

# ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

# Newsletter

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# **President's Comments**

I have been acting President for the last year, despite not having previously served on the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (RNZIH) executive. For this reason, I have been on a steep learning curve. I am most grateful to David Sole and Murray Dawson, in particular, for holding my hand and getting me up to half speed, at least. Especially as I have made several overseas trips during this time.

I firmly believe that the RNZIH has an important role to play in an ever-changing world. For this reason, I am proud to have taken on the role of presidency.

I am mindful of the challenges facing the institute as outlined in David Sole's report to the AGM last year and expressed in his outgoing President's Comments in this Newsletter (March 2013, No. 1), and I do not underestimate the concerns he raised. It is, however, essential that we have faith that the disciplines of botany, horticulture and highly refined cultural skills remain important and that we promulgate this loudly.

We need to define clearly what is possible in the short term while working towards achieving a higher appreciation of horticulture amongst the general public. The image of horticulture is not high worldwide. This is best exemplified by an occurrence that was related to me recently in the USA.

Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania are amongst the finest in the world. A highly qualified and experienced curator of dahlias related to me that one day when he was working with the plants, a woman said to her child, within hearing of the curator "Take a good look at that; if you



do not get on and study, that is what you will end up doing".

This widespread attitude is unfortunate and a working party that involves the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) in the UK, the International Society of Horticultural Science (ISHS) and others has been formed. Perhaps the RNZIH can make a contribution to this in addition to raising our profile through our trusts and our members.

One of the major problems facing us is the plethora of often very small special interest groups within ornamental horticulture, in particular. The fact that our 2014 AGM clashed with a joint Australia/New Zealand meeting of the International Plant Propagation Society (IPPS) is a missed opportunity. What an audience we might have had for the prestigious Banks Memorial Lecture.

Certainly, any such cooperation with another body would have required substantial forward

planning, but we might make a start by reaching out to kindred organisations and perhaps compiling a calendar of planned events. Such communication should encompass both hobby level clubs and commercial/industry organisations.

As a breeder of ornamental plants, I have come increasingly to recognise that I am part of the visual arts, using a very special medium. I believe we should explore linkages with the Art World rather than just to confine ourselves with organisations that are plant based.

Having made these suggestions, it is important to recognise the value of what we already do and to be proud of these achievements. Ultimately the Plant Collections Register may prove to be the most significant project of recent years. Currently the lack of detailed knowledge of what plants we have in New Zealand, coupled with biosecurity regulations, are having a devastating effect on the development of any truly innovative new plants.

If preservation and expansion of existing nursery and seed catalogue collections can be coupled with the Plant Collections Register, we will have established an invaluable resource on which can be built a history of horticulture both in New Zealand and more widely.

Equally the New Zealand Tree Register is part of this as are the many fine gardens covered by the RNZIH NZ Gardens Trust. Many of these gardens are important repositories for plants no longer available in the nursery industry.

It is a very different world now to that in which the RNZIH was formed. However, as a biology teacher of mine used to say, "If an organism is unable to adapt, it becomes extinct". Let us jointly raise the profile of horticulture so that it gets the recognition that it deserves and ensure that the RNZIH does not become extinct, but rather grows in importance.

> Keith Hammett President, RNZIH

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# **New Members**

A warm welcome to our new members, including:

Anne Holland AUCKLAND Catherine Horide AUCKLAND

From the New Zealand Gardens Trust: Kerikeri Mission Station; Kingbrook; Ngahuha Garden; Orore Point garden; Pompallier Mission; The Garden on the Ridge; The Iris Garden.

# **Congratulations**

### **2014 RNZIH Awardees**

Congratulations to our 2014 RNZIH award recipients:

**Dr Mike Wilcox**, of Auckland was presented with the Award in Garden History before he delivered the 2014 Banks Memorial Lecture.

**Vance Hooper**, of Taranaki received the Plant Raisers' Award for breeding *Magnolia* 'Genie' and *M*. 'Cleopatra'.

Both Mike and Vance were present after our AGM to accept their awards. Their full award citations will be published in the next issue of our journal (*New Zealand Garden Journal*, Vol. 17, No. 1, June 2014). a special thanks to Penny Cliffin and the Auckland Branch of the RNZIH for their excellent organisation of the venue.





# **Subscriptions for 2015**

At the AGM in Auckland on 8 May 2014, a vote was passed to round off the RNZIH membership subscription rates for 2015 to 'clean' amounts. The current subscription rates are a result of the change of GST from 12.5% to 15% in October 2010. Other than the 2014 reduction to \$40 for NZ Gardens Trust Members, this will be the first change to subscriptions since 2010.

The 2015 subscriptions will be increased or decreased as follows:

Membership category	Current subscription	2015 subscription
Corporate Body	\$122.32	\$125.00
AHRIH Paying	\$74.65	\$80.00
Individual Member (including small non-commercial societies)	\$76.45	\$80.00
Joint Members (two people sharing the same household)	\$61.67	\$65.00
Associate Member (over 60 years & member for 5 years or more)	\$50.97	\$55.00
Student Member	\$56.06	\$40.00
NZGT Member	\$40.00	No change
AHRIH (non-paying)	No fee	No change
Honorary Member	No fee	No change
Life Member	No fee	No change

# **RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust**

### **Marketing and Branding**

The revised NZGT brand has now been out in the market for three years and it is positive to see members and other bodies using it more actively. It is vital the trust has a strong and recognisable brand in the market place, both physical and in the electronic and web environments.

The trustees, along with members at this year's open forum, agreed to continue to strengthen our brand awareness and web and electronic presence or ranking, as the priority in the coming 12 months. The trustees are currently looking to contract a company or person to drive our web and social media presence, as this is a specialist area and quite time consuming.



Along with the electronic arena the trust will continue its support of the NZGT gardens' handout, which in the past has been produced by *Weekend Gardener* magazine. As with any business or organisation, referral is the best form of promotion. The opportunity for members to hand these out to people visiting their garden and encourage them to visit other trust gardens is very effective.

It was agreed the trust would commit \$10,000 in funds this year to marketing, with the web/social media presence and NZGT handouts being the big two ticket items.

# **Assessing**

Jan Woodhouse continues to lead our assessing team for which we are extremely grateful. This can be a challenging task as when you judge anything you are likely to upset someone. However the assessment process which Jan and the assessing team of Carolyn Ferraby, Pauline Murphy, Karen Lowther, Robert Watson and Richard Hart, lead and continue to refine, is the core point of difference for NZGT and our members, providing confidence and information to visitors on what experience they should expect.

Richard Hart stepped down following the 2013 assessing round. He has been extremely valuable to have as an assessor with his landscape design experience and was a driving force with Jan in the refinement of the marking system and record sheet. We will continue to call on Richard if we are a little short and the gardens are close to his home turf of Tauranga. Thank you Richard for all your amazing work over the years.

With Richard stepping down Jan plans to bring on two new assessors this year which will reduce the work load on the assessing team while providing depth. The new assessors will be approached in the coming month and if they accept will shadow assess in the coming season.

### Conference

Another successful conference was held this year in Paihia, in the Far North, which was well supported with 66 members attending. This is a good number considering some of our core conference-going members were unable to attend due to health or other commitments. With a great line-up of speakers and gardens to visit, it is certainly this combination of 50:50 speakers to garden visiting that members enjoy. We had another very positive open forum with members being honest with their views and willing to share their ideas and experiences. This is, as always, a real strength of the conferences and NZGT as a whole.

I would like to see more members attend our conferences each year and enjoy participating as

everyone has a great time, the result of getting like-minded people, with a shared passion, in one place. It would be wonderful to see more members sharing in this.

Next year's conference will be a combined conference with the RNZIH in Wellington.

And for non-NZGT RNZIH members the trustees agreed to accept the proposal that they are able to attend NZGT conferences at NZGT member rates. This is great news and we look forward to welcoming more of these people in the coming years.

#### **Financial**

The trust is in a sound financial position due to the continued support of our member base along with prudent management by successive trust boards and in the last few years the steady and firm hand of Richard Simpson, along with small profits from conferences and the generous support of both trustees and assessors who give their time free of charge. I thank them all for their support.

#### **New Garden Owners and Members**

It is vital we continue to provide tangible benefits to our current members, along with attracting new members. The reality is however that our member base is growing older and a real challenge for the NZGT and gardening in general is, where is the next generation of garden owners coming from? Who is creating or who will take over some of our current gardens? The trust needs to identify these people and attract them to the NZGT.

# **Summary**

It has been another positive year and we look forward to an exciting 2014/15. I thank my fellow trustees: Fran Rawling, Jenny Oakley, Richard Simpson, Micheline Newton, Pamela McGeorge and Sophie Barker who joined us early this year. Looking to the coming year, Sophie's marketing and tourism background will be extremely valuable as we continue to strengthen our brand awareness and market position.

Kerei Thompson NZGT Chairman

# **RNZIH Education Trust**

# The 2014 the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition: June update



The 2014 competition will be our tenth event, a noteworthy milestone and one the RNZIH Education Trust is delighted to achieve.

### **2014 Grand Final Dates**

The 2014 Young Horticulturist of the Year Grand Final will be held on Wednesday 12th November and Thursday 13th November, with the activities and awards dinner to be held in Auckland.

The Education Trust extends an invitation to the RNZIH members to join us at our tenth competition celebratory awards dinner at the Rendezvous Hotel, Auckland. Tickets are \$110 per person and will be available from September. For further information and to order tickets contact the event manager, Elenka Nikoloff.

### **Young Leaders Forum**

The aim of the forum is to provide a platform for recent competitors to gain a wider understanding of the horticulture industry, to network with each other and with leading suppliers in the industry.

The two day forum was held recently for the 2013 Young Horticulturist of the Year competitors and included presentations from sponsors Bayer CropScience, Fruitfed Supplies, Turners & Growers, and Primary ITO. In addition, the ANZ kindly hosted a six hour introductory session on leadership.

The participants thoroughly enjoyed the forum and the networking opportunities it provided with leading suppliers in the horticulture industry. Also, the leadership training will benefit them in their chosen careers in the horticulture industry.

Our sincere thanks to the sponsors named above for supporting this forum as a separate event associated with the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition.

### **Sector Competitions Update**

Several sector associations will be running regional and national competitions over the next three months to identify who will represent their sector in the Grand Final including:

### Vegetable sector of Horticulture NZ

Pukekohe hosted the national Young Vegetable Grower competition in April. The winner, Brett Parker, will go forward to a play-off with the three regional fruit grower winners to be held on 14 & 15th August in Christchurch.

#### Fruit sector of Horticulture NZ

The Nelson regional competition took place in February. Regional competitions will be held in Hawkes Bay on 6th June and the Bay of Plenty on 18th June. All three regional winners and the Young Vegetable Grower of the Year will proceed to a play-off on 14 & 15th August in Christchurch. The Young Grower of the Year winner will go forward to compete in the Young Horticulturist of the Year.

# **Nursery and Garden Industry of NZ**

HortFert Young Achiever competition will take place on 24–26th June in Tauranga.

# **NZ** Winegrowers

Young Viticulturist of the Year regional competitions will take place in Central Otago, Marlborough, Hawkes Bay. A play-off will take place during the Bragato wine conference, 28–29th August.

### Amenity Horticulture supported by NZ Recreation Association

The Young Amenity Horticulturist competition will take place on 17 & 18th July in Hamilton.

#### **Landscaping New Zealand**

A competition day will be held on 3rd July in Wellington, and the winner will be announced on 5th July.

### **Floriculture**

Nominations are being called from the floristry and cut-flower industry, with applications closing on 30th June.



Young Leaders Forum group photo. Left to right: Elenka Nikoloff (Event Manager), George Tregidga (Vice-Chair of the RNZIH Education Trust), Kelly Jean Kerr (2013 YHOTY winner), Ben James (Horticulture NZ), Eliza Whalley (Amenity–Parks and Gardens), Jessica Mills (Floristry), Matt Fox (NZ Winegrowers), Daniel Sutton (Fruitfed Supplies), Max Spence (National Manager, Fruitfed Supplies).

### An update on our 2013 winner Kelly Jean Kerr

Kelly Jean headed to the northern hemisphere in May to visit the Chelsea Flower Show, and leading garden centres and public gardens around England and Europe over five weeks. Kelly Jean will also visit the Bayer CropScience research facility in Germany. The trip offers Kelly Jean a fantastic opportunity to view the current trends in the northern hemisphere, supporting her chosen career in garden centre management.

# **Sponsors**

The RNZIH Education Trust would like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank the following companies for their support and commitment to the 2014 Young Horticulturist of the Year competition:

- Partnering Sponsors: AGMARDT, Fruitfed Supplies, Turners & Growers.
- Supporting Sponsors: Bayer CropScience, Countdown, Massey University, Primary ITO,
   NZ Gardener magazine, NZ Winegrowers.
- Affiliated Sponsors: ANZ, City Parks Services, Everris, Hill Laboratories, Irrigation Controls, Manukau Institute of Technology—School of Primary Industries, Norwood Industries Pty, NZ Gourmet, Safeworx, Yara Fertilisers.
- Friends to the Competition: Auckland Botanic Gardens, Cornwall Park Trust Board, Rainbow Park Nurseries, Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture.

Elenka Nikoloff Event Manager Email: elenka.nikoloff@xtra.co.nz

# 'NZ Arb 2014 Conference' Rotorua, 16–18 October 2014

# **Registrations Open Now**

You're invited to join around 200 arborists, urban foresters, business owners, researchers and educators in Rotorua for one of the biggest events on the arboricultural calendar. Registrations are open now and discounted earlybird rates are offered for a short time only.

After the Day 1 (Thursday 16th Oct) Sessions and Workshops, there is a mix'n'mingle gathering at the Exhibitors' Function followed by the Tāne Mahuta Free Lecture.



On Friday, more sessions and workshops are complemented with the Thoughtplanters Student Mentor Lunch and the start of theory section of the WEL Network/Thoughtplanters New Arborist of the Year Finals competition – with a series of mini-events like quick-fire questions, tree identifications and knot tying demos.

On the Saturday following the main conference, the Husqvarna-NZ Arb National Tree Climbing Championship (NTCC) 2014 takes place. This event will showcase some of the country's (and world's!) best climbers, new climbing techniques and provides a platform for the latest innovations in arborists' gear.

These activities culminate with the Conference Dinner and Awards Ceremony, which includes the presentation of the Ronald Flook Award. This ticketed event will also feature an auction, with funds raised going to the NZ Arb Trauma Fund – Sempervirens Trust and the New Zealand Notable Trees Trust.

Registration available online at www.nzarb.org.nz

# **New Zealand Notable Trees Trust**

#### **Notable Tree Notes**

In each edition of the Newsletter we will 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.

### A celebration of South Island redwoods – Sequoiadendron giganteum

The scenery of the South Island defies superlatives at the best of times ... "amazing" and "breath-taking" are frequently heard comments that come to mind since everyone, resident or visitor, seem to be in raptures about the rugged backdrop around them. True enough. There are some special specimen trees too. In particular, it's worth searching for a few of the notable sequoiadendron that feature throughout the landscape, because they never fail to impress. This brief overview provides a small sample of a few of the greats, to give you a reason to go and take a second look.

Firstly, note that sequoiadendron – that is *Sequoiadendron giganteum*, giant sequoia, giant redwood or Wellingtonia – growing in New Zealand do not reach the huge dimensions found in their native Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, where they exist in scattered groves throughout western parts of the state. However, you wouldn't necessarily notice that minor fact really, as those sequoia inhabiting Otago and elsewhere still manage to be the biggest trees on the block and, typically, close examination usually elicits a sharp intake of breath and low whistle from anyone who can appreciate their sheer size and scale.

The good news is that sequoiadendron thrive in the relatively cool/cold/dry climate of Otago and its neighbouring regions, mainly due to the general combination of summer warmth and seasonal rainfall but also because they can tolerate short periods of winter freezing, with snow on the ground, in temperatures as low as -30°C. Low intensity fires are a normal part of natural seedling regeneration in Californian sequoiadendron forests – but that's not too likely in the South Island. However, in sites that provide full sun and nutrient-rich soils, where weed competition is minimal, the trees do well.

Here's my pick ... though there are others out there too:

# OR/1160 – 45.4 m tall, diameter 4.6 m: public property – Highview Terrace Reserve, Frankton (Queenstown Lakes District Council)

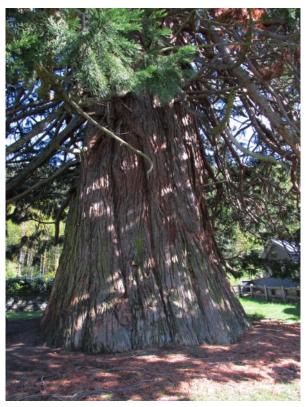
This tree has been historically regarded as the largest exotic conifer in New Zealand based on combination of height, girth and spread (Burstall, 1984). Whilst the tree has a smaller girth than the Awhitu macrocarpa (*Cupressus macrocarpa* – AR/0963) its greater height still allows it to maintain this status (Cadwallader, 2013).

# OR/0046 – 56 m tall: private homestead – Mt Pisa Road, Cromwell

Believed to be planted by Vincent Pyke, a local politician. A fine tree with a narrow, upright, canopy form (Cadwallader, 2013).

# OR/1173 – 55.6 m tall: private homestead – Arrowtown-Lake Hayes Road, Lake Hayes, Queenstown

A very tall tree, standing beside this old station property called 'Bendemeer' (Cadwallader, 2013).



OR/1160 Frankton giant sequoia. Largest exotic conifer in New Zealand. Photo: Brad Cadwallader.

# OR/0515 (eastern) and OR/1159 (western) – 40.4 m and 36.9 m tall: public property – Inniscourt Street, Cromwell (Central Otago District Council)

Ombler (1993), a local, noted these two trees with the comment "standing aloft from the neighbouring church spires, the two giant trees in Inniscourt Street, Cromwell are a living memorial to the pioneers of the district". Burstall (in Report No. 23, 1970, p. 15 indicates "The planting was done by John Richards, one-time licensee of the Bannockburn Hotel" (Burstall, 1968).



OR/0515 & 1159 Giant sequoia, a common sight on the Otago landscape. These two near old Cromwell Town. Photo: Brad Cadwallader.

# OR/1166 and OR/1167 – 31.0 m and 30.8 m tall: public property – corner Ballarat and Stanley Streets, Queenstown (Queenstown Lakes District Council)

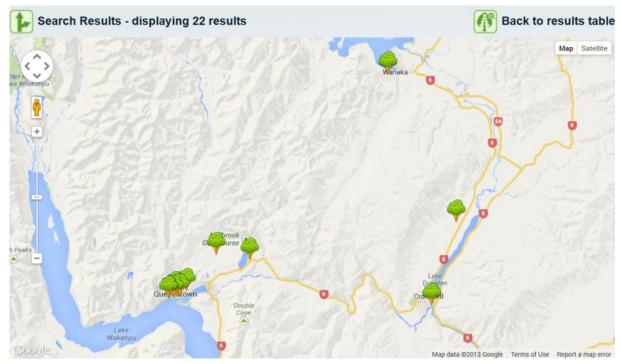
Two specimens known as the 'Trees of Justice', said to have been planted outside Queenstown's historic courthouse and library around 1876, by Phillip Boult, clerk to the Lake County Council. Boult had read of the American tradition of planting 'trees of justice' outside courthouses, to provide shade for those attending court and thought it was a tradition worth emulating (Lovell-Smith, 2003). The trees make a striking statement as you enter the commercial centre of Queenstown (Cadwallader, 2013).

# OR/0613 – 56.4 m tall: public property – Wanaka Station Park, Wanaka (Queenstown Lakes District Council)

The taller of two trees near the Homestead Close entry to the reserve (Flook, 2000). The tallest of the species in New Zealand to date (Cadwallader, 2013).

And, for those of you who may be wondering, 'redwood' is a general term referring to three related genera – *Sequoiadendron*, *Sequoia* and *Metasequoia* – grouped within the family Cupressaceae. Which means, since there are a number of awesome specimens of those genera around the South Island too, that there's plenty more to keep your eyes open for as you wander the Mainland.

The redwoods are certainly trees worth a day out to see – and there will be further information on them in future editions.



NZNTT database 'Map View' showing locations of Sequoiadendron profiled in this article.

A special acknowledgement to David Finlin, Jerry Lynch and Brad Cadwallader for new tree listings, updated measurements, photos and notes for these and other tree records.

# Bryan Gould Outgoing Trustee, New Zealand Notable Trees Trust

The New Zealand Notable Trees Trust wish to express their sincere thanks to Bryan Gould for his efefforts submitting articles over the years.

The NZNTT 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

# New Zealand Plant Collection Register: June 2014 update

Keith Hammett, myself and others have been increasingly concerned about the need to provide a permanent, secure and long-term home to nursery catalogue collections. We have been discussing these issues with various libraries.

Jenny Dent has returned to help digitise the Duncan & Davies Nursery Catalogue collection, after spending some weeks away in Costa Rica as an eco-volunteer.

For the plant names module of the project, Landcare Research have agreed to provide their names editor and back end database. Furthermore, in April 2014 Jerry Cooper of the NZ Organisms Regis-

ter successfully obtained funding from Landcare to import RNZIH spreadsheets of plant names into this database structure. This is a very good solution as it provides a names platform and avoids duplication of resources.

Our thanks to those who have recently provided copies of their plant collection accession records:

- Auckland Botanic Gardens (>44,000 records of living and dead material)
- Wellington Botanic Gardens (>8,000 records)
- Otari Native Botanic Gardens and Wilton's Bush Reserve (>1,200 records)
- Eastwoodhill Arboretum (>17,000 records)
- Hackfalls Arboretum for their updated accessions catalogue.

On the 11th May, I outlined the New Zealand Plant Collection Register project to the audience atattending the 2014 International Plant Propagation Society (IPPS) conference. This was a great opportunity to meet and greet many of the plantsmen and women who I have corresponded with over the years on cultivars and their origins. Several IPPS members have recently joined the RNZIH which should provide closer dialogue between these organisations.

> Murray Dawson New Zealand Plant Collection Register Project collections@rnzih.org.nz



New Zealand Permit No. 111



