



# ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

## Newsletter

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## President's Comments

As I look back upon 2011 I pause to reflect on just where it disappeared to! It was an interesting year with many challenges not the least of which was the resignation of our administration officer Tanya Maylam.

Tanya did a great job for us. Her departure brought forward a business plan action which was to review the need for a salaried administration officer and to investigate whether we could administer the Institute remotely via the internet. We are still in the early days of working our way through the process not assisted by my struggles with technology. However I can see the light at the end of the tunnel and think that a remote administration system could work for the Institute. You may need to exercise a little patience when contacting the office and issuing of the annual subscriptions has been delayed until early in the New Year.

A major highlight of 2011 was our funding success for developing a New Zealand Plant Collection Register. This major project has been funded for three years by TFBIS (the Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System). My thanks to Murray Dawson for his work in applying for the funds and he will be leading the project.

I had the pleasure of being invited to judge the interviews and speeches of the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition in November 2011. There is no doubt that across New Zealand we have a very talented pool of horticulturists across all the sectors. Entering the competition, completing the Agmardt project, then two days of intensive interviews and rapid fire practical tasks is a drain on everyone. I must commend all the entrants for their perseverance, their understanding of the tasks in hand and for those who missed out this time – we expect to see them back for another attempt next year!

Overall winner Ben Smith, representing the Vegetable Production sector, took away several prizes including the AGMARDT Prize with a well



deserved, determined and professional approach to the competition. Rangi Green came a close second representing the Amenity Horticulture sector and Paul Southan from the Landscape Sector took third prize. All brought a completely different perspective to the competition which meant that judging was no easy task. That more than 200 people attended the awards dinner is a true reflection on the value the horticulture industry places on the Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition.

Our congratulations are extended to Mark Dean of Naturally Native plant nursery who was awarded the 2011 Loder Cup. Mark's passion for the use native plants and his advocacy of them over many decades means that he is a deserved recipient of the award.

Lookout for next year's RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust conference in the Waikato. It falls just after Anzac Day so there may be an opportunity to travel and explore gardens on the way. The RNZIH AGM, awards and Banks Lecture will precede the conference proper.

The recent media discussion around the possible closing of Hamilton's Rose Gardens raises an issue

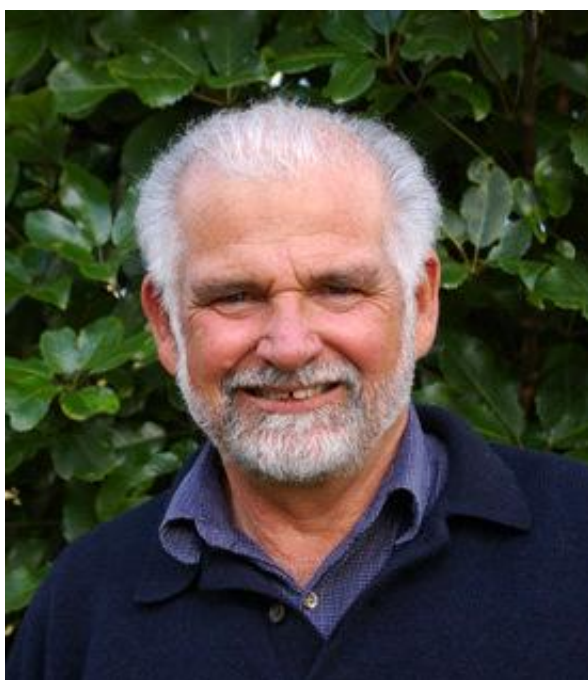
common to local authorities throughout the country. Public gardens will continue to struggle in the face of local authority debt, catching up on neglected infrastructure, heritage and earthquake proofing. The UK example of public parks and gardens simply having their funding turned off seems extreme and far away from New Zealand but the reality is that we are only a few degrees away from that situation. It will be important for RNZIH members to monitor the draft Long Term Plans that local authorities now have underway, and make sure that they are aware of changes in levels or provision and service. It will be important for RNZIH members to lobby their councils through the consultation processes. It will be equally important for members to support and encourage volunteerism in public gardens and parks. In its simplest iteration the English model has become that if communities want public parks and gardens the community runs and funds them! Look out!

Best wishes for the Festive Season and for the New Year.

**David Sole**  
President, RNZIH

## Congratulatory

**Mark Dean**, founder of Naturally Native New Zealand Plants Ltd, has been awarded one of the country's highest conservation honours, the prestigious Loder Cup for 2011.



<b>RNZIH National Office</b>	PO Box 12, Lincoln University, Canterbury Phone: (03) 325 2811 Ext. 8670 Email: office@rnzih.org.nz Website: www.rnzih.org.nz
<b>Patron</b>	Governor General of New Zealand Lt Gen Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae
<b>Vice Patrons</b>	Ralph Ballinger OBE, AHRIH Beverley McConnell, QSM, AHRIH

<b>National Executive</b>	
David Sole FRIH (RNZIH President)	Botanic Gardens of Wellington 101 Glenmore Street, Wellington Phone: (04) 803 8296 Mobile: 021 227 8296 Fax: (04) 499 1903 Email: soled@rnzih.org.nz
Murray Dawson FRIH (RNZIH Webmaster; Journal Editor)	Landcare Research, PO Box 40, Lincoln 7640, Canterbury Phone: (03) 321 9645 Fax: (03) 325 2418 Email: dawsonm@rnzih.org.nz
Alex Gardiner (RNZIH Education Trust representative)	Comwall Park Trust Board PO Box 26-072, Epsom 1344, Auckland Mobile: 027 277 6058 Email: gardinera@rnzih.org.nz
David Glenn (RNZIH Notable Trees Trust representative)	New Zealand Horticulture Industry Training Organisation, PO Box 8050, Dunedin Phone: (03) 455 7550 Mobile: 029 200 9242 Fax: (03) 455 1520 Email: glennnd@rnzih.org.nz
Jeremy Hawker (BGANZ-NZ representative)	Christchurch Botanic Gardens, Christchurch City Council, PO Box 237, Christchurch 8140 Phone: (03) 941 7580 Email: hawkerj@rnzih.org.nz
Mick Reece FRIH (RNZIH NZ Gardens Trust representative)	Dunedin City Council, 21 Montague St, North East Valley, Dunedin Phone: (03) 474 3569 Email: reecem@rnzih.org.nz
Eddie Wullems (RNZIH Treasurer)	Hamilton City Council, Private Bag 3010, Hamilton Phone: (07) 838 6934 Mobile: 021 790 203 Fax: (07) 838 6935 Email: wullemse@rnzih.org.nz

Mark was awarded the Loder Cup for his achievements over the last three decades, in particular his work and contribution in native flora. Conservation Minister Kate Wilkinson commented: "Mark has made an outstanding contribution working in the horticulture industry specialising in native flora. He has spent much of the past 30 years inspiring others as an advisor, teacher and role model both within the horticulture industry and in community conservation projects".

Mark's career in the nursery industry began in 1980 when he left the teaching profession to establish a nursery at Oropi. Mark had a passion for native species and what began as a lifestyle venture, transformed into a horticultural business success story with three large production nurseries across the North Island.

Mark has always been a strong advocate for native plants in the natural setting and the role they play in maintaining and repairing the environment. Today, he is a representative on a number of organisations including the Dune Restoration Trust, Tane Tree Trust and Trees for Survival, as well as being a life member and past president of the Nursery and Garden Industry Association.

The Loder Cup was donated to New Zealand in 1926 by Gerald Loder, in order to encourage and honour New Zealanders who work to investigate, promote, retain and cherish our indigenous flora.

Congratulations also to **Anne Fraser**, dedicated orchidologist, who received the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network (NZPCN) individual award for 2011.

Octogenarian Anne received the NZPCN award for her strong advocacy of a Nationally Threatened spiral sun orchid (*Thelymitra matthewsii*).



Further details of the NZPCN 2011 awards are in their Newsletter at <http://nzpcn.org.nz/publications/Trilepidea-96-111123b.pdf> and on their website at [http://nzpcn.org.nz/page.asp?nzpcn\\_awards\\_2011](http://nzpcn.org.nz/page.asp?nzpcn_awards_2011). Anne Fraser holding an example of her botanical artwork. Photo: Catherine Baird, supplied by the NZPCN.

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## New Members

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We warmly welcome the following new members since our last newsletter in June 2011:

Patrick Amos	QUEENSTOWN
Catherine Ballard	HIKURANGI
Christine Hawthorn	KERIKERI
Anthea Jackson	RAGLAN
Graham Milne	AUCKLAND
Yann Le Moigne	AUCKLAND
Dr Linda Newstrom-Lloyd	CHRISTCHURCH
Nicola Rochester	AUCKLAND

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## RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust

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### Conference 2012 – “Waikato Bouquet”

The 9th Annual RNZIH NZ Gardens Trust conference will be held in Hamilton 27–29 April.

The Conference will commence with the RNZIH Banks Memorial Lecture on Friday evening 27 April (Marion MacKay will be the speaker) and conclude at 4.00 pm Sunday 29 April.

Hosted by the Gordonton Woodlands Trust, the conference will follow the format of garden visits interspersed with presentations by speakers on a variety of topics. Included will be a visit to the Hamilton Gardens and the opportunity to hear Peter Sergel speak about their development.

On Sunday morning a facilitated workshop will give members the chance to air their hopes, views, or concerns about the operation of the Trust.

The venue is the Novotel Hotel, 7 Alma St, Hamilton. Discounted accommodation is available – when booking please advise that you are an NZGT Conference delegate.

More details will appear at [www.gardens.org.nz/events/](http://www.gardens.org.nz/events/)

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## RNZIH Annual General Meeting

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This year’s Annual General Meeting will be held at the NZGT conference venue.

The 2012 RNZIH Awards will be presented following the AGM and preceding the Banks Memorial Lecture.

**Venue:** Fairfield Function Room, Novotel Hotel, Hamilton.

**Date:** Friday, 27 April 2012.

**Time:** 6.00 pm.

**Agenda:**

1. Apologies/In Memoriam
2. Minutes of the 2011 AGM
3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2011 AGM
4. Chairman’s Report
5. Statement of Accounts for 2011 and Budget for 2012
6. Branch Reports
7. Election of Officers
8. General Business:
  - 8.1 Subscriptions
  - 8.2 NZ Gardens Trust
  - 8.3 RNZIH Notable Trees Trust
  - 8.4 RNZIH Education Trust
  - 8.5 NZ Plant Collections Register
  - 8.6 Publications and website
  - 8.7 Other.

**RNZIH Award Presentations** – 6.45 pm.



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## Banks Memorial Lecture

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### “Act local, think global: conservation case studies from the Pukeiti forest and plant collection”

By Dr Marion MacKay

The Banks Memorial Lecture is a *free* lecture open to the public. It commemorates Sir Joseph Banks, botanist on Captain Cook's first voyage to New Zealand. During a later distinguished scientific career, he was unofficial director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, London.

**Venue:** Fairfield Function Room, Novotel Hotel, Hamilton.

**Date:** Friday, 27 April 2012.

**Time:** 7.00–8.00 pm.

**Abstract:**

In the Bank's Memorial Lecture for 2012 Marion MacKay will discuss two conservation projects, one on native flora and one on exotic flora, both based at Pukeiti near New Plymouth. The native flora project relates to the 350 hectares of native forest at Pukeiti which has been regenerating for about 50 years. Since 2006 a series of monitoring plots have been installed and a survey of flora conducted, from which Marion has published the book *Plants of Pukeiti Forest*. The exotic flora project relates to the collection of *Vireya Rhododendron* at Pukeiti, which is housed in the cultivated garden area that sits within the forest. This collection is one of the most extensive world-wide and contains species of conservation interest. In combination with a research team (Marion MacKay, Ahmed Fayaz, and Sujana Reddy all of Massey University, Sue Gardiner and Claudia Wiedow of Plant & Food Research and Graham Smith of Pukeiti), Marion has been studying this collection to determine its international conservation potential. Both projects are described, with observations on conservation issues, and action for future conservation proposed.



**Biography:**

Marion MacKay has been studying plants for many years in her role as scientist at Massey University. Having graduated with a BHortSc (Hons) in 1981 she soon afterwards started lecturing in Amenity Horticulture at Massey and for many years taught degree and diploma students in horticulture.

Over the period 1989-1996 Marion completed her PhD on the plant collection at Eastwoodhill, and as part of that study considered exotic flora in plant collections in New Zealand. In 1997 Marion was made a Fellow of the RNZIH for her work on plant collections. Subsequent to that work she became involved at Pukeiti and the two projects described in this lecture evolved.

Marion now teaches plant topics to students majoring in Environmental Management and oversees the postgraduate programme in that subject. As a result of the native flora project Marion is now involved with a 300 hectare site near Port Waikato and is conducting a flora study on that site. With respect to exotic flora and conservation, the rhododendron project is on-going, and Marion is also part of the Institute's team who are undertaking the Cultivated Plants Project.

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## RNZIH Education Trust

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### The Young Horticulturist of the Year 2011 competition

Ben Smith of Pukekohe is the 2011 Young Horticulturist of the Year. Twenty-nine-year-old Ben, who represented Horticulture NZ, received his award at a function in Auckland on Thursday November 10th, 2011.

Ben is a grower manager for Status Produce at Tuakau, responsible for a 5½ hectare greenhouse site growing specialty tomatoes.

Ben competed against five other finalists from around the country, who represented various areas of the horticulture industry and had reached the final by winning their respective sector competitions.

Over two days the finalists tested their expertise in a range of challenges including impressing the judges with their marketing, presentation and accounting skills. The second day was held at the Auckland Botanic Gardens, where the focus was on practical horticultural tasks.

The competition has a prize pool of more than \$40,000 and seeks to identify horticulturists willing to take on extra challenges which may initiate future leadership roles. It is managed by the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture Education Trust, in conjunction with the partnering sponsors: the Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust (AGMARDT), Fruitfed Supplies, Turners & Growers and the New Zealand Horticulture Industry Training Organisation (NZHITO).

“This year we saw a very close competition; all the finalists were confident, practical all-rounders,” said Richard Bawden, National Manager of Fruitfed Supplies, part of PGG Wrightson Ltd.

“Horticulture is a great lifestyle career, but it is not just about planting and harvesting. Participants, especially those who are looking at supervisory roles, must also have excellent managerial skills, show a flair for the marketing side of their industry and be aware of industry trends and issues, for example, around sustainability.”

Along with Ben, sector finalists represented Landscaping NZ, Nursery and Garden Industry Association, NZ Arboriculture Association, NZ Recreation Association/Amenity Horticulture and NZ Winegrowers.

NZ Recreation Association/Amenity Horticulture sector finalist Rebekah (Rangi) Green, of Waterview, Auckland, was placed second and Landscaping New Zealand finalist Paul Southan, of Mt Albert, Auckland, took third place.

### The Finalists

#### Horticulture NZ finalist Ben Smith, of Pukekohe

As a grower manager for Status Produce at Tuakau, 29-year-old Ben Smith is responsible for a 5½ hectare greenhouse site growing ranges of specialty tomatoes for supermarkets, food service companies and for export.

Ben entered the industry after enjoying the horticulture option at high school. He was then encouraged by the directors of Status Produce to pursue it as career.

“They were looking to the future and wanted to help young people who were enthusiastic about the industry” said Ben. “The company assisted me through university, where I achieved a Bachelor of Science, with a horticultural science major and I started with Status Produce at the bottom, working my way up from a grower to a technical manager.”

Ben then looked overseas and spent two years growing tomatoes on the Isle of Wight for Wight Salads Group, a leading UK organic tomato supplier. This allowed him to experience a different growing climate and special marketing requirements.

Returning to New Zealand he spent a year at the horticultural supplies specialist company Horticulture Limited at Pukekohe and Drury, before returning to Status Produce last year.

Ben took the national title of Young Grower of the Year in July 2011, after earning his place at the competition by taking out the Young Vegetable Grower of the Year title earlier this year. His prize as the Young Grower of the Year included a trip to Queensland to visit outdoor tomato growers.

Ben's future plans include staying at Status Produce to focus on "growing great tomatoes". On the home front, however, Ben says he is terrible gardener and prefers to tackle indoor renovation chores.

**NZ Recreation Association/Amenity Horticulture sector finalist Rebekah (Rangi) Green, of Waterview, Auckland**

As an amenity gardener at the Auckland Botanic Gardens, 27-year-old Rangi Green works alongside amenity, asset, nursery and curator teams responsible for the Garden's 156 acres and more than 10,000 plants.

**NZ Arboriculture Association finalist Jenn Noakes, of Mosgiel**

Jenn (26) returned to New Zealand in February after working in British Columbia as an arborist, green keeper and fire fighter. She can now be found assessing and trimming trees for a Dunedin garden management company.

**NZ Winegrowers finalist Nick Paulin, of Bannockburn**

A vineyard manager for Peregrine Wines, 28-year-old Nick is involved with the running of 40 hectares of organically-certified vines for the Gibbston Valley company, which sources produce from Gibbston and Cromwell to produce Sauvignon Blanc, Chardonnay and Riesling.

**Nursery and Garden Industry Association finalist Michael Scott, of Whenuapai, Auckland**

Twenty-seven-year-old production manager Michael Scott describes his workplace as a "birthing unit". From baby buxus and bananas, to petite pohutukawa and pittosporums, Michael is responsible for at least 500,000 tiny plants growing at Scott Base Nursery, Whenuapai.

**Landscaping New Zealand finalist Paul Southan, of Mt Albert**

Paul Southan originally set his sights on architecture as a career, but the practical side of construction work increasing appealed. Now 24-year-old Paul is a foreman at Humphrey Landscaping working on prestige Auckland properties.

**Elenka Nikoloff  
YHOTY Competition Manager**



Ben Smith, 2011 winner, receiving his award at the dinner on 10th November.

## RNZIH Notable Trees Trust

### Notable Tree Notes

In each edition of the Newsletter we feature a tree from the New Zealand Tree Register. The idea is to highlight a specimen with outstanding attributes and/or an especially interesting history. Please visit the website for more information.

#### TSR/941 & TSR/G939 *Platanus* × *hispanica* ‘Acerifolia’ London plane

Here is a taxon that will be sure to stir up a range of opinions as it has done for the past 240 years. Enter two German, a Portuguese, two Scottish and a Belgian botanist...

The tree was first named *Platanus hispanicus* in 1770 by Otto von Münchhausen. This German botanist based the name on a description of a “Spanish plane” originally made by Scottish botanist Philip Miller in his 1759 *The Gardeners Dictionary*. No herbarium specimen has been found to authenticate Miller’s description. Spanish plane tree was its first common name because Spain is where it first originated. It was later called the London plane tree because of its widespread planting there as an amenity tree.

Another Scottish botanist, William Aiton, published a description of the tree in his 1789 work *Hortus Kewensis*, and he named it as a variety of *P. orientalis* (as *P. orientalis* var. *acerifolia*). The German Carl Ludwig Willdenow later published it in 1805 as a new species, *Platanus acerifolia*.

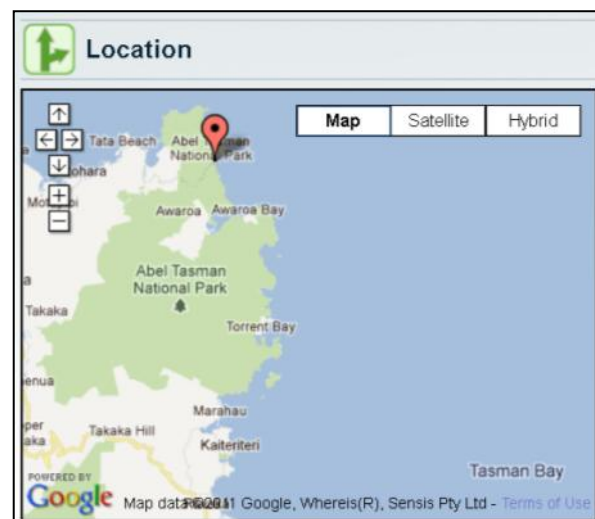
Following current conventions, this and other names were subsequently modified by adding the multiplication symbol, as it was correctly suspected to be a hybrid between the American plane, *P. occidentalis*, and the oriental plane, *P. orientalis*. In 1805 Félix Brotero, a Portuguese botanist, used the name *Platanus hybridus*, which should be referred to as *P. ×hybrida*.

However, following the rules of priority, the contention is that *Platanus ×acerifolia*, although still recognised by some authorities, was not published until 1805 and therefore the former names should take precedence.

For many years now, *P. ×hispanica* has been accepted here in New Zealand and Australia, as well as in some European works – for example *Flora Iberica*. In contrast, the *Flora of Turkey* adopted the name *P. ×hybrida*. Other works, for example *Flora of China* and *Flora Europaea*, maintain the usage of *P. ×acerifolia* and so does the *European Garden Flora*.

The Belgian D. Geerinck in his 1979 review proposed the cultivar name *P. ‘Acerifolia’* within *P. ×hispanica* and it is this treatment of the name that the Allan Herbarium and Ngā Tipu o Aotearoa – New Zealand Plants database (<http://nzflora.landcareresearch.co.nz>) at Landcare Research currently recognises.

Although some plant names have remained unchanged since Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus (the father of modern taxonomy) published the first edition of *Species Plantarum* in 1753, the history of botanical name changes for the London plane is typical of many other plants. The aim of these name changes is to arrive at the most appropriate name to



Tataranui London plane avenue TSR/G939.  
Photo: Brad Cadwallader.



use; technically correct (following the rules of nomenclature) and one that accurately reflects plant relationships (taxonomy and phylogeny). However, not all cases are clear-cut as shown by the various names still used for London plane. The NZNTT follow the lead of the Allan Herbarium and as such you will find London plane in our database under the name *Platanus × hispanica* ‘Acerifolia’.

Highlighted in this article is an outstanding avenue of 17 trees planted at Totaranui, Abel Tasman National Park (TSR/G939). The largest tree in the group is profiled as TSR/941. In 1984 this tree was considered by S.W. Burstall to ‘probably’ be the largest London plane in New Zealand. This avenue of London plane trees at Totaranui was planted by the Gibbs family, in 1865. The original avenue included macrocarpa trees alternating with the London planes. The macrocarpa have all been progressively removed over the years with the last of them going in 2010. These trees are a very important part of the historic landscape of Totaranui. They are also the parent trees of all the (pollarded) plane trees along Nelson city streets.

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The author wishes to thank the staff at the Allan Herbarium for their assistance in the preparation of this article.

## Brad Cadwallader

**Tree Registrar & Database Manager, New Zealand Notable Trees Trust**

*The New Zealand Notable Trees Trust manages a free public database containing verified details of the most notable and significant trees in this country. The database is constantly being updated. New trees may be registered at any time – together with any contributions of information or support. View online at [www.notabletrees.org.nz](http://www.notabletrees.org.nz).*

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## The New Zealand Plant Collection Register

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The New Zealand Plant Collection Register project has been funded and work has officially begun!

This register will provide a free online system to manage and deliver information on live plant collections and cultivated plant names throughout New Zealand. It will be available for use by botanic gardens, arboreta, garden groups, plant societies and private collection holders to view, enter and update information on plant collections. These records will be searchable as an online database for anyone interested in cultivated plants, both native and exotic.

This important new resource will assist conservation of rare plants and heritage cultivars, plant exchange, availability of germplasm for plant breeding, management of potential weed escapes and allow better importation and biosecurity decisions.

The total range of plants held in cultivation is much wider than stock being offered for sale from commercial plant nurseries in any given year, especially given the current trend to market a narrow range of in-fashion plants. The new register will be able to record material not commercially available but still in cultivation.

This project builds upon a pioneering register developed by the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (RNZIH) from the late 1980s to the early 1990s. This first register was compiled by Dr Keith Hammett and others, and recorded several plant collections grown around New Zealand. Although this was a well-founded initiative, its scope was limited as it listed collections at the genus-level only and is now out-of-date.

Since then, internet technologies such as online databases and other tools have come of age and provide the best means of delivering and managing this resource. The new register should provide a comprehensive and easy to use system for the New Zealand horticultural community to manage and share their collections online for free. At present, many collection records held by private holders are on stand-alone PCs that are not backed up on a server or network, and use inadequate software such as spreadsheets.

The findings of a workshop *Documenting New Zealand's cultivated flora: 'A supermarket with no stock inventory'* held in September 2009 (available at [www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/researchpubs/Report-documenting-New-Zealands-cultivated-flora.pdf](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/publications/researchpubs/Report-documenting-New-Zealands-cultivated-flora.pdf)) highlighted the present lack of knowledge and poor cataloguing of which cultivated plants are present in New Zealand. We do not adequately know what is in this country, what it is called or where it is growing. The key issues identified at that workshop are:

- Lack of knowledge and poor systems to catalogue the cultivated flora
- Lack of access to information
- Poor validation of plant names and identifications
- Declining or inaccessible expertise
- Lack of funding and resources to identify, describe, and catalogue cultivated plants.

To help address these issues, relaunching and expanding the 1993 register has been discussed in recent issues of the RNZIH Newsletter ([www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/news.html](http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/news.html)) and in our Journal ([www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/NZ\\_Garden\\_Journal\\_index.htm](http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/NZ_Garden_Journal_index.htm)).



In July 2010 David Sole led a scoping workshop to explore the future development and updating of this register ([www.rnzih.org.nz/RNZIH\\_Journal/Pages\\_5-9\\_from\\_2010\\_Vol13\\_No2.pdf](http://www.rnzih.org.nz/RNZIH_Journal/Pages_5-9_from_2010_Vol13_No2.pdf)).

In September 2011 Murray Dawson submitted an application to the TFBIS (Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System) programme, and in November 2011 they gave us the welcome news that they are funding the project for three years. The TFBIS Programme is funded by the Government to help achieve the goals of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, and is administered by the Department of Conservation.

TFBIS are also funding a redevelopment of the New Zealand Biodiversity Recording Network (NZBRN, [www.nzbrn.org.nz](http://www.nzbrn.org.nz)) platform, to record natural history observations that include plant, animal and insect sightings. The RNZIH are working with the NZBRN and their new website/database developers to see if we can share the same platform to meet our respective needs. This platform will interconnect with yet another TFBIS-funded project, the New Zealand Organisms Register (NZOR, [www.nzor.org.nz](http://www.nzor.org.nz)).

What needs to be done and who is involved in this new project?

Nelson nurserywoman Philippa Foes-Lamb has finished contacting collection holders listed in the original register and updating their records. Philippa will continue to be an advocate for the project to garden clubs and plant groups.

David Sole is manager of the Botanic Gardens of Wellington and President of the RNZIH. He will be working through Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ-NZ, [www.bganz.org.au/bganz\\_nz](http://www.bganz.org.au/bganz_nz)) to make their collection records publicly available on the new system.

Murray Dawson is leading this project. He is a botanist at Landcare Research, member of the RNZIH National Executive, their editor and their webmaster. One of his first tasks is to complete a specifications document defining the full functionality of the new register. This includes defining spreadsheet import/export, database fields and entry forms, integrated mapping, image handling, and message board requirements. The document will be circulated for user feedback to ensure that the new information management platform will meet everyone's needs. Some of the functionality will overlap with the NZBRNs needs, but we will also have our own requirements, such as a robust plant names module.

Murray will collate all the key plant collection records and use them as the initial data to import into the new register. Once the system is fully developed, custodians of plant collections will be able to log-on and directly manage their own records online.

In addition to the living collection information, we will build an extensive bibliographic list of cultivated plant names, past and present. These names will be derived from the New Zealand horticultural literature – plant books, cultivar registers, journal and magazine articles and nursery catalogues. This will provide a “pick-list” within the system for those entering their collection records.

For the first time, we will be able to freely access an accurate record of New Zealand's cultivated plant stock, determine how common or rare a plant is in cultivation, where it is growing, and who the custodians are.

We expect that many individuals and groups will become involved. The new system is your resource and needs support and contributions from our entire horticultural community. We need to share collection records, plant images, cultivar lists and details of their origins, and volunteers to evaluate the staged deployment of the online system. Please feel free to contact us with offers of help at [collections@rnzih.org.nz](mailto:collections@rnzih.org.nz).

**Murray Dawson**  
**New Zealand Plant Collection Register Project**



ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE  
PO Box 12, Lincoln University, Canterbury, NZ

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