



Chairman's Comments

It has been a difficult winter this year affecting commercial and amenity horticulture throughout New Zealand. Sports turfs have been hit particularly hard with grounds throughout the country being turned to muddy fields. Horticulture at home has gone to the back burner as well so I suspect that the spring rush to the garden will be greater than ever fuelled by the public return to home grown produce.

Thank you to all those members who responded to the future of the RNZIH document that I circulated. I am in the process of working through the submissions so that I can report back to the executive. The responses were, in the main, supportive. All have contributed to building a picture of the future of the RNZIH. While I have not yet distilled all the comments an overriding message is that the RNZIH has a key role to play in setting and maintaining standards of horticultural practice in New Zealand. I can say that I was heartened by the responses which reinforced to me that the RNZIH has a genuine role in the future of horticulture in New Zealand.

The June 2009 Newsletter of the New Zealand Gardens Trust was most welcome and paints a positive way forward for the Trust. The reflection on the 'Rugged Frontier' Conference in Cromwell was an excellent summary of a great conference in a great location. I always struggle to adequately articulate the magnificence of the Central Otago and Maniototo landscapes and this time in particular the breathtaking autumn landscape. It was made all the more special by the organising team, the hosts and speakers, and of course Liz Morrow's organising skills.

The pre-conference visit to the new Chinese Garden in Dunedin provided a great insight into that garden. Addressed by Mick Reece, Mick Field and William Cockerill we were treated to a behind the scenes look at the design, the critical relationships and the building of a genuine Chinese Garden with its Tang Dynasty influence. In moving around this beautifully constructed garden, from room to room you are part of a centuries old transgression, from the traditional European backyard, into a garden that is not only contemplative and peaceful but challenges you to consider and to understand another culture – to look past what it is that you can actually see. Mick Field gave the Bank's Memorial Lecture on the development of this garden, and we have published his talk in our latest journal. Make a point, if you are in or near Dunedin, to experience the Dunedin Chinese garden!

Our congratulations to Vonnie Cave who was recently made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to horticulture and photography. There would be few people involved in amenity horticulture in New Zealand who would be unaware of Vonnie's work and passion for horticulture.

As I look out my office window the *Magnolia campbellii* and the *Rhododendron* 'Sir Robert Peel' are in bloom and there is the raucous clamour of kaka who seem to be laying claim to the garden. Best wishes to you all for the spring.

David Sole
Chairman, RNZIH

Congratulations

Vonnie Cave awarded NZ Order of Merit

Mrs Vonnie Cave of Wanganui was appointed Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday Honours, 2009. Vonnie received her award for her services to horticulture and to photography. She has been a keen member of the New Zealand Camellia Society for many years and is currently editor of the *New Zealand Camellia Bulletin*. The cover of the *Bulletin* usually has one of her splendid photographs of camellias. She and Valda Paddison were authors of the book *The Gardner's Encyclopaedia of New Zealand Native Plants*, a finalist in the Montana Book Awards in 2000. Vonnie is an Associate of Honour of the Institute.

John Clemens new Botanic Gardens Curator

Congratulations to Dr John Clemens for his new appointment as Curator of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. The previous Curator was the late Dr David Given and John's appointment was made after a three year search to replace him. John's vision for the Botanic Gardens is to enhance Christchurch's reputation as New Zealand's Garden City by ensuring the Gardens are not only world class but also become a leading world institution for botanical and horticultural research and excellence. John was editor of the RNZIH journal from 2002 to 2004.

Ross Ferguson

Dr Ross Ferguson, our Vice President, has the latest *Horticultural Reviews* dedicated to him (Vol. 35: xii-xvi, 2009), mainly in recognition for his work on kiwifruit biology over the past 35 years. *Horticultural Reviews* is a prestigious series, published in two hardcover volumes each year. The dedication to Ross was prepared by Dr Rod Bieleski.

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New Members

We warmly welcome the following new members who joined the RNZIH since March 2009:

| | | | |
|------------|--------------|------------------|----------|
| Ms Huggins | INVERCARGILL | K Murtagh | LAWRENCE |
| Mr Smith | AUSTRALIA | Downer EDI Works | DUNEDIN |

Members via the Gardens Trust

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|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| I & B Stafford | 'Mungoven' | MARTIN | Mrs M Long | 'Frensham' | CHRISTCHURCH |
| Mrs B Gower | | CAMBRIDGE | Mr S Marcham | 'Otahuna Lodge' | CHRISTCHURCH |
| Mrs J Simpson | 'Fishermans Bay Garden' | AKAROA | Mr K & Mrs P Stuart | | WANAKA |

RNZIH Education Trust report

Activities of the Trust

The RNZIH Education Trust has been busy completing the consultative process with the horticultural industry to find a vision and direction for the NZ Horticulture ITO Young Horticulturist of the Year competition for the next 5 years.

From this consultative process the Trust will set up a number of subcommittees to focus on the areas identified, these areas will be included in the strategic plan on the competition. A first draft is due to be completed in November 2009. The Education Trust will oversee development and writing of the strategic plan and assist with the set up of a governance committee to oversee the organisation of the competition each year (which will probably be the Education Trust plus 1–2 industry representatives).

The Education Trust has also been assisting putting together a careers morning at Manukau Institute of Technology, for early in August, for senior high school students interested in a career in horticulture.

Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition 2009

This competition is managed by the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture Education Trust.

1. Sector Competitions Update

An update on the sector and regional competitions are as follows:

NZ Arboricultural Association This is a national competition to be held in early August. The winner of this competition will represent the Arboriculture Association at the Grand Final.

Fruit Sector of Horticulture NZ The winner is Kevin McInnes from the Hawkes Bay. Kevin will represent the Fruit sector of Horticulture NZ at the Grand Final.

Vegetable Sector of Horticulture NZ The winner is Nigel McCartin, a production manager for a fresh vegetable producer based in Canterbury. Nigel will represent the Vegetable sector of Horticulture NZ at the Grand Final.

Landscaping Industry Association of NZ There are 5 finalists with a competition day set for 8th August in Hamilton.

Nursery and Garden Industry Association The winner of the HortFert Young Achiever competition is Pip McVicar. Pip is production manager at a conifer nursery and will represent the NGIA at the Grand Final.

NZ Recreation Association – Amenity Horticulture The winner is Sandra How, from the Hamilton Gardens. Sandra will represent this sector at the Grand Final.

NZ Winegrowers There are 5 regional winners who will be involved in a play-off at the NZ Winegrowers Bragato Wine conference from 22nd August.

Floriculture Laura McGuire from the floristry sector will represent the cutflower industry at the Grand Final. Laura has a retail floristry shop Harakeke Flowers in central Christchurch.

2. An Update on the Activities for the Grand Final

The AGMARDT Market Innovation Project

This project has been launched with a flyer and an outline of the project to the sector winners and any regional finalists for the sectors who are still to hold their competitions in August. A one day seminar on 28th August in Wellington will help the contestants get started on their projects.

Grand Final Dates

- 5th Nov – First day of the Grand Final: AGMARDT Project presentations at the Rendezvous Hotel, Auckland City
- 6th Nov – Second day of the Grand Final: Practical activities at the Auckland Botanic Gardens during the day, 8.30am through until 2.30pm. Spectators welcome.

The Main Judges

The three main judges for the competition are:

- Jack Hobbs, Auckland Botanic Gardens
- Lesley Slade, Consultant in leadership and organizational development
- Errol Hewett, Emeritus Professor for horticulture at Massey University.

Promotion of the NZ Horticulture ITO Young Horticulturist of the Year competition

We have just been notified that *Horticulture News* and *Lifestyle Farmer Magazine* have been amalgamated and this change will take effect from the September issue. This means that the Horticultural industry news and articles for commercial growers will feature in the second half of the Lifestyle Farmer magazine.

There will be a feature on the competition in the October issue of *Lifestyle Farmer*, and we will advertise alongside this feature. We will also be advertising alongside a feature on the competition in the September issue of the *Orchardist* magazine.

Awards Dinner

Rendezvous Hotel (formerly the Carlton Hotel), Mayoral Drive, Auckland City. Dinner tickets \$85. Parking is available underneath the hotel, \$8 per car for the evening. Contact Elenka to order your tickets, from early September.

Sponsors Update

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following sponsors for their support for the competition this year:

- Naming sponsor: NZ Horticulture Industry Training Organisation
- Gold Sponsors: Fruitfed Supplies, AGMARDT, *NZ Gardener* magazine
- Silver Sponsors: Leadership NZ, Massey University
- Sector Support Sponsors: Plant and Food Research
- Affiliated Sponsors: Treescape, Villa Maria, *Horticulture News*,ASUREQuality Ltd, Hansens the Flower People, Auckland Botanic Gardens, Swazi® Apparel, Yates NZ, Scotts – the Osmocote company and more.

Elenka Nikoloff

elenka.nikoloff@xtra.co.nz

RNZIH Notable Trees Trust report

The Notable Trees Trust is delighted to report progress on a joint conference with the New Zealand Arboriculture Association to be held in Blenheim on the 19–21 November 2009.

The programme has been set and information and registration is available on the NZAA website at <http://nzarbor.org.nz/>

RNZIH members are eligible for the membership rate.

One of the conference sessions is “Rediscovering and Celebrating our Heritage Trees” and is designed to build on the previous RNZIH seminar “Our Future Heritage” held in Wellington in May 2008.

The seminar will be an opportunity to update interested people on progress of the trust, acknowledge the sponsors and to hear a number of stimulating speakers including Marian Minson, David Haig, Chris Williams and many more.

The Notable Trees Trust, in conjunction with the New Zealand Arboricultural Association and with support from the Te Roroa Trust, is delighted to be hosting the inaugural “Tane Mahuta” free public lecture series. The “Tane Mahuta” lecture will become a fixture of the annual NZAA conference, with each one raising an important aspect of arboriculture or trees to a wider audience. The first lecture in the series – “The Magnificent New Zealand Kauri Forest” – will be delivered by Stephen King.

The lecture series commemorates “Tane Mahuta” the largest kauri known to stand today, discovered in 1920. The tree has a height of 51.2m and a girth of 14.60m. The tree is a remnant of the ancient subtropical rainforest that once grew on the North Auckland Peninsula.

According to Maori mythology Tāne is the son of Rangiūni the sky father and Papatuanuku the earth mother. Tāne was the child that tore his parent’s embrace and once done set about clothing his mother in the forest we have today. All living creatures of the forest are regarded as Tāne’s children.

The lecture will take place at 5.15pm on Thursday 19 November.

The Trust has also secured sufficient sponsorship and financial support to appoint the web designer Turbo Web (of Dunedin) to develop a new online database and access point for New Zealand Notable Trees information.

The Trust is intending to have the searchable database online prior to the November conference, so that the Trust may demonstrate its many functions.

The Trust is working with a number of councils to ensure that the council schedule tree lists include the Notable Trees Trust’s trees.

The new NZNTT website is currently under construction and is coming online in stages. Information will be added progressively. It may be viewed at www.notabletrees.org.nz.

David Glenn

Session 2: Rediscovering and Celebrating our Heritage Trees
Thursday 19 November 2009

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|---------------|---|
| 8:00-9:00am | Registration Desk Opens |
| 9:00-9:10am | Welcome and Opening Address |
| 9:10-9:15am | Day One Chair – Bryan Gould Conference format and housekeeping |
| 9:15-10:00am | KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Terry Flanagan Tree Risk Assessment: The Pacific Northwest chapter experience and ISA perspective |
| 10:00-10:45am | Speaker 1 – David Glenn NZ Notable Tree Trust: The aspirations of the Tree Trust |
| 10:45-11:15am | MORNING TEA |
| 11:15-12:00am | Speaker 2 – Brad Cadwallader & Bryan Gould Notable Trees: The new web site and how it works |
| 12:00-12:30pm | Speaker 3 – Robert Appleton The role of heritage trees in seed sourcing |
| 12:30-1:00pm | LUNCH |
| 1:30-2:15pm | Speaker 4 – Marian Minson On the canvas: An artistic perspective of trees in the landscape |
| 2:15-3:00pm | Speaker 5 – Chris Williams Heritage trees: Uniting past and future |
| 3:00-3:30pm | AFTERNOON TEA |
| 3:30-4:00pm | Speaker 6 – David Haig Beyond firewood: The utilisation of our heritage trees |
| 4:00-5:00pm | Speaker 7 – Brad Cadwallader Dawn Redwood in New Zealand: A national survey of the first generation |
| 5:00-5:15pm | END OF DAY ONE SESSIONS - Interlude before 'Tanē Mahuta' Public Lecture |
| 5:15-6:30pm | Inaugural 'TANĒ MAHUTA' Public Lecture Series Presenter – Stephen King The magnificent New Zealand Kauri forest |

For Session 1 on '**Arboriculture: as a Profitable Business**' and the full three-day programme see <http://nzarbor.org.nz/>

Workshop on cultivated plant names

On 9th September 2009 there will be a one-day workshop focussing on the lack of knowledge and more effective application of names for the cultivated plants in New Zealand.

Lack of knowledge of which cultivated plants are present in New Zealand hampers biosecurity management, both pre- and post-border, as well as horticultural practices and management of living collections.

Native and exotic plant collections have significant cultural and scientific values and there are few up-to-date and readily accessible catalogues of cultivated species, notable trees and heritage cultivars.

There is also a lack of co-ordination between the many organisations and groups that use plant names and attendees will represent key interest groups.

The workshop will be held in Wellington and funded by the Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity System (TFBIS) programme. TFBIS have also funded a new information platform called the 'New Zealand Organism Register' (NZOR). NZOR is an integrated system to handle nomenclature (botanical names, synonyms, common names), taxonomic concepts (the most appropriate names to use), and biostatus (e.g., native, exotic, casual), and will also be explained at the workshop.

Plant Identification Keys now Online

Two new computer-based identification keys, first announced in the RNZIH Journal (Dec 2007, Vol. 10, No. 2), are now available for use, free of charge, on the Landcare Research website (see www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/biosystematics/plants/). Interactive keys are powerful identification tools and much easier to use than traditional printed keys found in floras.

The NZGrass Key was developed by Kerry Ford and David Glenny of Landcare Research, and by Trevor James of AgResearch. This key includes 428 species and 4 hybrids of native and naturalised grasses of New Zealand, and is illustrated with more than 1500 images. "Grasses are notoriously difficult to identify," said Kerry. "People attending our Plant Identification Workshops tell us every year that they find grasses the most difficult species to identify, and they are more commonly sent in to our plant identification service than any other group." While there is a comprehensive flora devoted to grasses, this book is loaded with technical terms and descriptions and is very difficult for a novice to use. The new online key draws on information contained in the flora but makes the data more accessible. "You don't need to be an expert to use the interactive grass key – it is very user friendly," confirmed Kerry.

Also easy to use is the NPPA Key which was completed more recently by Murray Dawson of Landcare Research. This key was developed to assist with the identification of the 150 pest plant species currently banned from sale, propagation, and distribution within New Zealand. "The plants on this list are a diverse bunch. Some are already serious weeds, and others have the potential to be," said Murray. Also included in the key is an equal number of similar and related lookalike species, which are commonly confused with the real NPPA plants.

This NPPA project was very much a team effort. It was the brainchild of Peter Heenan (also of Landcare Research) who secured the funding to make it possible. Others involved included: Trevor James who contributed the majority of images used, Sheldon Navie (University of Queensland) who provided Lucid character data, and Paul Champion (NIWA) who provided expert advice on aquatics. Many people helped out with images including: Weedbusters, the Department of Conservation, MAF Biosecurity New Zealand, New Zealand regional authorities, and even contributors from other countries. "Everyone has been extremely generous," said Murray. "From a collection of 12,000 images we were able to choose 5,000 of the best to use in our key."

Landcare Research is planning to develop further interactive keys in the future. Murray and his collaborators will now turn their attention to developing an interactive key for environmental weeds of New Zealand.



