



## ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

### Newsletter

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## Presidential Pondering's

I consider that our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and awards presentations made in association with the New Zealand Chapter of the International Plant Propagators' Society (IPPS-NZ) conference, held in Pukekohe, were both successful and enjoyable. Terry Hatch's Banks Memorial Lecture further embellished the evening.

In contrast, at the time of writing, it seems likely that despite some valiant last ditch efforts, the Auckland Horticultural Council (AHC) will be liquidated simply because too few people are available to take on the various positions needed to run the organisation.

The AHC was, I believe, established shortly after WWII to coordinate the activities of the various, then numerous, horticultural societies and clubs in the region. Provision of a venue to hold shows and meetings was central to this.

As Patron of the AHC, I naturally feel a twinge of regret, but no doubt archers felt the same way when their weapon was superseded by firearms and steam engine enthusiasts when diesel and electric locomotives took over.

The executive of the RNZIH has made attempts to come to terms with the Twenty-first century. Meetings are now held via Internet video-conferencing. At the same time the executive itself has been somewhat invigorated by Chris Webb coming on board as Treasurer, and the return of Alan Jolliffe in the South Island. Penny Clifflin is a wonderful organiser and energiser. She has been joined by passionate plantswoman Yvonne Baker thus strengthening female representation on our executive. We look forward to being joined by Clare Shearman from



IPPS-NZ attendees at field trip to Ayrlyes Garden.  
Photo: Hayden Foulds.

the Wellington Botanic Gardens representing Botanic Gardens Australia and NZ (BGANZ).

When I posed the question as to how many female Presidents or Chairpersons there had been in the history of the RNZIH, there was a deafening silence when we knew of none. When one considers that the editors of New Zealand's two main garden magazines and the majority of their contributors are female, and have long been so, this shortcoming suggests that we have been out of touch with a changing world for quite a while.

Like many other societies with a long history, this is even more evident when it comes to the age of our membership. I was not a little chastened to realise that I am the oldest person on executive. Age itself, however, need be no hindrance provided we are prepared to update our paradigms to keep apace with our rapidly changing world.

We are now well into the "Information Age" and I have come to fully realise that my generation,

the so-called digital immigrants, were taught to think differently to the now several generations of digital natives. Our brains are wired differently.



Now, whatever one might think of Donald Trump, another guy in his seventies, he has realised the power of social media and he uses this to his advantage.

I had long resisted Facebook having never really understood it. Happily I have a very promising young plant breeder working with me currently and she has removed the scales from my eyes. I am now attempting regular posts on Facebook to take people through a year of growing Sweet Peas. At the same time showing them some of the practicalities that go into plant breeding, while not overlooking theory ([www.facebook.com/drkeithhammett/](http://www.facebook.com/drkeithhammett/)).

The reach of this medium has staggered me and more importantly I am getting responses from people of all different ages through Facebook. Alan Jolliffe is suggesting that the RNZIH also communicates high-level horticulture through social media. This may well require the structure of the RNZIH itself to be changed. Currently it looks like something from the Twentieth century, even the Nineteenth perhaps?

Watch this space (but don't hold your breath).

**Keith Hammett**  
President, RNZIH

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## New member

We warmly welcome Downer NZ Ltd for re-joining the RNZIH as a Corporate Member.

## New Executive Members

We welcome Yvonne Baker and Clare Shearman onto our executive.

### Yvonne Baker



Since finishing her training in 2003 at Wisley, the home of the Royal Horticultural Society, Yvonne has worked for a range of different institutions.

Castle Howard Plant Centre in North Yorkshire was her work base for a few years, as a retail assistant until coming to New Zealand as a King's Plant Barn Sabbatical for the NZ summer in 2005. This led to finding her kiwi husband so here she stayed.

On return to NZ after gaining residency the following year she took up the position of Botanical Records and Conservation Specialist at the Auckland Botanic Gardens which she held for seven years until shortly after the birth of her son.

This change in home life resulted in work closer to home, as Production Supervisor at Container Nurseries 1988 Ltd in Whenuapai for the next couple of years.

From early 2017 she went back to the Auckland Botanic Gardens as their Trials Gardener on a part-time basis organising, sourcing and assessing plants in the trials. When not at the Botanic Gardens she is currently working on the New Zealand Plant Collection Register with Murray Dawson and working in her horticultural consultancy business.

### Qualifications

- Certificate in Plant Centre Management
- Module A, RHS Advanced Certificate (Propagation Module)
- Wisley Diploma in Practical Horticulture
- RHS General
- BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture.

### Industry and Professional Associations

- Royal Horticultural Society, UK
- Alpine Garden Society, UK
- New Zealand Alpine Garden Society
- New Zealand Iris Society
- New Zealand Lily Society
- Friend of the Auckland Botanic Garden
- Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

## Clare Shearman



After completing qualifications in horticulture at Hadlow College in England back in 1992, Clare found herself working at Hever Castle where she gathered a wealth of knowledge from the Head Gardener Doug Goodyear.

From there she followed her passion for garden design and trained at the Physic Garden at Chelsea.

Clare then went on to run her own garden design business for the next 14 years based in Tunbridge Wells, Kent in England.

Since landing in New Zealand eight years ago, Clare has had the pleasure of working as Head Gardener at Government House in Wellington and then spent five years developing a large private country estate called Fernside in the Wairarapa.

In December 2016 she joined the team at Wellington Botanic Garden and she is enjoying her role as Plant Collection Team Manager.

## Industry and Professional Associations

- Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ)
- Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

## RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust



Group photo at The Garden on the Ridge.



## **‘Growing Momentum’ – conference report**

The conference in Auckland was a huge success, with smaller numbers than usual but it felt very intimate and those that were there had wonderful comments to make. A huge thank you to Liz Morrow and her team for organising it all. It was a massive job and done so efficiently with everything running like clockwork. Well done Liz.

Comments from one of our new members included: “Loved it, lectures excellent, amazing gardens, and real interest in how to involve the next generation.” From others that were present: “Beautifully presented, amazing plant collections, great details, stunning man-cave, and such generous and exceptional hospitality from Bruce and Angela Spooner (Mincher Gardens) and Bev Mc Connell (Ayrlires Garden), for the French champagne, wine and superb nibbles.” We were so lucky to be there, with so many that share the same interests.

### **The Gardens visited**

Oh what a line up! Kaipara Coast Sculpture Garden (Gibbs Farm) with its unbelievable sculptures, A’La Fois Gardens, Auckland Botanic Gardens, Ayrlires, Eden Gardens, Government House Gardens, Highwic, Mataia Homestead, Mincher Gardens, The Garden on the Ridge, and Totara Waters Subtropical Garden.

All fantastic, and for me so interesting to see the development of the Auckland Botanic Gardens over the years. Jack Hobbs and his team have done a marvellous job in creating a real botanic garden with not only the feeling of a park and its expanse, but wonderful collections of plants and trials of plants to assess what is good for our conditions.



Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens.



Ayrlires Garden.



Mincher Gardens.



Totara Waters.

Then gorgeous combinations of some of our natives and stunning perennials as well. The Potter Children's Garden is a masterstroke. I found some of the plants so interesting, and made me wistfully imagine living in a kinder climate than my own garden in North Canterbury. The trees Auckland grows are amazing!



### The Speakers

- **Andy Hamilton** gave an interesting presentation on cultural influences on garden making and planting design, which gave us much to think about.
- **Nick Waipara** is the Principle Advisor for Biosecurity at Auckland Council, including his work with kauri dieback, and he contributed his knowledge on regional biosecurity.
- **Fiona Eadie**, Head Gardener at Larnach Castle, gave a presentation on the importance of first impressions.
- **Louise Beard** gave an interesting talk about the Chinese tourism market, and the biggest point to me was that Google was not available in China. Their social media options include 'Weibo' and 'WeChat'.
- **Jack Hobbs** and **Terry Hatch** gave a light-hearted address over dinner on "Out with the old and in with the new" comparing and sharing years of experience and commenting on all the changes over the years including young and upcoming horticulturists.

From a report written by Penny Zino in the NZGT Newsletter, May 2017

## RNZIH Education Trust

### The 2017 Young Horticulturist of the Year competition – June update

#### 2017 Dates

The 2017 competition will be held on 15–16 November:

- Competition Day 1: **Practical Components** held at the Auckland Botanic Gardens
- Competition Day 2: **Business Components** held at the Grand Millennium Hotel
- **2017 Young Horticulturist of the Year Awards Dinner** will be held at the end of Day 2 at the Grand Millennium Hotel.



#### 2017 Young Horticulturist Partners

We are thrilled to have AGMARDT, T&G Global and Fruitfed Supplies on board as our Competition Partners again this year. AGMARDT and the RNZIH Education Trust have signed a three-year Strategic Partnership, AGMARDT has increased its support for the competition and are committed until 2019. Their support will allow the Trust to continue to develop the AGMARDT Innovation Project and Awards, and enhance the competition overall.

#### New Award for the 2017 Competition

This year we are introducing a new **Community Engagement Award**, an award being sponsored by our newest supporter NZ Horticulture Trust, and we are delighted to have them on board.



## Sector Competition Update

Many of the sector competitions are underway around the country to identify who will represent their sector in the Young Horticulturist of the Year Grand Final in November.

**Vegetable sector of Horticulture NZ:** The national competition took place on 11 May at Pukekohe Indian Association Centre – Scott Wilcox, from AS Wilcox and Sons took first place.

**Fruit sector of Horticulture NZ:** Regional competitions

- Bay of Plenty on 11 Feb at Te Puke Showgrounds, won by Erin Atkinson, from Apata Group Ltd
- Central Otago on 26 May at the Otago Polytechnic
- Hawke's Bay on 29 June at the Hastings A&P Showgrounds
- Nelson on 7 July at Hoddy's Orchard.

A play-off between the regional fruit sector winners and the national vegetable winner will take place 16–17 August at the Sudima Airport Hotel, Christchurch, to decide this year's Young Grower.

**NZ Winegrowers:** Regional competitions

- Hawke's Bay on 22 June at Te Awa Winery
- Auckland on 30 June at Goldie Estate, Waiheke Island
- Marlborough on 6 July at Giesen Wines
- Central Otago on 14 July at Otago Polytechnic, Cromwell
- Wairarapa on 20 July, Palliser Estate.

A play-off between the regional winners will take place during the Romeo Bragato wine conference, 29 August, held in Marlborough, venue to be confirmed.

**New Zealand Plant Producers Incorporated (NZPPI):** A national competition will take place during their conference in Hamilton 4–5 July.

**Amenity Horticulture supported by NZ Recreation Association:** A national competition will take place 12–13 July at the Wellington Botanic Gardens.

**Landscaping New Zealand:** The national competition took place on 27 May at The Domain in Auckland, Jordan Frizzell, Outer Space Landscapes was the winner.

**Floristry NZ & NZ Flower Growers Inc:** The national competition will be taking place in August in Auckland, date and venue TBC.

## 2017 Judges

We welcome our appointed 2017 judges presiding over competition Day 2, Business Components:

Jacqueline Rowarth (Environmental Protection Authority), Winston Pond (Leadership Solutions), Malcolm Nitschke (AGMARDT), Chris Miln (Bayer), Declan Graham (Plant & Food Research), Andrew Maloy (past RNZIH Chair, retired grower and part-time horticultural journalist).

## Young Leaders Forum, 3–4 May

This year's two day Leadership Forum held in Auckland was very well received and of great value to the 2016 Young Hort Finalists attending. Participants learned about the 'Architecture of Successful Teams' and had an 'Introduction to Leadership', then heard presentations from leading industry suppliers, sharing their own experiences of leadership and providing them with a wider understanding of the horticulture industry. We would like to take the opportunity to thank Winston Pond, Lesley Slade, T&G Global, Fruitfed Supplies, Bayer New Zealand, Primary ITO, and Auckland Botanic Gardens for their generosity in funding, hosting and participating in the forum.

## Thank you to our community of supporters!

The Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture Education Trust would like to sincerely thank the following companies for their support:

- **Young Horticulturist of the Year Partners:** AGMARDT, T&G Global, Fruitfed Supplies.
- **Young Horticulturist of the Year Supporters:** Bayer New Zealand, Countdown, Horticulture Trust, Primary ITO, NZ Gardener magazine, Trillian Trust.
- **Young Horticulturist of the Year Affiliated Supporters:** Auckland Botanic Gardens, ANZ, City Parks Services, Hill Laboratories, ICL Specialty Fertilisers, Iron Road, Manukau Institute of Technology – School of Primary Industries, Massey University, Norwood Industries, NZ Gourmet, NZ Winegrowers, Nga Rakau Nurseries, Safeworx.
- **Friends to the Competition:** Auckland Botanic Gardens, Cornwall Park Trust, Lyndale Liners, Riversun Nursery, Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture.

## Public relations and media

Our PR company Iron Road have media releases, blogs and posts scheduled throughout the year. For the latest releases please visit: <http://younghort.co.nz/news.htm>

Here is some of the latest media coverage:

[www.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=16&objectid=11847162](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/article.cfm?c_id=16&objectid=11847162)

## Competition information and updates

For more information on any aspect of the competition:

- Contact the Event Manager, Susan Tremain
- Visit [www.younghort.co.nz](http://www.younghort.co.nz)
- For regular updates please follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/YoungHortNZ/](http://www.facebook.com/YoungHortNZ/)

**Susan Tremain**  
**Event Manager, Young Horticulturist of the Year**  
**Email: [event.manager@younghort.co.nz](mailto:event.manager@younghort.co.nz)**

## 2017 NZ Arb Conference



The 2017 NZ Arb Annual Conference will be held from the 26–28 October, at the Trinity Wharf, Tauranga.

The programme will look at key industry trends and issues in the arboriculture industry. With a combination of sessions covering both professional and practical topics, the conference will provide attendees with the opportunity to network with like-minded professionals and connect with fellow practitioners and suppliers.

Visit [www.nzarb.org.nz/Events/Conferences++Workshops/CONFERENCE2017.html](http://www.nzarb.org.nz/Events/Conferences++Workshops/CONFERENCE2017.html) to view the conference speakers, programme, and to register

## 2017 Tāne Mahuta Public Lecture

The benefits of urban trees: from the intuitive to the surprising

By Dr Geoffrey Donovan, USDA Forest Service

### Free Public Lecture

(Gold Coin donation most welcome with proceeds to the NZ Notable Trees Trust)

In 2009 the NZ Notable Trees Trust and the NZ Arboricultural Association introduced, with great pleasure, the Tāne Mahuta Public Lecture Series. This presentation is named after one of New Zealand's most significant trees – Tāne Mahuta (Lord of the Forest).

The 2017 Tāne Mahuta Public Lecture will be delivered by Dr Geoffrey Donovan, USDA Forest Service at the NZ Arb conference venue.

**Venue:** Trinity Wharf Conference Venue, Tauranga.

**Date:** Thursday, 26th October 2017.

**Time:** 6.00–7.00 pm.



Dr Geoffrey Donovan.



**NOTABLE TREES OF  
NEW ZEALAND**

Supported by the New Zealand Arboriculture Association and the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture



**NZARB**<sup>TM</sup>

New Zealand Arboriculture Association Inc.



## The Benefits of Urban Trees: From the Intuitive to the Surprising

### TĀNE MAHUTA PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

Thursday 26th October, 6:00pm - 7:00pm, Trinity Wharf Tauranga

Most people's experience with nature happens in an urban setting, so the impact of urban trees, parks, and gardens is amplified, because there are more of us around to enjoy their quality-of-life benefits. What exactly are these benefits? Most of us have an intuitive sense that trees are good, but to create sound policies and justify spending on urban-forestry programs, it's essential to be able to identify and measure the social and economic benefits of trees. This presentation will offer new scientific evidence showing how investments in urban trees can yield much bigger long-term returns than many of us previously realized. Trees enhance our lives in tangible, commonsense ways, such as by lowering our electrical bills and increasing property values. But a growing body of research is showing that these benefits are dwarfed by some of the less intuitive benefits of trees including crime reduction, improved public health, and better academic performance. Urban vitality does grow on trees, and it is becoming increasingly clear that trees are helping us live longer, happier, healthier lives.

The lecture series is open to the public –  
Gold coin donation with proceeds to the activities of the New Zealand Tree Register.

This eighth lecture, in an ongoing series, will be presented by:

**Dr Geoffrey Donovan**



Forest economist Geoffrey Donovan began his career with the USDA Forest Service in Alaska, but relocated to somewhat-less-rainy Portland, Oregon, where he is based. With over four-fifths of the U.S. population living in urban areas, he has focused his research on the contributions of trees to quality of life in cities. His work has answered a number of important policy-relevant questions about the impact of trees on the property market, energy use, and storm-water management. He has also broken ground by quantifying the impact of trees on human wellbeing, conducting one of the first studies to relate the presence and size of city trees to crime statistics, and the first study ever to measure the effect of tree canopy cover on human birth outcomes. He took a unique approach to untangling the link between trees and human health by studying how loss of ash trees to an invasive tree pest (the emerald ash borer) affected human mortality. Now on a sabbatical at Massey University's Centre for Public Health Research in Wellington, he is involved in several studies in New Zealand that explore the relationship between exposure to the natural environment and neuro-behavioural outcomes.

## Ronald Flook Award – 2017 Call for Nominations

The NZ Arb (NZ Arboricultural Association) is calling for nominations for the 2017 Ronald Flook Award.

This NZ Arb Award was established in 1993. The Award is to elevate and recognise high standards of practice in arboriculture, including tree raising, tree health and management, and amenity tree protection or design. The recipient will have demonstrated exceptional management of trees, whether functional or aesthetic in any stage of development.

NZ Arb have named this award after well-known, Nelson-based Landscape Architect Ron Flook for his tireless contribution to arboriculture in New Zealand through the Notable Trees Scheme and the development of the Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM). The award also recognises the standard of his professional work and the way he used trees as significant features in his landscape designs.



2017 is the 23rd year that the NZ Arb Ronald Flook Award is to be presented. The successful nominee receives the gift of a bone carving and loan of the trophy for one year together with a cheque for \$500 from Cindy Flook.

Nominations are to be received before 30th August 2017 and should be sent to:

**The Administration Officer (Ron Flook Award)**  
**NZ Arboricultural Association**  
**P.O. Box 1193, Nelson 7010, New Zealand**  
**info@nzarb.org.nz**

## 2017 International Plant Propagators' Society NZ Conference – report

The Pukekohe IPPS-NZ conference was described as the best 'Plan B' conference ever held. The reason? At MPI's request, the field trips to nurseries were cancelled due to myrtle rust, leaving Lindsey Hatch and the rest of the conference organising committee to come up with a 'Plan B' for field trips at very short notice.

The 2017 conference was also a joint one with the RNZIH with their AGM and awards being held on the Thursday evening, along with the Banks Memorial Lecture which was presented by Terry Hatch on his trip to the Subantarctic Islands.

Friday morning saw world record holding shearers Sam and Emily Welch talk about their achievements before opening the conference. The Horticulture Pack were then introduced – Devin Westley (Southern Woods), Eve Llves (Waimea Nurseries), Courtney Rudman (Starter Plants) and Ursula Keswick (Te Horo Ornamentals), along with Kelly Broadlick from Fourth Corner Nurseries in Washington State representing the Western Region.

Papers were presented on plant breeding, island revegetation and garden favourites before buses headed off on a re-jigged field trip visiting the Punchbowl Kiwifruit packhouse, Perry's Berrys, the Auckland Botanic Gardens and Arylies Garden where Bev McConnell spoke to the group. It was then off to Ardmore Aerodrome for the AGM, Happy Hour and dinner which had a Faulty Towers theme.

Saturday morning saw papers presented on the respective exchanges between the New Zealand and Western Regions, travels through central Asian countries, ornamental pumpkins and kiwifruit before Paul Fisher demonstrated the use of plant growth regulators on ornamentals. Lindsey and Terry Hatch then played tour guide as they led the buses around the Pukekohe area and some of its landmarks. There were visits to Joshua Orchids and a cucumber grower before finishing up at Pukekohe Hill.

The formal dinner was held at the Pukekohe Racecourse with the theme of an 'Evening at the Races' with the auction being held and awards presented. Congratulations to Jeff Elliott who was presented with the Award of Merit and Brent McKenzie (who was unable to attend the conference)

was announced as the recipient of the Award of Recognition. The band then cranked into action for the rest of the night.



Sunday morning saw the last of the papers presented on potatoes, breeding dahlias, agapanthus and biosecurity concerns followed by a discussion on myrtle rust and an invitation to next year's conference in Palmerston North was extended before lunch brought conference to a close.

**Hayden Foulds**



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