



## ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

### Newsletter

2019 No. 3, December  
ISSN 1174-6947 (Print)  
ISSN 1179-7444 (Online)

## Presidential Ponderings

I am happy to report that the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (RNZIH) held a very successful AGM, Awards Ceremony and Banks Memorial Lecture in Wellington in October 2019.

This was later in the year than usual, and also differed in that this was a full day stand-alone event. In recent years we have partnered with other organisations as an adjunct to a larger conference and as a consequence have been squeezed into the evening prior to the main event. This on occasion has limited the time available to do full justice to the prestigious Banks Memorial Lecture and Awards.

Currently the RNZIH Executive has a dynamic trio of professional plants-women in addition to our secretary Penny Clifflin. Clare Shearman works at Wellington Botanic Gardens, Yvonne Baker is a horticultural consultant who was formerly plants' records officer at the Auckland Botanic Gardens while Dharini Marinkovich is a plant breeder who works alongside me here in Auckland.

Between them they organised a series of speakers prior to the Banks Memorial Lecture, followed by workshops where conference attendees were able to make suggestions as to how they felt the RNZIH might move forward. I know that Clare, Yvonne and Dharini have been working hard to analyse the results from the different groups in the workshops and to this end Clare came recently to Auckland. At the time of writing they are scheduled to present their findings at the next monthly electronic meeting of the Executive.

I guess one of the things that we need to

determine is the current demographic of Institute membership. Years ago, when the RNZIH had the responsibility of running the National Diploma of Horticulture, many nurserymen and parks superintendents were active members. In that era parks departments were important repositories of horticultural skills, knowledge and germplasm. Staff took great pride in acquiring an extensive knowledge of a wide range of plants, both native and exotic. Similarly, nurseries vied with each other to offer as wide a range of interesting plants as was possible. Mature parks in many parts of New Zealand bear testimony to their efforts.

With the current Draconian barriers to plant introduction and the move by councils to employ contractors, known colloquially as the "mow, blow and go" mob, rather than maintain dedicated staff, plant collections are eroding.

It also has to be said that at a time when New Zealand's human population is more ethnically diverse than at any previous time in our history, that when it comes to plants eco-fascism is alive and well.

### "Native Good : Exotic Evil"?

For quite a while here in Auckland only natives have been planted along our motorways and exotics removed. More recently mature exotic trees have been removed from Mangere Mountain, while the same fate awaits exotic plants on Mt Albert, delayed only by the efforts of local residents.

At the Westgate Shopping Centre in West Auckland an avenue of mature palms, perhaps 20 metres in height, were destroyed and have

been replaced by nikau sticking like incongruous shuttlecocks directly out of concrete.

I guess barren streetscapes like this are a cypher of our times. The concrete jungle moves relentlessly forward forcing people into ever-smaller homes devoid of gardens. Hardly fertile ground from which to introduce people to the joys of gardening and horticulture.

**Keith Hammett**  
**President, RNZIH**

## Seeking RNZIH award nominations for 2020

Please contact our office ([office@rnzih.org.nz](mailto:office@rnzih.org.nz)) if you know of an outstanding horticulturist who may be a worthy recipient for one of these awards. Do not approach the person being nominated.

1. **Associate of Honour (AHRH):** "Persons who have rendered distinguished service to horticulture."
2. **Fellow (FRIH):** "Members who have made a significant contribution to horticulture by their activities or interest in or service to horticulture."
3. **Plant Raisers' Award:** "Any nominated individual or organisation who has raised in New Zealand a cultivar considered to be sufficiently meritorious."
4. **Garden History Award (Award in Horticultural History and Conservation):** "Any nominated individual or organisation within New Zealand making distinguished contributions to horticultural history and conservation."

## New members

We warmly welcome new members, including:

Janet Cubey and Wolfgang Bopp (joint members)      CHRISTCHURCH  
Judith McLean      CHRISTCHURCH  
Barbara Wheeler      DUNEDIN

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## Congratulations

### 2019 RNZIH Symposium 'Commemorating Cook'



Attendees of the 2019 RNZIH Symposium during the networking session, 24th October 2019.  
Photo: Yvonne Baker.



Ewen Cameron.  
Photo: Murray Dawson.



Catherine Duthie.  
Photo: Murray Dawson.



Ross Ferguson.  
Photo: Murray Dawson.

The RNZIH National Executive wish to express their sincere thanks to **Clare Shearman** for taking on the bulk of organising the one-day symposium at Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington, commemorating the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook and his botanists arrival in Aotearoa-New Zealand.

Thanks to Clare's efforts, and those of Yvonne Baker and Dharini Marinkovich, the conference was a great success with more than 60 people attending. It has been many years since the RNZIH hosted a conference or symposium on its own. We were therefore pleased to see delegates from adjacent events (the Botanic Gardens Australia & New Zealand Congress and the Australian Garden History Society Conference) also taking the time to attend our symposium.

During a networking session, attendees were challenged to answer questions such as 'What services could the RNZIH offer to you?' 'How do we engage young people into the industry?' Their responses are being collated and will contribute to future planning by the RNZIH National Executive.

Our speakers did a great job. Ewen Cameron, Curator of Botany at the Auckland Museum, spoke of the first descriptions, illustrations and scientific collections of the New Zealand flora. Catherine Duthie, Team Manager, Readiness Programmes at the NZ Ministry for Primary Industries, provided us with insights in managing biosecurity in New Zealand. Our 2019 Banks Memorial Lecturer, Ross Ferguson, presented a fascinating account of the domestication and commercialisation of kiwifruit. Ross's lecture will be published as an article in our December 2019 journal.



## 2019 RNZIH Awardees

In the previous issue of this newsletter (June 2019, No. 2, pp. 4–10) we congratulated the 2019 RNZIH awardees, and their full award citations were published in our previous journal (*New Zealand Garden Journal*, June 2019, Vol. 22, No. 1, pp. 14–26). Their awards were presented during our AGM at Te Papa, Wellington, on Thursday 24th October 2019. Although Prof Helen Leach and Mark Tutty were unable to attend, those recipients who were there reflected upon the achievements that led to their awards. Here are some photos kindly taken by Jack Hobbs (Auckland Botanic Gardens).



RNZIH President Dr Keith Hammett (left) presenting Annemarie Endt-Ferwerda (right) with the 2019 Award in Garden History. Photo: Jack Hobbs.



Annemarie Endt-Ferwerda speaking about her life's work and wearing the 2019 Award in Garden History medal. Photo: Jack Hobbs.



RNZIH President Dr Keith Hammett (left) presenting Ian Duncalf (right) with the 2019 Plant Raisers' Award. Photo: Jack Hobbs.



Ian Duncalf speaking about his nursery and breeding work and wearing his 2019 Plant Raisers' medal. Photo: Jack Hobbs.



RNZIH President Dr Keith Hammett (left) congratulating Chris Webb (right) on becoming a 2019 Fellow of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (FRIH). Photo: Jack Hobbs.



RNZIH President Dr Keith Hammett (left) congratulating Malcolm Woolmore (right) on becoming a 2019 Fellow of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (FRIH). Photo: Jack Hobbs.



RNZIH President Dr Keith Hammett (left) congratulating Nicola Rochester (right) on becoming a 2019 Fellow of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (FRIH). Photo: Jack Hobbs.



RNZIH President Dr Keith Hammett (left) congratulating Dr Marion MacKay (right) on becoming a 2019 Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (AHRH). Photo: Jack Hobbs.



**2019 Young Horticulturist Competition winner**  
 Congratulations to **Simon Gourley**, the overall winner of New Zealand's Young Horticulturist Competition for 2019.

Simon is vineyard manager at Domain Thomson Wines in Central Otago, where there's a strong focus on organics, biodynamic farming and sustainability. With a degree in viticulture and oenology from Lincoln University he has winery and vineyard experience in New Zealand, Australia and France.

On 13th and 14th November, Simon competed with five other finalists from different sectors of the horticulture industry in the grand final of the competition. The first day was Practical Components day held at the Pukekohe Indian Association Centre, followed the next day by a series of indoor business-focused challenges including presentation of competitors' AGMARDT projects, a computer-based project and, in the evening, individual short speeches to a large audience at the awards dinner.

The competition assesses contestants' abilities across multiple skills reflecting the diversity of disciplines demanded by a modern career in horticulture, including innovative product



Simon Gourley (left) being presented with his winner's trophy by Steve Sexton (right) from Countdown.



Finalists in the 2019 Young Horticulturist Competition alongside Duncan Fletcher from Fruitfed Supplies; (left to right) Simon Gourley, Jono Sutton, Jessie Wakeling, Duncan Fletcher (centre), Anika Jackson, George Trower, Rico Mannall.

design, market research, public speaking, interviews with judges and a series of wide-ranging practical and knowledge-based activities and challenges.

2019 is the 15th year that the RNZIH Education Trust has held the competition.

Congratulations to the other Young Horticulturist Competition contestants – **Rico Mannall, Jonathan Sutton, George Trower, Anika Jackson, Jessie Wakeling** – for all of their achievements.

A write-up of the competition results will be published in our December 2019 journal.

### 2019 Ronald Flook Award

Congratulations to **Stacy Colyer** for receiving the 2019 Ronald Flook Award.

Stacy is an Auckland-based tree advocate, business owner and consultant arborist. He has been one of the preminent contributors to the growth of the arboricultural consultancy industry in New Zealand.

Stacy is a consistent voice of the industry and has never been afraid to speak up for the need to have tree protection in the Auckland region. He was one of the key members in the early 1990s developing the policy that made up the bulk of the tree protection rules in the Auckland Council's district plans on the Isthmus and the Hauraki Gulf Island. One particularly memorable moment in his career was when he organised a full page spread 'Stop the Chop' in *The New Zealand Herald* campaigning against relaxation of tree rules in Auckland.

Stacy has grown his business GreensceneNZ over the last 25 years, setting a benchmark for ethical approach to business and needs of the tree over the needs of the client. Over that time, his business has evolved into a multi-faceted green-services business, providing arboricultural consultancy, landscape design and maintenance, training in horticulture and arboriculture, and support to MPI and their programs of response incursions (Queensland fruit fly).

Stacy has also donated time and effort to not-for-profit organisations and charities over the



Stacy Colyer (left) receiving the 2019 Ronald Flook Award from Will Melville (right), immediate past-President of NZ Arb.



years. Stacy was involved in arranging for the dismantling, repurposing and shipping of second-hand playground equipment to areas in the Pacific Islands where they are reassembled for communities in need. He does this in his own time and funds a substantial part of the work.

Stacy has also sat on a number of committees over the years including industry conference committees, and donates his time to help organise climbing events, association sponsorship, branding and other initiatives.

The 2019 award was presented to Stacy Colyer at the New Zealand Arboricultural Association Annual Industry Awards Dinner at the Napier Conference Centre on Saturday 16th November.

### **2019 Loder Cup Award**

Congratulations to **Chris Horne** of Wellington for winning the 2019 Loder Cup.

The Loder Cup is one of New Zealand's oldest conservation awards. It acknowledges individuals and groups who make an outstanding contribution to conserving New Zealand's native plants.

The Wellington Botanical Society nominated Chris, with supporting nominations from Greater Wellington Regional Council, Wellington Natural Heritage Trust, Zealandia, and Wellington City Council.

Advocating for the protection and restoration of native ecosystems, particularly in the greater Wellington region, has been a major focus for Chris during the last four decades. Although receiving no formal qualifications in botany, his passion for New Zealand's plants has led to him being one of the most knowledgeable and respected botanists in Wellington. From 1989 until 2017 Chris and his partner Barbara Mitcalfe, who passed away in 2017, were contracted by organisations in the Wellington region to undertake botanical surveys, monitor vegetation plots and develop plant lists.



Minister of Conservation Eugenie Sage (left) awarding the Loder Cup to Chris Horne (right) of Wellington. Photo courtesy of the Department of Conservation.



Chris has been a highly active member of the Wellington Botanical Society for almost 40 years. He has been on their committee for 25 years and has been the editor of their triannual newsletter since 1993. Additionally, he has been an active member of numerous other conservation groups, such as the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary Trust and the Natural Heritage Trust.

Chris, and Barbara, were involved in the development of the Botanical Trail in Zealandia and have guided many botanical walks for the general public, as well as providing botanical training to Zealandia's guides. Chris has co-authored 92 articles for the Tararua Tramping Club newsletter, with each article featuring a different native plant. He was also involved in writing the text and choosing images for an information display and writing the text for a leaflet on Makara Foreshore Reserve.

These various outreach activities by Chris have led to increased awareness about New Zealand's native flora. He has also ensured that his knowledge of New Zealand plants, their conservation and restoration has been passed on to the next generations of botanists and conservationists.

### **2019 Bledisloe Cup Award**

Congratulations to **Bill Thorpe** of Gisborne who won horticulture's Bledisloe Cup.

The cup celebrates a person who has made an outstanding contribution to horticulture in New Zealand.

Bill was presented with his award at the 'Our Food Future' Horticulture New Zealand conference dinner at Mystery Creek on Thursday 1st August.

He has been associated with horticulture for 50 years and was involved in some of this country's early commercial kiwifruit plantings in 1969. By 1975, he had developed Gisborne's first seamless kiwifruit pack-house and export facility.

Bill has made a profound contribution to the persimmon industry over the past 40 years. In 1988, he became a founding member of the New Zealand Persimmon Industry Council, of which he remains an active member. In 1997, Bill started exporting persimmons and was highly instrumental in the push into markets like China and the United States.



Bill Thorpe and wife Margaret with the Bledisloe Cup. Photo courtesy of Horticulture New Zealand.

Bill is described by his colleagues as “commercially mature and unfailingly courteous” and “an absolute gentleman and statesman of the industry”.

He is also known to be “relentless in representing the growers of the Gisborne region”.

In receiving his award, he said that it had been particularly satisfying to have spent most of his working life involved in such a dynamic and forward-looking industry.

The Bledisloe Cup for horticulture was first presented in 1931 by the then Governor General Lord Bledisloe, for a competition between orchardists for the best exhibit of New Zealand apples at the Imperial Fruit Show.

It is one of several cups Lord Bledisloe presented to New Zealand and is similar to rugby’s Bledisloe Cup, which was also donated in 1931.

### 2019 Allan Mere Award

The Allan Mere was posthumously awarded this year to the late **Rodney Lewington** (1935–2018) of Wellington, and accepted by his wife Darea Sherratt.

The Allan Mere is awarded annually by the New Zealand Botanical Society from nominations made by Regional Botanical Societies or individual members to persons who have made outstanding contributions to botany in New Zealand.

The 2019 nomination was made by Dr Lara Shepherd, for the Wellington Botanical Society and Eleanor Burton, for the Ōtari-Wilton’s Bush Trust, and supported by the Otago Botanical Society. Further support came from Dr Jessica Beever, and a joint letter of support from Dr Patrick Brownsey and Peter Beveridge.

Rodney Lewington was a quiet leader and generous mentor in the botanical world and poured lasting energy into promoting the wonderful world of plants. He was a driving force for the Wellington Botanical Society and



Anthony Wright, President of the New Zealand Botanical Society presenting the Allan Mere posthumously to Rodney Lewington’s wife Darea Sherratt.

the Ōtari-Wilton’s Bush Trust for more than five decades. From the early 1980s, Rodney was a regular contributor to the John Child Bryophyte Workshops, developing a passion for bryophytes that continued for the rest of his life.

### 2019 T.A Stewart Memorial Award

Congratulations to Hayden Foulds from Woodville for being awarded the T.A Stewart Memorial Award for 2019. This award is presented to a person deemed to have given outstanding service to the rose in Australia or New Zealand.

Hayden is one of the younger generation of rosarians who has already made an outstanding contribution to roses.

He comes from a horticultural family. Hayden along with the rest of his family joined the Manawatu Rose Society in 1995. During his school years, he participated in some of the society’s activities and also attended the 1997 National Spring Rose Show in Palmerston North where he met rosarians Sam McGredy and





Hayden Foulds holding his T.A Stewart Memorial Award.

Doug Grant for the first time. The home garden soon started to expand with more roses being planted and Hayden found time to maintain an interest in them as he completed a horticulture degree at Massey University in Palmerston North. He presently is employed as a production manager of a wholesale plant nursery. He is also editor for the New Zealand Region of the International Plant Propagators' Society.

In 2003 Hayden became a co-editor of the Manawatu Rose Society newsletter and continued in this position until 2007. He was part of the organising committee for the 2007 National Spring Rose Convention and Show in Palmerston North. Hayden was also part of the organising committee for the World Federation of Rose Societies (WFRS) Regional Convention held in Palmerston North in 2013. Hayden has had several stints on the Manawatu Rose Society committee and in 2016 was elected President, a position he still holds.

Hayden is presently convener of the organising committee for the 2020 National Spring Rose Show and Convention to be held in Palmerston

North. This event will also be part of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the NZRS International Rose Trials held in the city. For the Rose Trials anniversary Hayden is involved in several projects including the publication of a book on the history of the rose trials and the launch of a new rose to be named for the City of Palmerston North.

Hayden was co-opted to the National Council of the New Zealand Rose Society (NZRS) in 2008 as webmaster and he oversaw the redevelopment of the NZRS website. In 2010, Hayden was appointed as editor of the *New Zealand Rose Review*, a new publication that promotes recent rose introductions to members and to the public. Hayden was elected Vice President of the NZRS in 2017 and in 2018, was appointed as editor of the *New Zealand Rose Annual*.

One of Hayden's main interests is the rose trials held in Palmerston North. He has been a trial ground judge since 1997. In 2003 he was elected to the committee that oversee the trials. Since then, he has been responsible for publicity and collating the judge's scores and organising the result sheets and award certificates.

Hayden has attended a number of WFRS World and Regional Conventions and is currently a member of the WFRS publications committee and social media subcommittee. Hayden has been a member of the Rose Society of South Australia since 2005 and attended the WFRS Regional Trials in Adelaide 2008. He also attended the Australian Rose Society AGM and National Show in Adelaide 2014. He is a contributor to the *Australian Rose Annual* and has written the "Across the Ditch Report" for the Annual since 2010. He regularly writes about roses and rose society activities in New Zealand and further abroad. He contributes articles to the *Kiwi Gardener* magazine and is often called on by other outlets to answer questions and provide further information about roses.

Hayden was made a Fellow of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture for his

services to horticulture and he received the John Follett Award for services to the IPPS (International Plant Propagators' Society) New Zealand Region in 2018.

The New Zealand Rose Society considers Hayden Foulds to be a highly respected and valued New Zealand rosarian and a worthy recipient of the T.A. Stewart Memorial Award.

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## RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust

**NZGT Conference  
Manawatu and the  
Rangitikei  
13–15th March 2020**



The NZGT 2020 Conference is being held in the Manawatu and the Rangitikei.

The conference organisers have finalised their programme.

The NZGT conference will be based at the Distinction Coachman Hotel in Palmerston North.

Garden visits include Paloma Gardens, Westoe, Lansdale, Victoria Esplanade (including the National Rose Trial Grounds and Wildbase Recovery Centre), and Greenhaugh Gardens.

Speakers include Gordon Collier and guest speaker Dan Benarcik from Chanticleer Garden, Philadelphia, USA.

See the conference webpage at: [www.gardens.org.nz/news-and-events/nzgt-conference-2020-manawatu/](http://www.gardens.org.nz/news-and-events/nzgt-conference-2020-manawatu/) for accommodation, registration, and programme details.

This conference is open to all RNZIH members.

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Dan Benarcik from Chanticleer Garden, Philadelphia, the NZGT guest of honour.

### New NZGT Trustees

In 2019, five of the NZGT Trustees stepped down – Kerei Thompson, Mich Newton, Pauline Murphy, Jenny Oakley and Dylan Norfield. Chairperson Kerei Thompson and Mich Newton served the maximum 12-year term, and, like the other outgoing Trustees, have made huge contributions. The new NZGT Trustees, joining Penny Zino and Wendy Palmer are:

**Margaret Barker**, appointed as the new NZGT Chairperson. Margaret is the Founding Director of Larnach Castle in Dunedin. She brings enormous knowledge and wisdom as an eminently successful private garden visitor owner and has extensive governance and management experience.

**David Hobbs**, owner of Broadfield NZ Landscape Garden in Christchurch. David is keen to work with the RNZIH to finalise the NZGT Trust Deed and to set up consistent processes around NZGT operations including conferences.

**Peter Gillies** and his wife Nellie, owners of Gillies Garden in Upper Hutt. Retiring after 48 years as a GP, Peter (and Nellie) joined the Trust in 2017. Peter believes in the value of the assessment system for garden visitors and has really enjoyed the conferences, so is committed to finding solutions to encourage greater membership engagement.



**Mel Haskell** and Chris Allen, members for four years and own Casa Rossa in Christchurch. Mel is a health, safety and wellbeing professional, and brings a valuable perspective as a new but committed gardener. She is looking forward to promoting the benefits of NZGT membership.

**Brian Coker** and his wife Helen, owner Stoneycrop in West Melton, near Christchurch and new members of the NZGT. Brian has a long history of horticultural experience through involvement in local and national rhododendron societies and the NZ Garden Festival Trust and his governance and financial experience will be of huge value to the Board.

**Jennifer Horner** and husband Ken, who first opened their garden 'Puketarata' in Taranaki in the 1980s and have participated every year since 2008 for the 10 days of the Taranaki Garden Festival. Members of the NZGT since 2008, Jennifer and Ken believe that the organisation has established a reliable brand for tourists, providing a guide for their garden experiences in New Zealand and that we should continue to build and strengthen that brand.

The new trustees offer a strong range of experiences and a true commitment to advancing the interests of the NZGT and a closer relationship with the RNZIH.

**Julie Sperring**  
Trust Manager, NZGT

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## 2020 IPPS New Zealand Region Conference

**'Wild South'**  
**16–19th April 2020**  
**Invercargill**



The 2019 International Plant Propagators' Society New Zealand Region (IPPS–NZ) conference will be based at Ascot Park Hotel, Invercargill.

A warm welcome awaits in the deep south with plenty of southern hospitality.

Mayor Sir Tim Shadbolt will open the conference on Friday morning.

Field trip visits will include Hayes Wholesale Nurseries, Diacks Garden Centre, TNZ Growing Products, Triflor Tulip Farm and Templeton Heritage Flax Mill.

Speakers confirmed so far are:

- Rachael Sagar (DOC) "Saving Auckland Island biodiversity from introduced pests"
- Ed Morgan (PFR) "Breeding technologies into the future"
- Murray Dawson (RNZIH) "Taking stock : Resolving New Zealand's cultivated plants problem"
- Bruce Smallfield (PFR) "Taramea & Tawiniwini novel crop opportunities from native alpine plants"
- Lisa Burton (Biosecurity) "Who wants to be a millionaire?"
- Chris Barnaby (PVR office) "New Plant Variety Rights Law, what is happening."

Further speakers are to be confirmed in the coming weeks.

Friday night will be the formal dinner, awards, auction and entertainment at the Ascot Park while Saturday night will be at a mystery venue – dress code camouflage.

### Pre-tour: 14–16th April

The pre-tour will be based at the Ascot Park Hotel and will travel each day for visits. Participants will need to arrange their own accommodation for these days. Estimated cost \$250 pp.

### Tuesday 14th: Catlins

- Niagara Falls Café
- Waikawa Museum
- Cathedral Cove
- McClean Falls
- Curio Bay and Petrified Forest.

### Wednesday 15th: Gore/Tapanui

- Southern Roses
- Blue Mountain Nurseries

- Hokonui Pioneer Village and Moonshine Museum.

#### **Thursday 16th: Invercargill/Maple Glen**

- Maple Glen Garden
- Transport World
- Queens Park.

#### **Post Tour: 20th–22nd April to Rakiura–Stewart Island**

A unique opportunity to visit Stewart Island with IPPS. Estimated cost \$1036 pp.

#### **Monday 20th April**

- Transfer to Stewart Island by ferry
- Tour of Oban and surrounds
- Observation Rock.

#### **Tuesday 21st April**

- Ulva Island Bird Sanctuary
- Botanic Gardens.

#### **Wednesday 22nd April**

Choice of:

- Patterson Inlet Cruise
- Carving Workshop
- ½ day fishing trip.

Registration is open to both RNZIH and IPPS-NZ members.

Further details will be at  
[www.ipps.org.nz/events/conferences](http://www.ipps.org.nz/events/conferences)

### **BGANZ Congress 2019 Report 'Plants from the past: plants for the future'**



**20-23rd October 2019**

**Te Papa, Wellington**

The Botanic Gardens Australia NZ (BGANZ) congress is held every two years, with every 3rd congress being hosted in New Zealand.

This year the 9th congress was held in Wellington to support the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Wellington Botanic Gardens established with an Act of Parliament in 1869.

More than 110 delegates from Australia and New Zealand attended the three day congress. The theme was 'Plants from the past, Plants for the future'. International speakers included Robbie Blackhall-Miles from Wales, Paul Smith from BGCI London and Alexandra Cooke from Hong Kong.

**Robbie Blackhall-Miles** owns and runs FossilPlants, a small private botanical collection in North Wales. The garden is a BGCI accredited botanic garden, and at 115m<sup>2</sup> is perhaps the smallest in the world. The garden's focus is plant evolution featuring more than 1,000 plants from families that have their ancestry in prehistoric times – i.e. their lineage has survived previous extinction events. Robbie also runs a research nursery for conservation purposes. Robbie's presentation was on 'Plant Blindness' and he was keen to point out even we need to get over our own 'plant blindness' and he challenged us on the biases in gardens to vascular plants, often overlooking mosses, lichens and liverworts. In most cases the existing bryophytes in gardens are self-introduced and a survey of those to document them could be a way to address this bias. In 2017 a full bryophyte survey of the FossilPlants site found 34 different species of mosses and liverworts. Robbie had some tips for putting plants in the limelight including changing our language. We might say "a tūi pollinates harakeke flowers". But we could say "the harakeke plant provides nectar for the tūi". The latter puts the plant at the centre of the story.

**Robyn Simcock** from Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research proposed "Five activist actions for Botanic Gardens" including making sure our messages are at a scale that people can relate to such as backyards, that we use water sensitive design principles, reduce lawns and more meadows/less mown lawns, promote the value of trees (even dead trees for their ecological functions as habitats), and ensure



habitats for invertebrates such as native bees which like bare ground (not plants!).

**Kath Dickinson** from Otago University outlined Botanic Gardens as ‘crucibles for change’, places with high visitation positioned for leadership, connectivity, engagement, increasing understanding, raising awareness, action and providing hope.

**Tim Entwistle** promoted his manifesto for a modern botanic garden, his botanical version of the Gettysburg Address where even though most visitors come for leisure we can all make sure they leave with messages about plants and their importance. People might visit a botanic garden for culture and gardens can lead them though the nature gate. If they arrive through the science gate we can lead them through the culture gate. Tim wants us to ‘sign up’ to the many dimensions of our place; it’s the strength not a weaknesses. You can read Tim’s address at [www.bganz.org.au/assets/uploads/2018/11/TBG\\_Iss51\\_Nov18\\_FINAL\\_181130-compressed.pdf](http://www.bganz.org.au/assets/uploads/2018/11/TBG_Iss51_Nov18_FINAL_181130-compressed.pdf)

The congress included several workshops including how gardens should respond to climate change, how to manage tree risk and how gardens are contributing to threatened plant conservation.

**Clare Shearman, BGANZ-NZ representative**

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## Notable Tree Notes

*In this newsletter we regularly feature trees from the New Zealand Tree Register. The idea is to highlight a specimen or group with outstanding attributes and/or an especially interesting history.*

**CR/1267 – *Cupressus macrocarpa* (macrocarpa, Monterey cypress), ‘The Big Tree’, Orton Bradley Park, Lyttleton Harbour, Canterbury**

Orton Bradley Park is a 650 hectare working farm and private park in Lyttleton Harbour, some 30 minutes’ drive from Christchurch.



Location of CR/1267 – an impressive tree located in the Orton Bradley Park arboretum.

<https://register.notabletrees.org.nz/tree/view/1267>

For a modest fee the park is open to the public and has picnic and camping grounds, tea-rooms, and other facilities.

One of the lesser known of several walks in the park is a 40-minute arboretum loop track, leading across farmland and through a walnut grove to a collection of southern hemisphere beech trees, New Zealand kauri, and North American conifers. The arboretum is primarily a conifer collection dating back to plantings made by Orton Bradley in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

The jewel in the crown of this arboretum is undoubtedly one of the largest macrocarpas in New Zealand. I must confess I was unaware of its existence until stumbling upon this magnificent tree during our walk. With such an impressive girth it would be hard for anyone to miss it.

I took some photos to post on iNaturalist NZ – Mātaki Taiao (<https://inaturalist.nz/observations/36343780>) and was pleased to find it listed on the New Zealand Tree Register (<https://register.notabletrees.org.nz/tree/view/1267>).

When last measured by arborist Raoni Hammer (Director, Four Seasons Tree Care Otautahi Ltd) and his team in 2015, this multi-stemmed tree had a girth of 14.6 m, an average crown spread of 35.1 m, and a height of 24.2 m. It is currently estimated to be nearly 140 years old.

Monterey cypress, or just ‘macrocarpa’ as it’s referred to in New Zealand, is very well known in this country and widely grown as a windbreak tree on farms. *Cupressus macrocarpa* is, like another iconic exotic tree grown in New Zealand, *Pinus radiata* (Monterey pine), native to the Central Coast of California and threatened in its native habitat. Fortunately, both species grow very well in New Zealand.

Brad Cadwallader of the New Zealand Notable Trees Trust (NZNTT) tells me that this country is the home of the largest macrocarpa trees in the world. The largest single-stemmed tree is located at Awhitu, south west of Auckland (<https://register.notabletrees.org.nz/tree/view/963>), and the tallest known specimen is at Bethlehem, near Tauranga (<https://register.notabletrees.org.nz/tree/view/424>).

My visit in late November 2019 showed the ‘The Big Tree’ macrocarpa at Orton Bradley Park to still be in good health.

Botanically *Cupressus macrocarpa* has been reclassified by some botanists as *Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*. This is based on genetic evidence that the New World *Cupressus* are not very closely related to the Old World *Cupressus* species.

**Murray Dawson**

*The New Zealand Notable Trees Trust manages a free public database containing details of many notable and significant trees in this country. The database is constantly being updated. New trees may be entered online at any time, by anyone willing to measure and record the appropriate details (see the website for simple-to-follow instructions). Please feel free to become a tree recorder – your name will be attributed to any tree records and images you submit. The trust welcomes any contributions of information or support. View online at [www.notabletrees.org.nz](http://www.notabletrees.org.nz)*



CR/1267 macrocarpa, dominating the far end of a clearing. Photo: Murray Dawson, 30 November 2019.



Leaves and male cones of CR/1267. Photo: Murray Dawson, 30 November 2019.



Leaves and female cone of CR/1267. Photo: Murray Dawson, 30 November 2019.





CR/1267 macrocarpa showing its impressive girth, estimated to be 14.6 m.  
Photo: Murray Dawson, 30 November 2019.



## 2019 Favourite Native Plant



*Rhabdothamnus solandri*. Photo: Alan Jolliffe.

The New Zealand Plant Conservation Network held their 16th favourite native plant voting this year. The official victor of New Zealand's favourite plant for 2019 is taurepo, *Rhabdothamnus solandri*.

Unlike many past winners, taurepo is not a total oddity; it does not have any urgent conservation issues, and it is not what we would consider an iconic New Zealand species.

But it is a damn lovely thing! Almost all of us who have encountered this North Island shrub are immediately drawn to it, it's round, hairy, toothed leaves sit somewhere between a lacebark and a papery version of silver beech, it's tangled mass of stems invoke *Coprosma*, but it's flowers are like nothing else – and should be like nothing else as *Rhabdothamnus* is an endemic monotypic genus, and the only representative of the Gesneriaceae family in New Zealand.

The solitary bell-like flowers, which can almost always be encountered as it flowers throughout the year, range from orange, through yellow, sometimes to purple or pink, and are striped lengthwise with red or dark orange veins making taurepo instantly recognisable.

Congratulations to all of those who voted for this little beauty, well-deserved of its place amid New Zealand's most beloved plant species.

## Facebook Groups for horticulturists

Groups on Facebook are an excellent way to gain access to information, ideas, knowledge and images without the hassle of having lots of Facebook 'Friends'.

Friends are valuable on Facebook but make sure that you take care in accepting 'Friend' requests. If not satisfied then decline them.

Groups are different. These are set up by organisations which specialise in one topic only. It will usually be in the title of the group.

The benefits are that you are joining a worldwide group and will see posts from people from many countries giving many different perspectives. Groups may have thousands of members – more than you could ever have as individual friends.

To find a group associated with your interests try this:

- Use the Facebook search box to type in some keywords for your topic of interest.
- When a list of results appear, click those that look interesting and view their group page before deciding to join.
- If it is not what you want then search again.
- When you find a group that satisfies your needs click "join".
- At this stage you could be asked up to three questions about why you want to join.
  - ◇ Some groups do this to weed out fake accounts but others don't.
  - ◇ In some cases you might have to wait for an admin person to approve you joining.
- Once joined you will see posts by people with the same interests as you, and you can like, make comments or share these posts.
- You can join many groups if you have wide interests.
- If you don't like a group after some time you can leave the group.

Here are some Facebook Groups dedicated to New Zealand horticulture and botany:

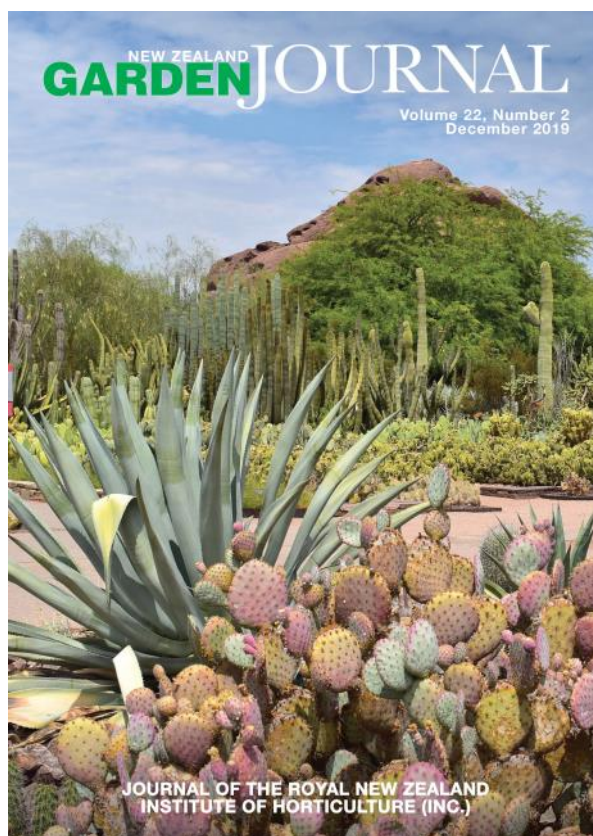
- [iNaturalist NZ – Mātaki Taiao](#)
- [New Zealand – Group for Unusual, Rare & Exotic Plant Growers](#)
- [New Zealand Alpine Garden Society](#)
- [New Zealand Native Orchids](#)
- [New Zealand Native Plants](#)
- [NZ Flower Photo Group](#)
- [NZ fruit and nut growers](#)
- [NZ Native plant enthusiasts](#)
- [NZ Native Plant Photography](#)
- [NZ Rare Fruit Growers](#)
- [Plant ID NZ](#)
- [Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture](#)

The number of followers on these pages range from 250 to 11,400.

Alan Jolliffe

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## NZ Garden Journal: December 2019 issue



Our December 2019 edition of the RNZIH *New Zealand Garden Journal* has been printed.

It will be posted out to our subscribed members early in the New Year.

Here is a preview of the contents:

- **Auckland Botanic Gardens *Calendula* winter bedding trial, 2019.**  
Emma Bodley and her colleagues present the results of their Auckland trials of pot marigolds.
- **Impacts of myrtle rust in New Zealand since its arrival in 2017.**  
Robert Beresford and his colleagues at Plant & Food Research provide an update on the impacts of myrtle rust in New Zealand.
- **The 2019 Banks Memorial Lecture: The domestication and successful commercialisation of kiwifruit.**  
Ross Ferguson presents a comprehensive and fascinating account of the domestication and commercialisation of green and yellow-fleshed kiwifruit in New Zealand.
- **Trip Report: USA botanical expeditions and the CRYO2019 conference in San Diego.**  
Karin van der Walt provides a report of her trip to attend a cryobiology conference in the USA.
- **An American journey: My experiences as a Longwood Fellow.**  
Barbara Wheeler shares some experiences during her 2019–2020 Fellows Program of Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania, USA.
- **2019 Young Horticulturist Competition.**  
Results of the competition from the RNZIH Education Trust.
- **Obituaries**
  - ◇ Travis Flint
  - ◇ Sam McGredy AHRIH, CBE
  - ◇ Lady Anne Berry VMH.

## Membership Subscriptions for 2020

In January 2020, we will send out subscriptions for that year.

Please let us know if you have changed your contact details (postal and email addresses) since last time so that our journal, newsletter and subscriptions reach you.

Although our journal in particular is expensive to produce, we have not increased our subscription rates.

If you do wish to make a donation, there is provision for this on the membership invoices.

Many thanks for your continued support – without you, there would be no Institute.

**Chris Webb**  
**Treasurer RNZIH**



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