. Long	AHRIH (pre-1959)	?	
R. H. Long	AHRIH (pre-1958)	?	
Mr Alfred W. Green	AHRIH (1955)	Hamilton	
Mr Cecil M. Smith	AHRIH (1955)	Christchurch	

Finance Report

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

Year End 31 Dec 2007

AUDIT REPORT

Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc).

To the Members of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc).
I have audited the Financial Report. The Financial Report provides information about the past financial performance of the Institute and its financial position as at 31 December 2007. This information is stated in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 5 to 6.

Executive's Responsibilities

The Executive is responsible for the preparation of a Financial Report, which fairly reflects the financial position of the Institute as at 31 December 2007 and of the results of operations for the year ended 31 December 2007.

Auditor's Responsibilities

It is my responsibility to express an independent opinion on the Financial Report presented by the Institute and report my opinion to you.

Basis of Opinion

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. It also includes assessing:

- the significant estimates and judgements made by the Institute in the preparation of the financial report, and
- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Institutes circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I conducted the audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in New Zealand except that my work was limited as explained below. I planned and performed the audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary. I obtained sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial report is free from material misstatements, whether caused by fraud or error. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial report.

Other than in my capacity as auditor I have no relationship with or interests in the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

Qualified Opinion

In common with other organisations of a similar nature control over revenue prior to being recorded is limited, and there are no practical audit procedures to determine the effect of this limited control. In all other respects I have obtained all information and explanations required.

In my opinion except for adjustments that might have been found to be necessary had I been able to obtain sufficient evidence concerning revenues, the financial report fairly reflects the results of operations for the year ended 31 December 2007 and financial position of the Institute as at that date.

The audit report was completed on 5 May 2008 and my qualified opinion is expressed as at that date.

Auditor

Address (city)

C Phillips

Christchurch

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M.G.SCHIMANSKI B.C.M., C.A.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

**ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007**

**ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007**

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These Accounting Policies are an integral part of and are to be read in conjunction with the Financial Statements.

The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc) is registered under the incorporated Societies Act 1908.

The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc) is an exempt entity for purposes of the Financial Reporting Act 1993. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Act 1993.

The following accounting policies as recommended by The Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand have been adopted in the preparation of these Financial Statements.

Unless otherwise stated, these accounts have been prepared on an historical cost basis. Accrual accounting is used to match expenses and revenues, except for interest, which is accounted for on a cash basis.

Fixed assets are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation has been charged in the Financial Statements using the straight line basis allowed by the Inland Revenue Department and written off over five years.

These Financial Statements have been prepared on a GST exclusive basis.

Accounts receivable at balance date are recorded at net realisable values.

Interest earned on trust accounts is credited directly to the individual fund and is not taken through the Statement of Financial Performance.

There have been no changes in accounting policies. All policies have been applied on bases consistent with those used last year.

The Institute is established for the promotion of horticultural education and is exempt from income tax per the Income Tax Act 1994.

The principal activity is that of horticultural education.

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
INCOME:		
Conference Fees	0.00	15,568
Donations	550.56	531
Greening the City income	293.33	1,548
Interest Received	141.37	305
Notable Trees	711.11	478
NZ Garden Trust - Administration	0.00	11
Publications Services	0.00	96
Subscriptions	17,495.29	17,853
Sundry Income	724.40	1,908
GROSS INCOME	19,916.06	38,298
Less EXPENSES:		
Accident Compensation Levies	42.78	28
Accountancy and Audit	1,600.00	1,600
Advertising / Publicity	0.00	496
AGM Expenses	860.71	979
Bank Charges	167.50	44
Computer Maintenance	0.00	221
Conference Expenses	0.00	17,600
Greening the City Expenses	0.00	10,182
Honourarium - Journal Editor & Website Maintenance	2,000.00	2,000
Insurances	569.95	570
National Executive General	166.54	221
Notable Trees	520.35	71
Newsletters and Journals	7,649.63	7,933
Printing and Stationery	40.00	2,598
Postage and Telephone	842.90	795
Rent	1,499.95	1,500
Salary and Office Wages	6,728.92	6,240
Sundry Expenses	0.00	294
TOTAL EXPENSES	22,887.23	53,372
NET CASH PROFIT (LOSS)	(2,771.17)	(15,074)
FIXED ASSET COSTS:		
Depreciation	383.00	725
TOTAL FIXED ASSET COSTS	383.00	725
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(3,154.17)	(15,799)
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUNDS	\$ (3,154.17)	(\$15,799)

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 2007

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
Equity at Beginning of the Year: 1.1.07	9,722.52	25,522
Plus:		
Net Surplus (Deficit) for the year	(3,154.17)	(15,796)
Prior Period Adjustments	2,632.05	-
Transfer of Trusts & Bequests (net)	0.00	5,000
	<u>9,200.40</u>	<u>14,723</u>
Less:		
Peter Skellerup - Scholarship	0.00	5,000
- Paul Wymen		
Equity at End of the Year: 31.12.07	<u>\$9,200.40</u>	<u>\$9,723</u>

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
CURRENT ASSETS		
BNZ Cheque Account	8,067.10	15,415
BNZ Publishing Account	5,019.71	4,905
Cash on Hand	65.33	20
Accounts Receivable	0.00	38
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>13,152.14</u>	<u>20,376</u>
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	3,752.84	8,755
GST Retention Account	687.90	2,772
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>4,440.74</u>	<u>11,527</u>
WORKING CAPITAL	<u>8,711.40</u>	<u>8,851</u>
INVESTMENTS		
TRUSTS and BEQUESTS - Bank of New Zealand	121,816.04	114,215
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	<u>121,816.04</u>	<u>114,215</u>
FIXED ASSETS		
Fixed Assets as per Schedule	489.00	872
	<u>\$131,016.44</u>	<u>\$123,936</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trust Account Prizes (Note 2)	121,816.04	114,215
CAPITAL		
Accumulated Funds	9,200.40	9,723
	<u>\$131,016.44</u>	<u>\$123,936</u>


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Chairperson

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

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ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

2. TRUST ACCOUNT PRIZES

	CAPITAL	INCOME	EXPENSES PAID OUT / SCHOLARSHIPS/ TRANSFERS	TOTAL 2007	2006
Junior Memorial Prize Award	500.00	1,774.84		2,274.84	2,134.00
Dugald Mackenzie Memorial Prize Award	500.00	2,457.28		2,957.28	2,774.00
Notable Trees Trust	2,509.58	2,722.55		5,232.13	4,907.00
David Tannock Memorial Prize Fund	500.00	2,002.33		2,502.33	2,347.00
Peter Skellenup Prize Fund No. 1	32,000.00	53,706.72		85,706.72	80,347.00
Rita Skellenup Prize Fund	2,500.00	7,281.88		9,781.88	9,175.00
DD Baker Account & Sir Victor Davies	2,821.95	10,538.91		13,360.86	12,531.00
	\$41,331.53	\$80,484.51	\$0.00	\$121,816.04	\$114,215.00

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (INC.)
 FIXED ASSET AND DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

Asset Description	Purchase Date	Cost Price	Depreciation to Date	Opening Book Value 01/01/2006	Additions Disposals	Gain/Loss on Disposal	Capital Profit	Months	Depreciation Rate (DV)	Amount	Closing Book Value 31/12/2006
OFFICE EQUIPMENT											
Computer Trolley		183	183	0							0
Two Drawer Filing Cabinet		444	444	0							0
Chair		475	475	0							0
Filing Cabinet		1,854	1,854	0							0
Typist Chair With Arms		229	229	0							0
Typist Chair Without Arms		249	249	0							0
Macintosh SE With Hard Disk		8,595	8,595	0							0
Apple Keyboard		302	302	0							0
Apple System Periphical		90	90	0							0
Display Board		1,584	1,584	0							0
Computer Printer		2,400	2,400	0							0
Macintosh Carry Case		186	186	0							0
Apple Computer		3,967	3,967	0							0
Computer Trolley		536	536	0							0
Computer External Drive		935	935	0							0
Laser Printer		5,300	5,300	0							0
Calculator		120	120	0							0
Macintosh SE Plus Keyboard		7,000	7,000	0							0
Coffee Maker		51	51	0							0
Nashua Gestetner		2,350	2,350	0							0
Cordless Phone		221	221	0							0
2 Four Drawer Filing Cabinets		617	617	0							0
Two Tier Adj. Computer Unit		210	210	0							0
2 Chairs		238	238	0							0
Kilblind Compact Punchbinder		575	575	0							0
Mistral Fan		47	47	0							0
Quantum External 170Mb Hard Drive		680	680	0							0
Refridgerator & Heater		200	200	0							0
Computer	May-99	1933	1,919	14				12	48%	7	7
Brother HL1040 Laser Printer	May-99	622	618	4				12	48%	2	2
Microsoft & Pagemaker Software	May-99	991	984	7				12	48%	3	4
Website Software	Jul-00	551	543	8				12	48%	4	4
Banner	Aug-00	284	179	105				12	14%	15	4
Celeron Computer and Printer	Jul-05	1855	1,122	733	0			12	48%	352	381
TOTAL		\$45,874	\$45,003	\$871	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$383	\$488

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

RNZIH Education Trust

2008 Projects Update

Horticulture Moderation

Moderation workshops commenced in April and continue through until December 2008. A total of 45 providers (schools, polytechnics etc.) and workplace assessors (growers) workshops will be held over this period. The RNZIH Education Trust is contracted to manage the moderation workshops and ensure that horticulturists, training apprentices, and trainees are meeting industry standards consistently throughout the country.

Accreditation

There continues to be a number of new providers seeking accreditation particularly to teach international students. All of these institutions have to meet certain criteria set by the Hort ITO. To date this year there are five providers applying for accreditation or for an accreditation extension. This is another Horticulture ITO contract managed by the RNZIH Education Trust.

Sports Turf ITO Moderation

The RNZIH Education Trust also delivered a series of moderation workshops throughout the country for the Sports Turf Industry Training Organisation during the year. The workshops are to assist green keepers, golf course managers, and others involved in the sports turf industry with the skills required to assess their apprentices competently.

NZ Hort ITO Young Horticulturist of the Year 2008

The planning of this year's event is well in place with a good response to sponsorship and support from the Horticultural Industry. The date for the Grand Final will be the 6th and 7th November 2008. The structure of the national competition will be similar to last year, except this year the AGMARDT project will be part of the Grand Final so in effect it will be a two day event. The venue for the evening session will be held at the Floating Pavilion on the Auckland waterfront near the Viaduct. This year we are expecting to have up to eight contestants. The confirmed sector competition finalists so far are:

Vegetable sector of Horticulture NZ. The Ravensdown Young Vegetable Grower of the Year is Toby Potter, an operations co-ordinator for Ginseng Growers, Te Puke.

NZ Recreation Association Amenity Sector. Jasmine Zimmerman who works for the Wellington Botanic Gardens will represent the amenity sector this year.

Nursery and Garden Industry. The winner of the Hort Fert Young Achiever competition is Jason Greene, sales manager of Rainbow Trees in Auckland. Jason will represent the nursery sector at the Grand Final.

Northern Cutflower Growers will be represented by Amanda Fisher, who manages Carppe Gardens, growing

cymbidiums for cutflowers, located in Whangarei.

NZ Arboriculture Association

representative is Brandon Heslop, who works for Advanced Tree Services in Canterbury.

Landscaping Association. Applications have closed and there will be an activities day during their conference in Auckland, 14-16th August. The winner will be announced then.

Fruit Sector of Horticulture NZ. The Ravensdown Young Fruitgrower of the Year competition to select this competitor will be held at the Horticulture NZ conference in Auckland from July 29th.

NZ Winegrowers will have up to 3 regional competitions with a play-off at their Bragato Wine conference, the 21-23rd August in Christchurch.

The Main Judges for the Grand Final are now confirmed

We are delighted to confirm the three main judges for the Grand Final of the NZ Horticulture ITO Young Horticulturist of the Year 2008 competition. They are:

- Jack Hobbs, Curator of the Auckland Botanic Gardens
- Errol Hewett, Emeritus Professor, Massey University
- Lesley Slade, former CEO of Leadership NZ

We have introduced a new award this year, the Carann Ltd Award for Outstanding Skills and Leadership during the competition. This will be voted on by the numerous judges we

have over the two Grand Final days and will be announced at the Awards Dinner. The winner will receive \$2,500 cash.

Sponsor Update

The RNZIH Education Trust would like to thank the Aotearoa Tertiary Institute for sponsoring the \$3,500 Outward Bound course, and Massey University who have sponsored up to \$5,000 study package for the second place-getter prizes at the Grand Final. In addition, the Horticulture have very kindly offered to sponsor the Hortisport activity at the national competition. We would also like to thank all our sponsors for their support and sponsorship to date. The full list of sponsors includes:

Naming sponsor: NZ Horticulture Industry Training Organisation

Gold Sponsors: Fruitfed Supplies, AGMARDT, Ravensdown, Royal Business College

Silver Sponsors: Leadership NZ, Carann Ltd, NZ Gardener magazine, Massey University

Sector Support Sponsors: Hort Research, Cedenco Foods

Affiliated Sponsors: Asplundh, Aotearoa Tertiary Institute, Horttraining NZ Ltd, Treescape, Horticulture News, AsureQuality Ltd, Horticulture, Bella Blooms, Auckland Botanic Gardens, Swazi® Apparel, Yates NZ.

David Pufflett
National Training Manager
RNZIH Education Trust

NZ Gardens Trust

NZ Gardens Trust conference and RNZIH symposium

'Blown away by gardens' was the fourth NZGT conference I have attended. All have been great, and this year was no exception.

There are many things I like about these conferences; in particular I feel the balance of garden visits and presentations is just right. Outdoor folks like me can struggle with a full day in a room listening to speakers, so the chance to get out and 'smell the roses' is always welcome. This said the quality of papers was exceptional; plenty to stimulate our thinking and nice touches of humour.

The garden visits made me realise how diverse our gardens are. The exquisitely designed and disciplined Richmond is as far removed from our eclectic botanic gardens as can be imagined. There is no doubt that our best gardens are of sublime quality and that the potential exists to significantly increase visitation.

For me the most appealing aspect of NZGT conferences remains the people who are invariably passionate, full of ideas and enthusiasm, and always great fun. I am looking forward to the Cromwell conference already (planned for the 24-26th April 2009 and dubbed 'The Rugged Frontier').

Immediately prior to the conference the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture held a one day symposium on notable trees. Around fifty delegates listened to papers relating to the protection of significant trees in this country, and much interesting debate resulted. It is heartening that there are so many talented and passionate people in this country prepared to commit so much to the protection of our trees.

The RNZIH has recently established the Notable Trees Trust. This is the third trust to be established by the Institute, following the NZ Gardens Trust and NZ Education Trust.

The Institute is very proud of the achievements of the NZ Gardens Trust, and we congratulate all those who have contributed towards its initial success. In particular I wish to recognise the contribution made by Bev McConnell who is stepping down as an assessor. Bev has made a great contribution to the NZGT, just as she has to horticulture generally in this country, and we remain indebted to her.

Jack Hobbs
President RNZIH

NZ Notable Trees Trust

Work of the New Zealand Notable Trees Trust (NZNTT) is moving ahead. In their respective roles as Chairmen for the NZNTT and RNZIH, David Glenn and David Sole have sent out a joint advisory letter seeking financial support for the trust. The RNZIH have already secured some seed-funding – from the Lottery Environment & Heritage fund (\$15,000), the Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Scholarship (\$5,000), and a contribution from the Auckland Branch of the RNZIH (\$2,000). Ralph Ballinger, the vice-patron of the RNZIH, also continues with his long-standing support.

However, we estimate that the NZNTT requires a minimum of \$60,000 to complete verification of the existing notable tree records, database development, and website design. We are now seeking Founding Members (\$2,000) and Annual Supporters (\$500 pa) who will contribute towards establishing a publicly available online resource, in much the same way as the NZ Gardens Trust gained its Founding Members, which made establishment of their very successful trust possible.

The advisory letter provides a good outline of where the trust is at as summarised here.

The RNZIH and the New Zealand Arboricultural Association (NZAA) have collaborated to form a new stand-alone trust dedicated “to acknowledge New Zealand’s notable tree heritage”.

The New Zealand Notable Trees Trust is a registered charitable trust. The

trust has several initial and ongoing challenges:

- ***Develop a public database of New Zealand’s notable trees***

To utilise existing records and newly submitted listings.

- ***Establish a NZ national tree registrar network***

To assist the trust in locating Notable, Veteran and Champion trees nationwide.

- ***Populate the database with verified data***

To ensure all information is accurate and in a consistent format.

- ***Promoting NZNTT nationwide to private and public tree owners***

To ensure individuals, councils and agencies are aware/supportive.

A primary objective of the trust is to establish and maintain a comprehensively updated database of New Zealand’s notable trees.

The NZNTT database will be a public online resource. It will hold secure definitive records of the nation’s most significant trees – in various accessible formats, for use by individuals and organisations alike.

The information is intended to be invaluable for local authorities. Where desired, subject to council approval, the database would have applications for all city, district and regional councils as a basis, or additional data layer, for the purposes of:

- *Land-use planning.*
- *Regulatory control.*
- *Tree protection ordinances.*
- *District Plan updates/improvements.*

Equally importantly, the trust envisages a high level of interest, from the general public, for personal research projects. For these reasons the NZNTT database will hold information of value to both public and private sector users.

In brief the New Zealand-wide, fully-searchable, map-related database will provide users with current, valid and verified information of every notable tree registered with NZNTT. A notes/comments section and spatial position will be linked to each individual specimen.

With these challenges acknowledged the New Zealand Notable Trees Trust has formed to commence work on the completion of several priorities. These are:

- ***Design and establish an accessible website***

To enable online access and provide public information.

- ***Develop NZNTT key management aims and objectives***

To define the trust's strategic/management purpose and direction.

- ***Collate details on notable trees nation-wide***

To accumulate a comprehensive national "view".

- ***Populate NZNTT database with current and verified information***

To provide information in various user-friendly formats.

The initial establishment and continuation of service from NZNTT will be dependent upon the support shown by New Zealand local authorities and individuals. There are strong indications that a notable tree database and online resource is needed.

A great deal of planning has been undertaken towards achieving NZNTT's stated objectives. Now, universal support, by way of financial contributions from local authorities and others is required to make the proposition a reality.

Further to the development of the NZNTT's website and management plan the trust is keen to utilise your collective expertise, through your comment, advice or involvement. This would mean contributing to any or all of the following tasks:

- *Contributing existing notable tree data.*
- *Gathering new notable tree data.*
- *Integrating NZNTT information into corporate plans and policies.*
- *Supporting NZNTT aims and objectives.*

Please seriously consider committing your support to the New Zealand Notable Trees Trust. Your involvement and dedication will ensure the NZNTT database and website is established – and continuously updated.

David Glenn
Chairman NZNTT

