



Chairman's Comments

You will have received by now formal advice of this year's AGM to be held in Gisborne, again alongside the New Zealand Gardens Trust (NZGT) conference. This year Gisborne marks the centenary of Eastwoodhill Arboretum, one of the nation's treasures, this year. As one of the finest arboreta in New Zealand this is a momentous anniversary as they celebrate and plan for its long term future. As with the last conference in Central Otago, the timing of this year's conference will be when the arboretum is at its most spectacular. Leading into the conference Dr Keith Hammett will be delivering the Banks Memorial Lecture – it will be a lecture not to be missed and it will challenge us all. Immediately prior to the lecture will be the AGM of the Institute.

I will be proposing a series of constitutional changes and other non constitutional changes which have evolved from nearly two year's discussion within executive and consultation with the members. I'll outline the main changes below but the full text of changes will be available before the AGM as notices of motion are put before the members.

The last major review of the constitution was in 1996. The RNZIH has made considerable progress since that time though it has still sought to find itself in the vacuum left by the creation of unit standards and industry training organisations. It has also found itself in a new operating environment where special interest groups form locally, regionally and nationally for specific purposes leaving broader organisations such as the RNZIH treading water in trying to service all things horticultural. With the formation of the RNZIH Gardens Trust it was possible to start anchoring the organisation once again. The subsequent formation of the RNZIH Education Trust and the partnership with New Zealand Arboricultural Association (NZAA) in forming the New Zealand Notable Trees Trust has meant that the objectives of the Institute have continued to be met and delivered and can be done so more effectively in the future.

In looking at its role and the success of the satellite Trusts it has become increasingly clear the administration of the Institute has to change.

The objects remain unchanged – the way in which they are delivered has. The RNZIH's role in the future is to provide the common meeting point for the Trusts – to provide a formal point of contact, to be strong and effective at its core business and to advocate for horticultural practice, horticultural education, our plant heritage, our landscapes and for exotic and native flora.

Some of the major constitutional changes I have proposed for the RNZIH include:

- Disestablishment of the Chairman and Vice Chairman positions
- Bringing the President and Vice President positions into executive
- Formalised representation of the Trusts through three allocated seats on executive
- Representation of Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) on the executive
- Five seats including the President and Vice President positions will be elected from the RNZIH membership
- No further Honorary Members will be appointed – existing Honorary Members will retain their appointments and rights
- No further Associate Members will be appointed – existing Associate Members will retain their rights
- The term Sustaining Members be renamed as Corporate Members
- Two new categories of membership be created for the NZGT – “Subscribing Member” for members of the RNZIH who own or manage gardens registered with the NZGT and “Gardens Trust – Associate Members” who do not have registered gardens but wish to be part of NZGT
- RNZIH to designate part of the AGM to the NZGT to provide for election of trustees and changes to the composition of the NZGT board. It is important to integrate NZGT, and the other Trusts, processes with the RNZIH by using the AGM that already takes place. The proposal is that part of that AGM is available to NZGT to formally carry out elections and other issues.

This would reinforce the conference/RNZIH AGM pattern that has become established and encourage closer relationships

- Remove automatic membership for NZAA members.

Many of the remaining changes result from wording substitutions, most of which have been highlighted above.

Other suggested changes, which many of you may now be aware of, include:

- Move to online delivery of the Newsletter
- Further aggregation of the DD Baker and the Memorial Awards to increase the residual sum and the amount of interest that can be allocated from it. The Wellington Funds will be added to this. The Peter Skellerup Conservation Award remains as a standalone award.

The more I have considered the RNZIH, the submissions and executive's conversations the more convinced I am that we have to get the simple things, those we already do or should do, right. Beyond that we need to look at our partnerships, what we can offer and what they will bring to our organisation. If we can establish a reliable consistent profile then we can be taken seriously as an organisation. If we fail on the basics and aspire to everything beyond then we will never restore the Institute to any raised level of credibility.

The Institute has huge resources of knowledge and intellect within its members which I would like to see tapped, but not onerously, so that the organisation can become much more forward looking and with a much stronger voice.

I look forward to catching up with you in Gisborne. If you are not able to attend the AGM please make your views known to the President Jack Hobbs, myself or the other executive members.

The changes I have proposed will give the Institute a firm footing for the future. With that in mind, I am quietly excited at the prospects of the Institute!

David Sole
Chairman, RNZIH

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| RNZIH National Office | Tanya Maylam PO Box 12, Lincoln University, Canterbury Phone: (03) 325 2811 Ext. 8670 Email: office@rnzih.org.nz Website: www.rnzih.org.nz |
| Patron | His Excellency, The Governor General of New Zealand, The Honourable Sir Anand Satyanand, GNZM, QSO |
| Vice Patron | Ralph Ballinger OBE, AHRH |
| President | Jack Hobbs AHRH Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens 102 Hill Road, Manurewa, Auckland Phone: (09) 267 4728 Fax: (09) 266 3698 Email: HobbsJ@rnzih.org.nz |
| Vice President | Ross Ferguson, ONZM, FRSNZ, AHRH Plant and Food Research, Private Bag 92 169, Auckland Mail Centre, Auckland 1142 Phone: (09) 846 8961 Fax: (09) 925 7001 Email: FergusonR@rnzih.org.nz |
| Chairman | David Sole FRIH Botanic Gardens of Wellington 101 Glenmore Street, Wellington Phone: (04) 803 8296 Cellphone: 021 227 8296 Fax: (04) 499 1903 Email: SoleD@rnzih.org.nz |

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| National Executive | |
| Murray Dawson FRIH (RNZIH Webmaster; Journal co-editor) | Landcare Research, PO Box 40, Lincoln, Canterbury Phone: (03) 321 9645 Fax: (03) 325 2418 Email: DawsonM@rnzih.org.nz |
| David Glenn (Chairman, Notable Trees Trust) | New Zealand Horticulture Industry Training Organisation, PO Box 8050, Dunedin Phone: (03) 455 7550 Cellphone: 029 200 9242 Fax: (03) 455 1520 Email: GlennD@rnzih.org.nz |
| Mick Reece FRIH (Chairman, NZ Gardens Trust) | Dunedin City Council, 21 Montague St, North East Valley, Dunedin Phone: (03) 474 3569 Email: ReeceM@rnzih.org.nz |
| Eddie Wullems (Treasurer; HITO contact and Education Trust member) | Hamilton City Council, Private Bag 3010, Hamilton Phone: (07) 838 6934 Cellphone: 021 790 203 Fax: (07) 838 6935 Email: WullemsE@rnzih.org.nz |

New Members

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

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| Gerard Henry | GISBORNE |
| Maria Barrie | CAMBRIDGE |

Notice of AGM

Date: Thursday, 22 April 2010
Time: 5.00 pm
Venue: Pacific Quay Conference Centre
 Marinaview Building
 6 Reads Quay, Gisborne

Congratulations and News

Two distinguished members of the Institute were recognised in the recent New Years Honours for their contributions to horticulture. Both are Associates of Honour of the Institute.

Dr Rod Bielecki was appointed a Member, New Zealand Order of Merit for “services to horticultural science”. The nomination described his internationally recognised scientific research in plant physiology, his leadership in developing New Zealand’s horticultural industry as the founding Director of the Division Horticulture and Processing, DSIR, and his extensive voluntary community work in various plant societies.

As a scientist Rod is best known for his work on plant nutrition, particularly phosphorus nutrition, sugar uptake and movement into and through plants, and the synthesis, metabolism, storage and movement of sugar alcohols in plants. This brought him international recognition including Fellowship of the Royal Society of New Zealand and a Doctorate of Science from the University of Sydney. He is also a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Agricultural & Horticultural Science.

Rod is perhaps unusual amongst horticultural scientists in that he actually likes plants and enjoys gardening (under his wife’s close supervision). He has been very active in voluntary horticultural societies including the New Zealand Camellia Society (for whom he is the registrar of cultivars), the South Auckland Orchid Society, the Auckland Begonia Circle and the Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens. He served on the Friends Executive, was President, and continues as editor of their newsletter.

Lawrie Metcalf was appointed a Companion of the Queen’s Service Order (QSO) for “services to horticulture”. He is recognised as New Zealand’s most authoritative writer on the cultivation of our native plants with more than a dozen books to his credit. Possibly the best known is *The cultivation of New Zealand trees and shrubs* which was so successful that it has been republished several times. Lawrie was Director of Parks and Recreation in Invercargill but is now “retired” in Nelson. He has a particular interest in *Hebe* and is the international registrar for cultivars of the genus.

His many achievements have already received recognition. He is an Associate of Honour of the Institute, an honour restricted to those who have rendered distinguished service to horticulture in New Zealand. He was awarded the Loder Cup, which is presented to “encourage and honour New Zealanders who work to investigate, promote, retain and cherish our indigenous flora”. He has also received international recognition by being awarded the Veitch Memorial Gold Medal by the Royal Horticultural Society (UK) in 1991, a medal awarded to “persons of any nationality who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement and improvement of the science and practice of horticulture”. He is one of the very few New Zealanders to have received this prestigious medal.

Lawrie Metcalf has done more than probably anybody else to encourage New Zealand gardeners to use our native plants. He is a distinguished horticulturist, writer and conservationist and it is pleasing to see his efforts recognised in this way.

Plantsman profiled

The January 2010 issue of *NZ House & Garden* has a two-page article on Terry Hatch. Terry is well-known to Auckland members as having one of the most interesting nurseries still in existence, but he has also been active in the various Ellerslie Flower Shows, he has served a term as President of the Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens, and he recently retired as World President of the International Plant Propagators’ Society. Terry is an Associate of Honour of the Institute and was awarded the Plant Raisers’ medal for his flower breeding.

He makes interesting comments on the fickle nature of gardeners. He has a vast array of unusual perennials and bulbs, but he reports dwindling interest in them and his bread-and-butter now comes from the propagation for major native revegetation programmes. Many of us have been aware of the decreasing range of plants available to gardeners but it interesting to have this confirmed by one of our most experienced nurserymen.

The article is accompanied by photographs by Sally Tagg who recently completed a period as artist-in-residence at the Auckland Botanic Gardens.

Bequest to the Friends, Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens

The Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens have received a very generous bequest from the estate of the late Joan Dingley. Miss Dingley was a mycologist at DSIR in Auckland and a very keen supporter of horticulture, horticultural education and the Auckland Botanic Gardens. She was an Associate of Honour of the Institute. The bequest (about \$0.5 million) is to be used primarily to support the maintenance and development of the Horticultural Library at the Gardens. Joan had a passion for books and the Library had already benefited greatly from the many books donated by her.

This latest bequest leaves the Friends in a very comfortable financial position and they are able to make major contributions to development projects at the Gardens including the new Edible Gardens Project and the redevelopment of the Potter's Children Garden.

The Friends helped organise the second Stoneleigh Sculpture Exhibition which has just closed. This proved a great success both artistically and financially and brought many thousands of new visitors to the Gardens.

RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust at Ellerslie

The NZGT had a 6×3 m corner site in the Hort Galore Marquee where enlarged images of a selection of Trust gardens were displayed. 17 volunteers manned the stand over the 5 days distributing the Weekend Gardener Gardens to Visit Guide along with garden brochures. The Trust is grateful to Rob Lahood of the *Weekend Gardener* magazine for his ongoing sponsorship and to Tony Peek of Peek Displays who provided the display stands, assisted with lighting and set up support, not to mention the production of the enlargements of the garden photos.

Liz Morrow

RNZIH Education Trust

Reproduced below is positive feedback from two previous Young Horticulturist of the Year winners. Jason Greene spoke at the November 2009 Awards Dinner. Jim Smith wrote a letter of his experiences at the Outward Bound Course that was one of his prizes.

Jason Greene, 2008 Young Horticulturist of the Year winner's speech Awards Dinner Nov 2009

I am happy to have the opportunity to discuss the many opportunities I have been privileged to be a part of over the past 12 months.

Back then, I would have said they were dreaming if anyone was to say to me that in the next few months, I would have had in-depth conversations with Nick Smith (Speaker of the House), Pat Snedden (entrepreneur) or Bob Harvey (Mayor, Waitakere City); or become an honored member of the world's largest trade show; or visited one of the largest nurseries in the world.

However it all happened thanks to this competition.

In early 2009 it started off with the opening retreat of one of the major prizes – the Leadership New Zealand course. This is where 32 people from around the country get together to share their own knowledge and wisdom as well as having the opportunity to ask questions of the current leaders of New Zealand. During that time I met some of the most influential, knowledgeable and inspiring people that I would have ever hoped to meet in a lifetime.

The course examines every sector of New Zealand's future – even horticulture, with the idea that the Leadership New Zealand Trust allows tomorrow's leaders to learn from those who have been there before – sharing their gems of wisdom to better the future of our country.



The graduates of the 2009 course have been lucky enough to interact with more than 60 of New Zealand's finest, from CEO's of our largest New Zealand companies such as New Zealand Post through to the Reserve Bank Governor Dr Alan Bollard.

There are so many things that I will be taking away from Leadership New Zealand that I know will be an important part in my career – both now and in the future. I have learnt that taking risks is an important part of a successful career.

Taking risks makes you challenge the normal, shift out of your comfort zone, keep the things that scare you the most close to you and be humble enough to accept when you're wrong.

The other big adventure I had was taking a trip to the United States of America. In July 2009 I attended the Ohio Floriculture Association's Short Course – which is one of the worlds largest Nursery and Garden Industries Trade Shows.

I was one of some 10,000 delegates that attended the five day course. We had the opportunity to participate in several different field trips – from visiting large scale nurseries to garden centers several times larger than your local New Zealand garden centre.

During the trade show we looked at more than 10 hectares of new products and systems in one rather large convention centre – as well as attending seminars on topics ranging from marketing through to quality control.

The course broadened my horizons and affirmed to me that the company I work for is heading in the right direction. It also enabled me to see the many opportunities in the horticultural world market.

Throughout the year I have also had the opportunity to share my ideas and experiences with audiences such as High Schools, MIT and Massey University Graduates – it is a passion of mine to encourage people into our industry.

The experiences I have had this year would not have been possible without the following people:

- First of all the Sponsors of the Young Horticulturist of the Year award: without you the younger generation of our industry would not have the chance to set their sights as high as they can achieve and to be proud of the industry they belong to.
- To the board members of Leadership New Zealand: thank you for the opportunity to join one of the most amazing courses I have ever been on. The skills, networks and motivation I have gained from the course will help me for years to come.
- To Peter and Andrew, my employers at Rainbow Park: thank you for the time and support that you have given me over the past year – this has enabled me to achieve what I have.

And to this years contestants: congratulations on what you have achieved so far.

Jim Smith's Outward Bound Experience

I want to thank again all the sponsors and organisers of the 2008 Young Horticulturist of the Year competition for the prizes and experiences that I received.

The Outward Bound "Discovery" Course was one of the prizes and I attended this course 13–20 February 2009. Once I had got past my initial nervousness about attending the course, all that was left was excitement about the unknown challenges that lay ahead...



When the initial introductions of all 14 members of our group at Picton were complete, we were set our first task; to set up the cutter yacht for sailing within 15 minutes. With no success, our amused instructors then provided us with excellent training as well as experience at manoeuvring and rigging our yacht, and soon words such as “halyard”, “gib”, and “sheet” were being bandied about with cool professionalism (look out Team NZ!).

On Day 2, our instructors set us out on our own in changeable winds to make destinations within allocated timeframes. Our day ended successfully at Anakiwa – the Outward Bound Home Base, with a welcome meal and hot cuppa.

Day 3 started with rock climbing in the morning followed by kayaking in the afternoon. Rock climbing is not my forte, and even though I reached the goals set the next level of climbing blindfolded with my feet tied together was beyond me!

Back in my comfort zone in the water, Day 4 was a full day of kayaking after roughing it in “Bill’s Kayak Hut.” Visits by native kaka hunting for our rations were an experience on its own. Day 4s challenges were set with a number of rapids to run with options of forward or backward descents as well as with or without paddles. Our tired and waterlogged group was bussed back to Anakiwa looking forward to an early night...

This proved to be motivation for our instructors to extend the next challenge: “Solo.” As the name implies we were issued packs, rations, a ground sheet, tarpaulin, and sleeping bag for our experience – alone in the bush for two nights and one and a half days. Once camp was set up in the dark, the Solo was a great time to relax, reflect, and plan.

After having some quiet time in the bush, we were thrust back into challenge and excitement with Day 6 on the “High Ropes” course at Anakiwa. The odd squeal and scream by some members (not excluding myself) resulted in a successful traverse of the course with support from the group.

“Mount Baldy” loomed on Day 7, with those of us that thought we were in for a nice day tramp being physically and mentally challenged during the 14 hour hike. We climbed 1300 m and covered about 15 km to get to the summit where fantastic views of Marlborough and the Sounds were had.

Our last day dawned with torrential rain and the prospect of an 11 km run. Farewells were then given to all, and an exhausted group were set upon the real world by 12.30 pm on Day 8.

What a physically and mentally challenging experience. I have come away from my Outward Bound experience with a greater understanding of myself and how teams work. I have met and made friends with a great group of people and have realised that my limitations are really just self-prescribed. I feel that I can now achieve anything that I put my mind to which is a little bit dangerous for me!

I would like to thank you all sincerely for the opportunity. It is something that I am actively recommending to everyone, and I feel that it is an invaluable experience and great contributor to personal development.

Yours sincerely
Jim Smith

Erratum

RNZIH Education Trust report, *Newsletter* 2009, No. 3, p. 6. Pip McVicar is sales and marketing manager at Cedar Lodge Nurseries, New Plymouth, not Conifer Grove.

New Books

The Subtropical Garden at Landsendt: a plant collectors dream

By Dick Endt

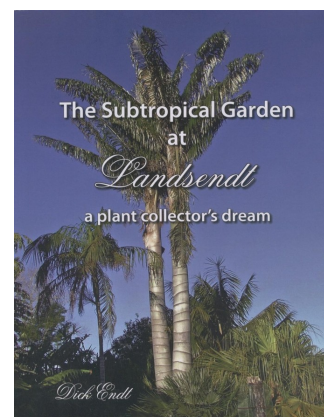
Landsendt Publications, 2009

RRP \$55.00

Just before Christmas 2009, Dick Endt launched his history of the development of Landsendt, 108 Parker Road, Oratia, Waitakere, Auckland.

He describes the emigration of his parents from Holland and the early days at Oratia. Most of the book covers his travels in South America searching for plants that would do well in New Zealand. A visit to Landsendt show just how successful he was. Dick has now “retired” and handed over to his daughter who with her husband is developing Landsendt into a function centre. The garden itself is ranked as a Garden of National Significance by the NZGT.

Dick’s text makes for fascinating reading but it is his photographs that really wow! His book has some of the most striking and beautiful plant portraits that we have seen.



Colenso’s Collections

By Ian St George

New Zealand Native Orchid Group

RRP \$65.00

This amazingly comprehensive compilation of archival material relating to William Colenso’s botanical collections has just been published by the New Zealand Native Orchid Group. The material has been researched by Ian St George and includes unpublished work by the late Bruce Hamlin (former Curator of Botany at the National Museum of New Zealand), who was preparing an itinerary of Colenso at the time of his death in 1976. Hamlin’s research notes are held at Te Papa along with over 6000 plant collections from Colenso’s herbarium. The book begins with an introductory essay by Ian St George on Colenso’s collecting activities, his herbarium and his connection with Kew. Hamlin’s work is fully acknowledged, and a reproduction of his Obituary included. The bulk of the text is divided into three parts. The first part is largely Hamlin’s work, and includes a catalogue of Colenso’s vascular plant collection at Te Papa, a list of bryophyte collecting numbers, and a detailed itinerary of Colenso’s travels and the places he visited. The place names are also listed alphabetically with details of their exact locality, and the dates of Colenso’s visits. The second part of the book is a transcription of letters that Colenso wrote to Allan Cunningham, and to William and Joseph Hooker at Kew from 1839–1853, whilst he was a missionary in New Zealand. These letters contain detailed information about the plants that Colenso sent to Kew and they often provide the only information about provenance. The labels on the sheets themselves usually contain only the name of the plant and a number. Most of these letters are now held in the Kew library. The final part of the book is a transcription of letters written after he had been unfrocked, between 1854 and his death in 1899. The book concludes with brief biographical notes about the people mentioned in Colenso’s letters, with more extensive notes about collectors who sent plants to him. There is also an Index of the genera and higher taxa referred to in Colenso’s letters, which makes searching the 400 closely-typed pages of this compilation a considerably less daunting task. This extraordinary work will be hugely valuable for anyone with an interest in Colenso, but especially for botanists and historians who need to track his movements or relocate the sources of his collected specimens. As the author himself says “The significance of Colenso’s contribution to New Zealand botany has not always been properly valued; for time must pass before we can readily acknowledge the greatness of obstinate and difficult men”. CD-ROM included.



Both books are available from Touchwood Books (www.touchwoodbooks.co.nz)

A kowhai for every one

On the one hand yellow is said to stand for cowardice and deceit, but more importantly it projects sunshine and happiness. Some of our most dramatic native plants have yellow flowers and foremost among them must be the eight species of kowhai. We have six trees screening the street from our upstairs kitchen window and in the spring we gaze right into their blazing yellow crowns. Within them I have counted as many as eight tuis that could almost be reached with an outstretched hand. We also have one very special kowhai in a large plastic pot that was given to us 12 years ago. It lives on our deck, overlooking Tasman Bay in Nelson, and is visible by a turn of the head from the tuis. Being of horticultural origin, its parentage is not certain, but it looks as if it might be the Cook Strait kowhai (*Sophora molloyi*). Certainly our plant can take some punishment, for the pot dries out in summer and freezes in the winter. Once it blew over and smashed the top off. Since then I have been training it to grow in a circle, like a sort of pseudo bonsai bush. I guess I must have removed several crown volume equivalents over the years. Now it even has considerable lichen growth over the branches too. Every winter we wait with trepidation to see how many flower buds are forming, for they signal the coming of spring. Last year was the best ever, a solid mass of gold by early September. My recipe is simple: handfuls of lime once or twice a year and an occasional sprinkling of superphosphate. I also spray for kowhai moth whenever these appear. A layer of flat stones covering the soils stops some evaporation but I doubt this is a crucial element and I can't even remember what the potting mixture was; probably just commercial potting mix. The critical ingredient is probably the semi-regular additions of my watered down urine! This all goes to show that everyone can have a kowhai, even in the smallest place, an idea that gladdens the heart of Dr. Eric J. Godley, the ex Director of Botany Division, DSIR, who stimulated so much interest in this remarkable genus.



Peter A. Williams
Landcare Research