



ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

Newsletter

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President's Comments

In June, the Annual General Meetings (AGMs) of both the Auckland Branch of the RNZIH and the Auckland Horticultural Council were held. The National AGM of the RNZIH is scheduled for July 18th, again here in Auckland. I think it is a shame that only in Auckland can a quorum be assured.



It is encouraging to report that both of June's AGMs were better attended and far livelier than might have been anticipated. At both, people stood up and took on active roles, without perceivable coercion.

I have pondered for some time whether we have been confusing the structure of the RNZIH with the valuable functions that the Institute fosters. Is our structure still relevant in the Twenty First Century? Are we perhaps unwittingly akin to steam train enthusiasts?

This was one of the items discussed on the agenda of the local branch of the RNZIH.

Even before I took on the role of President, I was concerned that far too big a burden was being placed on Murray Dawson. Indeed, it was the hope that I might be instrumental in lightening his load, which encouraged me to take on the role.

The retirement of our super efficient Treasurer Eddie Wullems, with no obvious successor, was another reason the item was put up for discussion. Happily Jeremy Hawker from Christchurch has volunteered to be Treasurer

and there will be a measured transition.

Formerly the main role of the RNZIH was to administer the National Diploma of Horticulture, a qualification with high content and standing. This role was spelt out in the "Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture Act 1953" although the role was first defined by "The NZ Institute of Horticulture Act 1927." A former Government in 1992 took this role from the Institute.

Recently, the Ministry of Primary Industries has asked us if we objected to the repeal of the 1953 Act. After some research it was determined that the repeal of this Act seemed sensible as it no longer had any relevance and more importantly, it would not affect our Royal charter, a rare distinction now seldom granted.

I believe that the RNZIH has in many ways embraced the Twenty First Century. Executive meetings are now conducted via the Internet with no upfront cost. We have an excellent website. Brad Cadwallader, who came to the Auckland AGM, demonstrated that the New Zealand Tree Register is fully interactive via the Internet.

The Plant Collections Register coupled with the preservation of the Nursery and Seed Catalogue collection are very important tasks. The latter especially so, now that so many contemporary catalogues occur as ephemeral web pages. Perhaps we should give some thought to capturing these as hard copy or in some other more permanent form? Murray Dawson has done sterling work in garnering funds both for the Plant Collections Register and digitalising Duncan and Davies catalogues.

This work is a great example of preserving the originals but at the same time making them readily accessible online.

The running of the Young Horticulturist of the Year (YHOTY) competition, just past its first decade, is especially important. Young people are the future. The Education Trust has prominent members and has been further enhanced by the inclusion of Dr Nancy Beck, former Head of Horticulture at Unitec. Nancy will join the Executive along with Chris Webb from Auckland.

The Institute's Gardens Trust appears to be thriving. However, they have pointed out that many, probably most, of the gardens in the scheme have been built by people of the Baby Boomer generation or earlier. Perhaps there is less opportunity for younger people to create significant gardens, although Lynda Hallinan is one notable exception. At the same time it seems that when gardens in the scheme are sold, new owners do not necessarily want to continue to open them to the public.

We should certainly not undervalue awards made by the Institute. Personally, I can vouch that awards given to me at nodes in my career have been stimulants to further activity. This year the Plant Raisers' Award has been made to Kate Telford for her work on hellebores while Elenka Nikoloff has been made a Fellow of the RNZIH for her long-term dedication to the YHOTY competition.

Hopefully the AGMs of June were not simply an "Indian Summer" to be followed by a bleak winter. We must be vigilant and explore ways to continue the valuable functions we have initiated and perhaps divest ourselves of some of the constraints imposed on us by a structure inherited from a previous century.

There may be further opportunities to work in concert with parallel organisations representing different facets of horticulture, that are facing similar challenges in an ever-changing world.

Keith Hammett
President, RNZIH

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New Members

A warm welcome to our new members, including:

Brad Cadwallader	NELSON
Nick Coughlan	DUNEDIN
Geoffrey Marshall	AUCKLAND
John Trubshaw	THAMES
Mark Wooller	AUCKLAND

Congratulations

Congratulations to our Vice-Patron, **Beverley McConnell** (QSM, AHRIH) for her MNZM (Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit) award for services to horticulture in the June 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

As stated in her MNZM citation, Beverley McConnell is the owner and creator of the Ayrlires Garden in Whitford, Auckland, a 4.5 hectare garden plus 10 hectares of wetlands that is widely acclaimed in New Zealand and overseas.

Mrs McConnell was awarded the Queen's Service Medal (QSM) in 2010 for services to horticulture. She continues to be involved with the Auckland Botanic Gardens, privately funding artworks and events, sponsoring the Supreme Award at the Sculpture in the Gardens and funding the main welcoming sculpture at the visitor centre. Her book *Ayrlires – My Story, My Garden* was published in 2012 and has sold more than 3,000 copies. She was a driving force behind the establishment of the New Zealand Gardens Trust and a co-founder of the Trinity Garden Festival in 1992. She is the Patron of the Garden Design Society of New Zealand and Vice-Patron of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture. Mrs McConnell has been a Trustee of the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust and a judge at the Ellerslie Flower Show.



Beverley McConnell, MNZM, QSM, AHRIH.
Photo by Jack Hobbs.

Congratulations also to the two 2015 RNZIH Awardees, **Kate Telford** of South Otago, for receiving the Plant Raisers' Award, and **Elenka Nikoloff** of Auckland, for her Fellow of the RNZIH (FRIH) award. Their full award citations are published in the June 2015 edition of the *New Zealand Garden Journal*.



Kate Telford, recipient of the 2015 Plant Raisers' Award.



Elenka Nikoloff, who received an FRIH.

RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust

From the Chairman of the NZGT

The change of seasons brings a change of Trustees. While it is always sad to see wonderful people who have offered so much to the Trust and our members move on, it is healthy for the Trust to have new faces and talents join and contribute.

On behalf of the Trustees and all garden members I sincerely thank and wish the following outgoing Trustees all the best: Richard Simpson, Fran Rawling and Pamela McGeorge.



Richard has done an amazing job of keeping the Trust accounts in top condition, along with contributing to the wider trust and garden business. Richard has kindly offered to continue to compile our accounts, while we transition to Irene Collins for day-to-day account administration. Fran in her role as South Island garden representative was a wonderful advocate for garden's and garden owners, specifically private gardens. Pamela who stepped down in February brought her broad range of publishing and promotion skills, with our newsletter and annual garden handout.

Thank you all for your wonderful contributions, and I hope you now have more time to enjoy your own gardens.

It is my great pleasure to welcome Jill Simpson and Penny Zino who have kindly offered to join as Trustees. Both have some wonderful ideas on how to promote garden visiting and foster networking between garden members. Jill has taken on the role as South Island garden representative, and she is keen to foster stronger links and support between gardens. Penny has kindly offered to take on the role as NZGT newsletter editor and is keen to get garden members contributing to this valuable publication. Penny's other passion for the Trust is promotion and marketing which is great timing as the Trust focuses more on this important aspect of garden tourism.

Keep warm everyone and enjoy this quieter time in your gardens.

Kerei Thompson

Chairman, RNZIH New Zealand Garden Trust

(Summarised from the newsletter of the NZGT, June 2015)

RNZIH Education Trust

The 2015 Young Horticulturist of the Year competition: July Update

2015 Grand Final Dates

The 2015 Young Horticulturist of the Year Grand Final will be held on Wednesday November 11 and Thursday November 12. The activities and the awards dinner will be held in Auckland.



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 held for the 2014 Young Horticulturist of the Year finalists took place in late April 2015. The forum included presentations from Bayer CropScience, Fruitfed Supplies, T&G, and Primary ITO. In addition the ANZ kindly hosted a six hour introductory session on leadership, and Winston Pond introduced the attendees to Belbin team profiling during the two day forum.

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



Young Leaders Forum attendees.

Our sincere thanks to ANZ, Bayer CropScience, Fruitfed Supplies, T&G, and Primary ITO for sponsoring the forum as a separate event associated with the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition.

Sector Competitions Update

A number of sector associations will be running regional and national competitions during the winter months to identify who will represent their sector in the Grand Final. They include:

- **Vegetable sector of Horticulture NZ:** Pukekohe hosted the national Young Vegetable Grower competition in April. The winner is Hamish Gates, an employee of A S Wilcox, Pukekohe.
- **Fruit sector of Horticulture NZ:** The regional competition winners include:
 - James Huffadin, an employee of Parkburn Management, Cromwell.
 - Andrew Kearney, senior leading hand at T&G Pipfruit, Hawke's Bay.
 - Craig Ward, technical manager at Apata Group Ltd, Katikati.
 - Canaan Black, a block manager at Hoddy's Orchard, Nelson.

All four regional winners and the Young Vegetable Grower of the Year will proceed to a playoff in 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 winner is Tom Ferguson, a sales consultant at Southern Woods Nursery in Canterbury. Tom will represent Nursery and Garden at the Grand Final.
- **NZ Winegrowers:** Bayer Young Viticulturist of the Year regional competition winners are:
 - Caleb Dennis, Craggy Range vineyard, Hawke's Bay.
 - Mike Winter, Amisfield vineyard, Central Otago.
 - Matt Duggan, Cloudy Bay vineyard, Marlborough.
 - Scott Laceley, Craggy Range vineyard, Wairarapa.

A playoff will take place during the Bragato wine conference on 25 August. The winner will go forward to represent NZ Winegrowers in the Grand Final.

Amenity Horticulture supported by NZ Recreation Association: The Young Amenity Horticulturist winner is Karl Noldan, a team leader at Wellington Botanic Gardens. We welcome Karl back into the competition; he competed in the 2012 Young Horticulturist of the Year and was placed third.

Landscaping New Zealand: City Park Services Young Landscaper of the Year winner is Stefan Scott, an employee of Natural Habitats in Auckland. Stefan will represent Landscaping New Zealand at the Grand Final.

Floristry NZ Inc and NZ Flower Growers Inc: They will hold a competition day on 26 July at the Auckland Botanic Gardens. The winner will represent the flower industry at the Grand Final.

An update on our 2014 Winner Patrick Malley

Patrick travelled to California during July to view kiwifruit and avocado production under long term severe drought conditions. He will also travel to Chile to view fruit production as well as promote his AGMARDT Market Innovation project concept to use RFID chips on the packing bins used in kiwifruit orchards. The information held on the chip can be accessed using a smartphone by the pack houses.

Thank you to our community of supporters

The RNZIH Education Trust would like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank the following companies for their support and commitment to the 2015 Young Horticulturist of the Year competition.

YHOTY Partners: AGMARDT, T&G, Fruitfed Supplies.

YHOTY Supporters: Bayer Crop Science, Countdown, Massey University, Primary ITO, NZ Gardener magazine, Trillian Trust.

YHOTY Affiliated Supporters: ANZ, City Parks Services, ICL Specialty Fertilisers, Hill Laboratories, Iron Road, Irrigation Controls Ltd, Manukau Institute of Technology – School of Primary Industries, Norwood Industries, NZ Gourmet, NZ Winegrowers, Safeworx, Yara.

Friends to the Competition: Auckland Botanic Gardens, Cornwall Park Trust, Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture, Smartline Freight, Tully's.

Elenka Nikoloff
Event Manager for the RNZIH Education Trust

New Zealand Notable Trees Trust

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.

AR/1253 – *Metrosideros excelsa* (pōhutukawa) – Parnell, Auckland

Whilst this tree takes pride of place for all to see in Dove-Myer Robinson Park, the real attributes of this grand old pōhutukawa remain hidden by its own immense canopy until those curious enough step inside to take a closer look.



Location of the Parnell pōhutukawa in Auckland City.



The Parnell pōhutukawa ... well worth a close look.
Photo: Brad Cadwallader.

The tree is thought to have been planted between 1850 and 1860 (Burstall, 1971), or more precisely 1853 (Simpson, 2005), although firm evidence of this has not yet come to light. Further uncertainty exists as to whom may have planted it but the contenders are thought by some to be either the Hon William Swainson, Robert Gillies or Sir John Logan Campbell (Burstall, 1971), all former residents of land later acquired by the city to form this park in 1914 (*Auckland Star*, 1914).

‘Kilbryde’, the homestead of Sir John Logan Campbell was located immediately to the west of the tree (Timespanner) so he is most likely responsible for having planted it, if indeed it is a cultivated specimen. An image taken of the homestead in 1885 shows young plantings around the house (Auckland Libraries), and a small multi-stemmed tree can be seen behind the house in the position of the pōhutukawa, but it is unclear how old it is. The early plantings were probably planted when ‘Kilbryde’ was built in 1881, however, there remains the possibility that the pōhutukawa was part of the native cover that pre-existed when Campbell established the property as suggested in his obituary:

“With his own axe he cut down the scrub and hewed out paths along the edge of the cliff from one side round to the other. He planted *macrocarpa*, *Pinus insignis*, and other shade trees, and here and there left native trees to themselves” (*Auckland Star*, 1912).

The true origins of the tree may remain lost to time and continue to be open to speculation but certainly by 1917, as an Arthur Lagden painting portrays, the tree had developed into a substantial specimen by then (Alexander Turnbull Library).

The grand old homestead was demolished when much of the cliff at Campbell’s Point (as the headland was formerly known) was carved away to construct the new main trunk railway link through the eastern suburbs, Tamaki Drive, and to provide fill for the harbour reclamations that took place in the late 1920s (Timespanner). The remainder of the Gillies, Campbell and Swainson’s estates was named collectively as Parnell Park (*NZ Herald*, 1924) and in 1991 was re-named Dove-Myer Robinson Park. Many people still know the area as the Parnell Rose Gardens.

So in the end, we may not know who or even if the pōhutukawa was planted by any of the first settlers at Campbell’s Point, but what is certain is that this remarkable tree was valued by all those that have lived here over the past century and a half, as they all saw fit to ensure it was well cared for to become the treasure that it is today.

Acknowledgement: The author appreciates the assistance of Louise Beaumont and John Adam in the research undertaken for this article.

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Brad Cadwallader
Trustee, New Zealand Notable Trees Trust

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



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