

# ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

### Newsletter

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## **Presidential Annual Report**

The 2019–2020 year has certainly been different. It started with a highly successful stand-alone Annual General Meeting, symposium and Banks Memorial Lecture held on 24th October 2019 at Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington. This date was later than usual, and the event differed inasmuch as it was not held in association with any other organisation.

The date was set so that the event fell on the day immediately after the Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) congress and before the Australian Garden History Society conference. It was hoped that delegates from those meetings might join us for the RNZIH symposium and Banks Memorial Lecture. Some did.

The symposium was important as it provided the opportunity to gain insights regarding what members consider to be important roles for the RNZIH to undertake. Equally, if implemented and advertised they might be incentives for new members to join.

Another event that impacted the RNZIH along with everyone else in New Zealand – and the world – has been the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns. The fact that this year's AGM is being held virtually is a reflection of this.

For me personally the highlight of the year has been the recognition of Murray Dawson in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours list. This recognises the enormous amount of work Murray has carried out for the RNZIH for more than 20 years in addition to his wider contributions to botany, horticulture and education.

It was also good to see recognition of other people for their contributions to horticulture. All too often it seems that horticulturists are overlooked in the National Awards. This is something that the Executive will



address, by making more nominations on an ongoing basis.

I consider our own awards to be very important, both to recognise long term contributions and as an indication to younger people that they are on the right track.

This year, executive members Clare Shearman (Wellington) and Yvonne Baker (Auckland) have been made fellows (FRIH) of the RNZIH, as have Bill Steans (Timaru), George Tregidga (Whangaparaoa), and Penny Zino (North Canterbury).

Alan Jolliffe (Christchurch), Bill Brett (Nelson) and Dr John Liddle (Waikanae) have been awarded Associates of Honour (AHRIH), our highest award.

Louise Beaumont (Havelock North) received the Garden History Award, while Russell Lowe (Te Puke) received the Plant Raisers' (breeders') Award. Philip Simpson (Takaka) was awarded the Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Scholarship. As our AGM this year will be virtual, physical presentations will be made to the recipients at suitable events in the future.

Details of these awards have been posted on the Institute's Facebook Page and it has been gratifying to read the feedback. Our page is gaining a following.

Originally the Institute was based on regional branches throughout New Zealand. Sadly over time these branches have faded away, with Auckland the only functioning branch left. Carroll Walsh of the Taranaki Branch, was the last man standing in that region and the last signatory to that branch's funds. He has been able to negotiate, with the enthusiastic support of the RNZIH National Executive, donation of these monies to the South Taranaki District Council to help cover the costs of trees and plants in the foreground of a proposed new library, Arts and Culture Centre in Hawera, together with a plaque to acknowledge the work of RNZIH in that region in years past.

It is worth noting that Carroll Walsh joined the Institute on 2nd November 1951, meaning a continual membership of 69 years. A truly impressive feat.

Another impressive feat has been the funding that Murray Dawson has secured for a cultivated plants project ('Taking Stock') that seeks to quantify the exotic flora that exists in New Zealand.

In summing up, I think the RNZIH has made steady progress in the last year. It is good to have attracted younger horticulturists to the National Executive. Clare Shearman's work in organising our last AGM is testimony to this. Her contribution in association with Yvonne Baker and Dharini Marinkovich on how we might modernise the appearance of our website is important. Dharini has recently stepped down from her role on the National Executive and we thank her for contributions over the past three years. It is good to welcome Tom Mayo to the Executive. He clearly has a great deal to offer.

Keith Hammett President, RNZIH

RNZIH National Office	PO Box 85012, Lincoln University, Lincoln 7647 Email: office@rnzih.org.nz Website: www.rnzih.org.nz Facebook: www.facebook.com/ RNZIH/
Patron	Governor General of New Zealand Patricia Lee "Patsy" Reddy GNZM, QSO, DStJ
Vice Patron	Beverley McConnell, MNZM, QSM, AHRIH

National Executive		
Dr Keith Hammett QSM, AHRIH (RNZIH President)	488C Don Buck Road, Massey, Auckland 0614 Phone: (09) 833 9453 Email: hammettk@rnzih.org.nz	
Alan Jolliffe AHRIH (RNZIH Vice President)	7 Greenbank Place, Waitikiri, Parklands, Christchurch 8083 Mobile: 027 204 5679 Email: jolliffea@rnzih.org.nz	
Yvonne Baker FRIH	Mobile: 027 660 5205 Email: yvonneb@rnzih.org.nz	
Margaret Barker QSM, AHRIH (RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust representative)	Larnach Castle Ltd PO Box 1350, Dunedin 9054 Phone: (03) 4761616 Mobile: 021 297 2806 Email: barkerm@rnzih.org.nz	
Penny Cliffin FRIH (Notable Trees Trust representative)	34 Lloyd Ave, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 Phone: (09) 846 7193 Mobile: 021 488 000 Email: cliffinp@rnzih.org.nz	
Murray Dawson MNZM, AHRIH (RNZIH Webmaster; Journal Editor)	Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, PO Box 69040, Lincoln 7640, Canterbury Phone: (03) 321 9645 Email: dawsonm@rnzih.org.nz	
Tom Mayo	The Gatehouse 9C Onslow Road, Khandallah, Wellington 6035 Phone: 027 606 5920 Email: mayot@rnzih.org.nz	
Clare Shearman FRIH (BGANZ representative)	Wellington Botanic Gardens 101 Glenmore St, Kelburn, Wellington 6012 Phone: (04) 499 1400 Email: shearmanc@rnzih.org.nz	
Chris Webb FRIH (RNZIH Treasurer)	'Woodbridge', 8630 Paeroa Kopu Road, RD 4, Paeroa 3674 Mobile: 021 234 3936 Email: webbc@rnzih.org.nz	

Associated Trusts	
Elle Anderson	PO Box 431, Taumarunui 3946
(RNZIH Education	Phone: 021 0442 057
Trust Chairperson)	Email: elle@younghort.co.nz
Julie Sperring (Trust Manager, RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust)	92a Forest Lakes Road, RD3, Ōtaki 5583 Mobile: 027 694 8778 (027 NZGTrst) Email: nzgt@rnzih.org.nz Website: www.gardens.org.nz
Brad Cadwallader	33 Cropp Place,
FRIH	Richmond, Nelson 7020
(New Zealand	Email: nzntt@cropp-place.nz
Notable Trees Trust)	Website: www.notabletrees.org.nz

#### **New members**

We warmly welcome our new members:

Carol Hudson TAURANGA
Chaminda Perera KERIKERI
Daniel Hair POKENO
Doug Ward WAIUKU
Graham Burnip COALGATE
Kate Jury TAKAKA

# RNZIH 2020 Annual General Meeting: 30th September 2020 by Zoom videoconferencing





Please mark Wednesday, 30th September 2020, 7.00 pm in your diaries for our AGM using Zoom videoconferencing. Email office@rnzih.org.nz for details if you wish to join us.

The 2019 statement of accounts and financial report were published in our March 2020 Newsletter, and this issue of the Newsletter includes our President and other reports.

#### **AGM Agenda:**

- 1. Welcome
- 2. Apologies / In Memoriam
- 3. Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting (to be circulated by email in advance)
- 4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2019 AGM
- 5. Presidents' Annual Report (page 1 of this newsletter)
- 6. Statement of Accounts for 2019 (published in our March 2020 Newsletter; see www.rnzih.org.nz/Newsletter/Newsletter\_March\_2020.pdf), Budget for 2020 and confirmation of Auditor
- 7. Branch Report (Auckland; page 4–5)
- 8. Trust and BGANZ Reports (page 5–11)
- 9. Election of Officers
- 10. General Business.

#### **RNZIH Auckland Branch Report 2019–2020**

#### **Branch Committee members:**

Chair – Penny Cliffin

Secretary and acting Treasurer – Bronwen Rowse

Newsletter editor – Ross Ferguson

Committee members – Colin Bradshaw, Sue Davison, Dave Dawson, Andrew Maloy.

A big thank you to our committee in continuing to contribute to branch activities. Thank you to Bronwen Rowse, our Secretary, for keeping our minutes and writing letters on our behalf, and to Ross Ferguson for editing the branch newsletters. We have continued to run the accounts collectively this year. Any offers of assistance with the Treasurer role would be most welcome.

#### **Auckland Branch Activities**

Our Annual General Meeting for 2019 was held at the Mt Albert YMCA on Sunday 4th of August. Before the AGM we met at Ferndale House, 883 New North Road, for a tree discovery walk.

**Ferndale House Tree Walk:** Jonathan Tonson Garlick first built a cottage on the site named 'Fern Villa' in 1865 before he married Anne, who later planted seven Norfolk pines down the drive, which are now very large and known as the 'Seven Sisters'. They are a prominent landmark in Mt Albert. The house was remodelled into its current form in the Carpenter Gothic style in 1870. Mr Garlick died in 1898. His widow continued to live there until her death in 1947, aged 99. The house is now a community venue managed by Auckland Council. There is an interesting collection of trees on the property, including a very large firewheel tree (*Stenocarpus sinuatus*) and the seven sisters Norfolk pines. The following list includes trees on the Plunket and kindergarten sites which would have been part of the original site:

Acer negundo, Agathis australis, Agathis robusta, Alectryon excelsus, Araucaria heterophylla, Ceratopetalum gummiferum, Chamaecyparis lawsoniana, Cinnamomum camphora, Cordyline australis, Ginkgo biloba, Ilex aquifolium, Jacaranda mimosifolia, Juniperus chinensis 'Kaizuka Variegata', Liquidamber styraciflua, Metrosideros excelsa, Phoenix canariensis, Photinia serratifolia / serrulata, Podocarpus totara, Prunus campanulata, Quercus ilex, Stenocarpus sinuatus, Taxus baccata, Trachycarpus fortunei, Vitex lucens.

The AGM was held in the Garlick Room at the YMCA Recreation Centre. The committee was voted back in unanimously by the members present.

## Early Summer Trip, 2nd December 2019

We visited Ayrlies garden along with a group from the American Pacific Horticulture Society. We had a long talk with Ben Conway and Jacque McConnell before the visiting group arrived and had lunch by the pool where we had a chance to chat with the visitors. Bev McConnell and Ben Conway then led a walk around the garden.



Lunch by the pool, Ayrlies garden. Photo: Penny Cliffin.



The Lurid Border, Ayrlies garden. Photo: Penny Cliffin.



Ewen Cameron (Curator of Botany, Auckland Museum) speaking at the symposium. Photo: Penny Cliffin.

#### **Summer Trip**

We planned a trip to Waiheke Island on the 31st of March but had to cancel due to COVID-19.

#### **National News**

The 2019 Symposium, AGM and Banks Lecture were held at Te Papa in Wellington on 24th October. Auckland members Bronwen Rowse, Ross Ferguson, Dharini Marinkovich, Keith Hammett and Jack Hobbs were in attendance. Ross Ferguson presented the Banks Memorial Lecture titled 'The domestication and commercialisation of kiwifruit' and dedicated it to the late Ron Davison.



Ross Ferguson presenting the Banks Lecture. Photo: Penny Cliffin.

We look forward to a better year of events depending on the COVID-19 situation. We welcome any comment or suggestions from members.

Penny Cliffin Chairperson, Auckland Branch RNZIH

#### **RNZIH Education Trust Report 2019–2020**

#### 2019

2019 was the 15th year celebrating the Young Horticulturist (YH) competition. The event management team, led by Hayley Govorko, proved again over 2019 that the team is a great fit with the RNZIH Education Trust and the YH competition.



The 2019 year went through without a hitch — Hayley and her team proved to be very capable of running all the events that make up the YH competition.

This year saw six sectors (Amenity, Floristry, the Fruit & Vegetable Growers, Landscaping, Nursery, and Viticulture) with finalists competing which made for a great event.

#### The positives of this year were:

- The YH competition rebrand has now become well accepted, and the rebranding proved to be a wise move from 2018 as it created a great platform for the 15th year.
- The practical components day location (Pukekohe Indian Association Centre PIA Pukekohe) to which the venue was moved from 2018 again proved to be very suitable, with one big lesson for the 2019 event: don't be fooled by a calm morning, as this proved to cause us some headaches later on, with the wind picking up and becoming very cold. But quick work by a few saw the sides of the marquees covered where possible. This site again gave the event the flexibility to do practical components such as driving and reversing a tractor. With the benefit of a trained H&S professional on site, these activities could make a return to the competition.
- The Pullman Hotel for the 2nd day (business components and the awards gala dinner) ran very well some of the creases from the 2018 year were ironed out. The evening event was a great success, with extra screens and superb donated table settings, which were auctioned off with funds raised going towards the Garden to Table Trust.
- Awards dinner we again opted for a Master of Ceremonies (MC) followed by a guest speaker. Although we had a last minute change of MC, the evening ran very smoothly.
- Four partnering sponsors came on board again for 2019. This group of sponsors is vital to the YH event success and also the ability for the event to become more visible through having funds available for media releases and a dedicated Facebook (FB) person. Not to forget the extra visibility that these sponsors provide for the event.
- Strategic planning sessions the Trust held several short strategic planning sessions before their monthly meetings. This turned out to be a great way of slowly plotting the strategic direction of the RNZIH Ed Trust and the YH competition.
- Videos from the award dinner these were again of a high standard and the Trust is extremely lucky to have the technical and creative skills that Pert Kraan provides.

#### Other positive changes that occurred for 2019 were:

- Sponsorship for the first time Hayley and her team assembled a range of products for goodie bags for the finalists.
- The awards dinner was live streamed on FB which again proved to be a success. This is a platform that gives the event a wider reach, beyond the people attending the dinner and live streaming will hopefully become a fixed part of the event.
- Many sponsors stepped up in different ways. For example, ANZ provided a coffee cart
  and finalist support runners for the practical components day. Support from sponsors
  and volunteers are what ensure that this competition keeps running.
- Practical components day this was again a success. The ease with which all activities
  can be seen makes it a much easier event to get around. We still need to find strategies
  on attracting others to the event, to create a more public spectacle.

#### Some challenges that were faced over 2019 were:

• Loss of one Trust member. David Bradshaw joined the Trust last year, but a role change in his workplace saw him reluctantly resign from the Trust. Losing Trust members is always a challenge and replacing them even more so in todays work environment.

- As most people are employed, finding employers who are open to allowing an employee to attend monthly meetings during work time is difficult.
- Again an increased desire by sponsors to be involved managing different expectations will become the norm in the future, and it will provide the event with great insights of their sector/workplace and also of the competition from different perspectives.
- BBQ at end of the practical components day this was again well received by those
  who stayed on, providing a great way to relax together and catch up with people. But
  this could be better if moved to lunch time, while there is support from sponsors and
  finalists being around.
- Attendance at the practical components day by visitors this needs to be improved so that the field at the Indian Centre gets a larger 'visitor buzz'.
- Photos taken on the practical components day these should be used as a montage while people are gathering for the awards dinner and should also be promptly available online.

I am sure we faced many more challenges, but these are the ones that stood out for me. We have compiled a debrief document for further analysis of the events.

At the end of 2019 I had the pleasure of reigniting the New Zealand Arboricultural Association (NZArb) with the YH event and they agreed to become part of it again in 2020. It is very exciting to have a young NZArb person competing next year in our YH competition, and represents a great step towards increasing the finalist numbers towards our goal of 8 or 9 sectors.



Finalists in the 2019 Young Horticulturist Competition alongside Duncan Fletcher from Fruitfed Supplies.

#### 2020

The start of 2020 is proving to be a challenge for the Trust.

Cathrine Ming announced that she was standing down from the Trust at the 2020 NZET AGM. For the Trust this is a blow, as Cathrine has been a rock for the Trust with her financial knowledge and ability to quickly provide different scenarios – these skills are going to be missed. We thank her for her time and clear insights that were not just financial. We will also miss her sense of humour. A replacement treasurer was found by Nicola Rochester – John Beaumont has offered to step into Cathrine's shoes. Cathrine will help guide John through this year.

The outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has seen a worldwide lockdown of countries and borders. This was also instigated in New Zealand and has resulted in many of the sector competitions being postponed to 2021. This impacts on the YH competition and it was from this that the difficult decision was made to postpone the YH competition events to 2021.

This meant that a change of contract hours were offered to Hayley with a plan to use 2020 to:

 Revamp the website (www.younghort.co.nz) and stay as visible as possible on FB (www.facebook.com/YoungHortNZ)

- Sponsors ensure that the four partnering sponsors stay highly visible on our FB page and website during this year
- Research use the year to research the current format of the competition and how it is viewed by all involved (sponsors, sectors and judges)
- Cloud based storage system so that our documents are accessible to all Trustees
- Alumni utilise this group of people to highlight the benefits of the YH competition, but also have human stories of their successes.

2020 should be used by the Trust to look at the competition from a distance and relaunch in 2021 with another solid and professionally respected event.

Challenges that the YH still faces:

- Alumni the huge pool of past finalist is still an untapped resource for stories, support
  as judges, and potential new Trust members. This is something that we should find a
  way of incorporating into the event managers' role.
- Ed Trust members the need to ensure there are enough Trust members to take on vital roles is important, just as it is vital to implement a succession plan. The importance of ensuring key roles have understudies is vital. This is still an issue for the Trust and needs to be addressed in the near future.

#### **Sponsors**

This competition would not be possible without the generous support it receives from many sponsors. This support comes in many different forms, from monetary contributions to time helping judge, organising and supplying materials, providing venues, and educating and stretching the minds of the finalists. Every type of support is vital to the success of this event and needs to be applauded and thanked. It is impossible to thank everyone individually but thanks are needed – so a sincere thank you to our 2019 financial supporters:

- The 4 partnering sponsors AGMARDT, T&G, Fruitfed Supplies, Countdown.
- YH supporters Trillian Trust, Primary ITO, Bayer, Horticentre Trust.
- YH affiliated supporters Norwood, Safeworx, NZ Wine, ANZ, AIM Services, ICL, Massey University, NZ Gardener, Horticulture NZ, NZ Hothouse.
- Friends of the Competition RNZIH, The Cornwall Park Trust Board, Auckland Botanic Gardens, MIT, Hill Laboratories, Bev McConnell, Kiwiflora, Aorangi Merchants, NZIAHS.

#### **Final comments from the Chair**

On a personal note, I would like to thank each Trust member for their input into the 2019 event. Your ongoing support and belief in this competition ensures that young people have a platform on which they can compete against each other. A platform that helps to seed the future now through attracting the best people from across all horticultural industries to engage and invest in this event.

We at the RNZIH Ed Trust play a vital role in the ongoing promotion of the wider horticultural industries, a role that will help to raise the awareness of the industry as one to be involved in.

My final words are: during 2020 let's not just plan for the next year, but also for the future. Ensuring that new seeds are sown this year will bear fruit for many years to come.

Elle Anderson Chairperson, RNZIH Education Trust

#### **RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust Report 2019**

The year 2019 represented a year of change for the NZGT. In June, Irene Collins stepped down from her role as Trust Administrator after many years of dedicated service and support. This role was taken up by Julie Sperring, who lives in Ōtaki. Julie has a background in arts management and a long-held love of gardens and gardening, so thoroughly enjoyed the learning curve of the



first few months. Richard Simpson, who had also given many years of expertise, passed on the role of Treasurer to Howard Le Couteur.

In July, Kerei Thompson (Chair) and Micheline Newton achieved their twelve-year anniversaries as Trustees and stepped down from the Board, and Jenny Oakley, Dylan Norfield and Pauline Murphy also resigned at that time. NZGT owes a huge debt of gratitude to the outgoing Trustees and Richard and Irene, who gave much valued time, energy and commitment over many years.

Associates David Hobbs (Broadfield NZ Landscape Garden), Margaret Barker (Larnach Castle Garden), Mel Haskell (Casa Rossa), Brian Coker (Stoneycrop) and Peter Gillies (Gillies Garden) had previously indicated their interest in contributing as Trustees and all accepted invitations to join Penny Zino (Flaxmere Garden) and Wendy Palmer (Welton House) on the Board. The Trustees duly elected Margaret Barker to the position of Chair at their first meeting in August 2019.

One of the key areas of development that the new Trustees addressed in 2019 was the assessment process. Changes were made to the way assessment results were reported back, and there was also a commitment to spending time with the gardeners in their gardens prior to the actual assessment. This proved to be a valuable part of the process for gardeners and assessors alike.

As a result of the 2019 assessments, NZGT welcomed eight new gardens: Walter Peak High Country Farm Gardens and Birchwood in Queenstown, Golf Course Road Garden in Wanaka, Dalkeith, Knockdolian and Loch Leven gardens in Canterbury, Hlomo Hlomo in the Manawatu and Waiongana Gardens in New Plymouth. Two gardens attained six-star Gardens of International Significance ratings – Puketarata Garden in Hawera, and Mincher in Coatesville. Six gardens moved up to a five-star rating of National Significance and two to four-star Gardens of Significance.

Julie Sperring Trust Manager, NZGT

#### New Zealand Notable Trees Trust Report 2019–2020

#### The NZ Tree Register

Managing submissions received from throughout New Zealand has continued. People can keep abreast of new entries on the register (www.notabletrees.org.nz/tree-register) by checking out the 'Recent Changes' table. A considerable number of trees have been added over the past 6 months which is most encouraging. This is largely thanks to a very active group of exforestry tree enthusiasts that live in Auckland, Christchurch and Hokitika.



Late last year the RNZIH Auckland Branch sponsored the entry of a dozen or so trees of note from around the Auckland region.

As for many organisations, 2020 has been a challenging year for the NZNTT but the ongoing work of

entering trees on the New Zealand Tree Register remains the focus of our activities.

You may have seen the Lockdown Quiz that we ran a few months ago. This attracted a great deal of interest and directed a considerable amount of traffic to the register as this is where the answers to the quiz could be obtained. We received lots of messages from folk that welcomed the distraction but also enjoyed learning how to use the various search features in the process of answering the questions.

# 1222 Arauricaria bidwillie -Eunya Pine

This label spotted on one of the trees at The Pines apartments in Epsom last year gave us a little giggle – note the misspelling of the species name.

#### STEM

Since 2012 the NZNTT has been the controlling authority of the Standard Tree Evaluation

Method (STEM) which was developed by the late Ron Flook. It is now the most widespread method of evaluating heritage and notable trees for district plans around New Zealand and is currently used by more than 40 Councils from the Far North to Gore. A recent survey of councils using STEM has established the range of thresholds being used and also identified differences in how scoring criteria were being interpreted. As a result the Trust has been developing guidance notes to assist users in the consistent application of the method.

Flook, R.R. (1996). STEM: A Standard Tree Evaluation Method. Nelson, New Zealand. ISBN: 0-437-04039-5. (Copies can be purchased by contacting the trust).

#### Sponsorship

Budget cuts for local bodies have resulted in some reductions in funding sponsorships for the Trust. As a result the Board will be focusing its efforts on attracting new sponsors and exploring other avenues of funding over the remainder of 2020.

Penny Cliffin and Brad Cadwallader New Zealand Notable Trees Trust

#### Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand Report 2019–2020

The 2019 BGANZ congress 'Plants from the past: plants for the future' was held 20–23rd October 2019. This 9th congress was held in Wellington to support the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Wellington Botanic Gardens established by an Act of Parliament in 1869.

More than 110 delegates from Australia and New Zealand attended this successful congress. A report on the congress was published in the December 2019 issue of the RNZIH Newsletter (www.rnzih.org.nz/Newsletter/Newsletter December 2019.pdf).

Like many organisations in 2020, BGANZ has been facing the challenges COVID-19 presents with events and venues alongside ensuring the safety of staff and public.

This brings a new way of working for some elements of the gardens such as events and venue hire spaces. Social distancing and travel restrictions have prompted BGANZ to use some of the online engagement tools to stay connected.

The Botanic Gardens Day #plantchallenge held across Australia and New Zealand during May 2020 was a success with a huge variety of videos capturing inspirational information about plants using social media as a platform to engage. There was also a live panel discussion, covering many and varied topics. Our panelists were:

- Prof Lesley Hughes, Climate
   Scientist and distinguished
   Professor, Macquarie University
- Prof Tim Entwisle, Director and Chief Executive, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
- Dr Lucy Sutherland, Director,
   Botanic Gardens of South Australia
- Julia Watson, Education & Partnerships, Auckland Botanic Gardens.

The areas of discussion mainly centred around five topics: COVID-19, Botanic Gardens and Conservation, Horticulture, Education & Community.

Key statistics from the Botanic Gardens Day #plantchallenge:

- The Botanic Gardens Panel discussions were viewed by more than 10,000 people
- BGANZ received more than 180 #plantchallenge videos through YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and emails
- >150 videos were uploaded to Facebook
- >110,000 people viewed #plantchallenge videos on Facebook alone
- At least three videos appeared every day for the 31 days of May.

In March 2020 BGANZ held its first Zoom teleconference. It was the largest non-face-to-face meeting in BGANZ history.

The 10th BGANZ/BGCI joint congress 2021 has moved to 27th to 1st October and will be held in Melbourne.

Clare Shearman BGANZ-NZ representative

#### **Congratulations**

#### Queen's Birthday Honours 2020

It is a pleasure to note that in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours, several people have been recognised for their contributions to horticulture.

Their citations are at https://dpmc.govt.nz/publications/queens-birthday-honours-list-2020.

Jo Dawkins of Tauranga became a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for services to horticulture. Jo joined the International Plant Propagators' Society – NZ (IPPS–NZ) in 1980 and co-founded Te Puna Quarry Park in 1995.



Pamela Josephine Nicol Dawkins MNZM. Photo: Sandra Simpson.

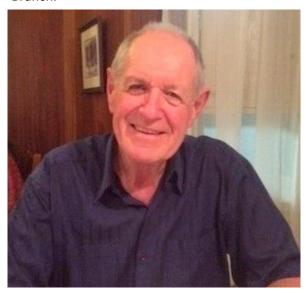
Murray Dawson of Christchurch became a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for services to horticulture. Murray joined the RNZIH in 1996 and has served on the National Executive since 2000. He is a botanist



Murray Ian Dawson MNZM, working with Kaniere School students to collect, identify and record weeds using smartphones. Photo: Kaniere School.

with Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research and is involved in various outreach initiatives.

Peter Smale of Motueka became a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for services to seniors, the community and horticulture. Peter has worked in the horticultural research sector and contributed to the Motueka community for more than 40 years. Peter was a member of the RNZIH from 1988 to 2002 and was chairman of the Nelson Branch.



Peter Edward Smale MNZM. Photo: Abbeyfield NZ.

Marie Taylor of Napier received the Queen's Service Medal for services to horticulture and native revegetation. Marie owns and manages Plant Hawke's Bay Ltd, a native plant nursery supplying the Hawke's Bay revegetation market with eco-sourced, wholesale native plants, which contributes to the survival of rare native species in the region.



Marie Jane Taylor QSM. Photo: Plant Hawke's Bay Ltd.



