

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

Newsletter

2016 No. 1, March ISSN 1174-6947 (Print) ISSN 1179-7444 (Online)

President's Comments

It is, I think, important to recognise that the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (RNZIH) is by its very nature an elite organisation representing a pinnacle of horticulture. I know that the term 'elitist' has a pejorative connotation, but few New Zealanders would consider striving to become a member of the All Blacks or NZ Olympic team to be negative aspirations. Equally, Institute members should be proud to be part of a team dedicated to practise horticulture at the highest level.

The RNZIH, from its genesis, brought together leading horticulturists and academic botanists to foster both facets of plant science, in harmony. The organisation was not formed to represent commercial horticulture to the Government, nor was it a primarily social society for people with a shared interest in some practical aspects of commercial horticulture.

As I pointed out in the June 2015
Newsletter, for much of its history the central role of the RNZIH was to set the syllabus and administer the National Diploma of Horticulture (NDH). Many years ago, not long after arriving in New Zealand, I mentored several people working their way through that qualification. I was left in no doubt that the combination of practical skills and academic content made that qualification superior to many university degrees. The gravitas of the qualification was recognised by the charter conferring

the word 'Royal' in our title.

It is all too easy in pontifications like this, to keep saying the same thing. I believe I outlined the current activities of the Institute in the June 2015 Newsletter and Murray Dawson presented more detailed reports in the December 2015 issue.

Murray is too modest to make mention of the Institute Journal that he edits and brings together seemingly single-handed. Although this publication is not usually peer reviewed, Murray's and Andrew Maloy's editorship ensures that the publication is of a very high standard that brings mana internationally to the RNZIH.

The executive holds video meetings by computer link up as appropriate. It has to be said that even by obviating the need to travel for face-to-face meetings, it is hard to attain a quorum for each meeting. The meetings are dominated by Aucklanders, which is perhaps simply a reflection that Auckland is the largest city with an active regional branch of the Institute.

Notwithstanding, as an Aucklander, I consider this to be highly undesirable.

Auckland nowadays is in no way representative of the rest of the country, nor traditional Kiwi lifestyles.

Personally, I want to thank Penny Cliffin, who in addition to chairing the Auckland Branch is making a significant contribution on our National Executive.

Similarly, I want to welcome Chris Webb who has taken on the role of Treasurer from Eddie Wullems. Eddie has fulfilled this role magnificently for at least a decade. As with any job truly well done, it has barely been perceived. A sincere thank you to Eddie. Chris, who moved recently to the Thames region has a background in banking and is close enough to be able to visit Eddie in Hamilton as he picks up the reins.

The upcoming RNZIH AGM, awards ceremony and Banks Memorial Lecture will be held in Christchurch in close juxtaposition to the BGANZ-NZ and RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust conferences. I look forward to catching up with many members at that time.

Keith Hammett President, RNZIH

RNZIH Annual General Meeting

Our 2016 AGM will be held in Christchurch along with the 2016 RNZIH Awards and the Banks Memorial Lecture.

Venue: Great Hall, Chateau on the Park, 189 Deans Avenue, Riccarton, Christchurch 8011.

Date: Wednesday, 13 April 2016.

Time: 6.00 pm. Agenda:

- 1. Apologies / In Memoriam
- 2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM
- 3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2015 AGM
- 4. President's Report
- 5. Statement of Accounts for 2015 and Budget for 2016
- 6. Branch Reports
- 7. Election of Officers
- 8. General Business:
 - 8.1 Subscriptions
 - 8.2 RNZIH NZ Gardens Trust
 - 8.3 NZ Notable Trees Trust
 - 8.4 RNZIH Education Trust
 - 8.5 NZ Plant Collection Register
 - 8.6 Publications and website
 - 8.7 Other business.

RNZIH Award Presentations: 6.45 pm.

RNZIH National Office	PO Box 85012, Lincoln University, Lincoln 7647 Email: office@rnzih.org.nz Website: www.rnzih.org.nz
Patron	Governor General of New Zealand Lt Gen Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae
Vice Patron	Beverley McConnell, MNZM, QSM, AHRIH

National Executive					
Dr Keith Hammett AHRIH (RNZIH President)	488C Don Buck Road, Massey, Auckland 0614 Phone: (09) 833 9453 Email: hammettk@rnzih.org.nz				
Dr Nancy Beck (RNZIH Education Trust representative)	West Coast Orchids Ltd 112 Taupaki Road, Taupaki, RD2, Auckland 0782 Phone: (09) 412 7718 Email: beckn@rnzih.org.nz				
Penny Cliffin FRIH (RNZIH Notable Trees Trust representative)	Department of Landscape Architecture Faculty of Creative Industries and Business, Unitec Institute of Technology, Private Bag 92025, Auckland 1142 Phone: (09) 815 4321 Ext 7110 Email: cliffinp@rnzih.org.nz				
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James Jones (Notable Trees Trust representative)	Wellington City Council 101 Glenmore, Wellington 6012 Phone: (04) 499 1400 Email: jonesj@rnzih.org.nz				
Chris Webb (RNZIH Treasurer)	Mobile: 021 234 3936 Email: webbc@rnzih.org.nz				
Eddie Wullems	Mobile: 027 361 0287 Email: wullemse@rnzih.org.nz				

New Members

A warm welcome to our new members, including:

Kathryn Hurr PORIRUA Yvonne Millar CHRISTCHURCH

From the New Zealand Gardens Trust: Cairnhill Garden, Kowhai Garden, Montrose, Olveston Historic Home Garden, Stanleigh Garden.



Chateau on the Park, 189 Deans Avenue, Riccarton, Christchurch 8011. Source: Google Maps.

Banks Lecture Abstract

Successful plant breeding requires the development of new gene combinations (genotypes) that give rise to novel characters and new varieties that can then be tested in the marketplace.

Hybridisation between crop and wild relative(s) can provide such variation but much depends on the ease of crossing the species and to an extent their genetic and chromosomal similarity. Knowledge of chromosome number, structure and behaviour is therefore a key component of these breeding programmes that aim to widen the gene pool of existing crops.

Examples taken from a variety of ornamentals such as dahlia, sweet pea, clivia and pinks will be used to illustrate this important component of cultivar development.

Brian Murray's Biography

Prof Brian Murray was born in Trinidad and educated at Queen's Royal College in Port of

Banks Memorial Lecture (a free public lecture):

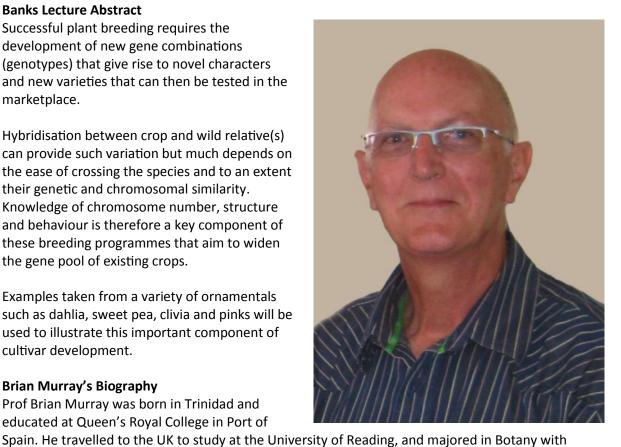
Cytogenetics and ornamental plant breeding: an ongoing partnership by Prof Brian Murray

Venue: Great Hall, Chateau on the Park, 189 Deans Avenue, Riccarton, Christchurch 8011.

Date: Wednesday, 13 April 2016.

Time: 7.00–8.00 pm.

The Banks Memorial Lecture is a free lecture open to the public. It commemorates Sir Joseph Banks, botanist on Captain Cook's first voyage to New Zealand. During a later distinguished scientific career, he was Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, London.



subsidiary Zoology. After graduating, Brian went on to undertake a PhD in plant genetics, specifically chromosome evolution and breeding systems in the grass genus Briza. He was then appointed as a lecturer in the Department of Botany and Biochemistry, Westfield College, University of London, where he was involved in the teaching of genetics and undertaking research, together with several PhD students in the general field of population cytogenetics.

In 1984 he moved to New Zealand to take up an appointment as Senior Lecturer in the Department of Botany (subsequently the School of Biological Sciences) at the University of Auckland. One major consequence of moving to Auckland was a shift in research focus as there were excellent opportunities for collaborative research in plant breeding of ornamental plants. These studies, together with investigating cytogenetics of New Zealand native plants (many with a conservation focus), have been the basis of a successful research programme that has involved about 40 graduate students over the years.

Brian Murray has published, together with his collaborators, about 180 refereed scientific publications and has edited the 'Encyclopedia of Applied Plant Science' that is now about to appear as an updated second edition in September 2016.

RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust

NZGT Conference: 14-17th April 2016

'Les Beaux Jardins d'Akaroa' (The Beautiful Gardens of Akaroa)



Here is a brief outline of what will be an exciting event in the NZGT 2016 calendar. While enjoying fellowship with like minded members, visit some of the best gardens in New Zealand and travel to the wonderfully scenic Akaroa.

- Thursday 14th April Pre-Conference Tour¹: Commencing in Christchurch to visit 5 and 6 Star Canterbury gardens.
 - Christchurch Botanic Gardens
 - Broadfield NZ Landscape Garden
 - Trotts Garden
 - Otahuna Lodge.
- **Friday 15th April:** Visit more Christchurch gardens, then travel to Akaroa.
 - Ohinetahi (Governors Bay, on the way to Akaroa)
 - Annandale
 - Potters Croft Garden, Akaroa
 - Giant's House.
- Saturday 16th April: Conference opens Guest Speaker Dr Richard W. Benfield from USA, then visit Akaroa gardens, followed by our evening Conference Dinner.
- **Sunday 17th April:** Speakers, Members' Forum, and garden visits returning to Christchurch.

Download the Registration and Conference Programme and Speaker profiles at: www.gardens.org.nz/nzgt-conference. All RNZIH members are welcome to attend the NZGT conference. Contact Irene for further information.

Irene Collins, Administration Manager
New Zealand Gardens Trust
Email: nzgt@rnzih.org.nz
Ph: 027 NZGTrst (027 694 8778)

¹The 2016 RNZIH AGM, Awards Ceremony and Banks Memorial Lecture are being held the evening before the NZGT pre-conference tour.

RNZIH Education Trust

The 2016 Young Horticulturist of the Year competition: March update

The Education Trust are pleased to announce the launch of the 2016 Young Horticulturist of the Year competition. It will be our 12th competition.

We welcome back the competition partners; AGMARDT, Fruitfed Supplies and T&G and the competition supporters; Bayer Crop Science, Primary ITO, Massey University and NZ Gardener magazine.

We are still confirming support for the competition and hope to have the majority of sponsors signed up soon.



At present we estimate a shortfall for the 2016 competition of \$17,000 once all sponsorship has been confirmed. The Education Trust will do it's upmost to secure additional funding as well as trim the budget where possible in the coming months. We are committed to running the event.

Sector Competitions Update

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

NZ Winegrowers: Bayer Young Viticulturist of the Year

Five regional competitions held in Central Otago, Marlborough, Martinborough, Hawke's Bay and Auckland will take place during June and July with a play-off at their conference in August.

Landscaping New Zealand: Young Landscaper of the Year

A national competition will take place on August 4.

Nursery and Garden Industry of New Zealand: Horticentre Young Achiever competition A national competition will take place, date to be confirmed.

Horticulture NZ: Young Grower of the Year

This includes four regional Young Fruit Grower competitions in Hawke's Bay, Bay of Plenty, Central Otago and Nelson as well as a national Young Vegetable Grower of the Year competition. A play-off will take place during July in Pukekohe.

NZ Recreation Association – Parks and Gardens: Young Amenity Horticulturist of the Year A national competition will take place, date to be confirmed.

In addition, the RNZIH Education Trust hopes to see a cut-flower grower / floristry person and a sports turf entrant represented in the competition this year.

Young Leaders Forum

Planning is underway for the 2016 Young Leaders Forum, pencilled dates are 3 & 4 May 2016. Attendees will include the six 2015 competitors.

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

The two day forum will include in a one day introduction to leadership, as well as presentations from Bayer Crop Science, Fruitfed Supplies, T&G, and Primary ITO. We are still confirming the presenters and the funding for this event.

You can support the Competition

The Education Trust welcomes any donations to support this important and very worthwhile initiative in the horticulture industry. Donations will assist with the costs to run the competition each year. Individuals or companies interested in supporting the competition please contact:



Elenka Nikoloff
Event Manager, Young Horticulturist of the Year
Email: elenka.nikoloff@xtra.co.nz

Subscriptions and email addresses

On 18 January 2016, Eddie Wullems, our outgoing Treasurer, distributed the annual RNZIH subscription notices to all of our members. These were sent by email (where we have your email addresses) and posted out (for those without disclosed emails).

Those of you who have provided your email addresses also receive our Newsletter directly by email (and a PDF version is deposited online at www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/news.html).

If you would like the convenience of your invoices and Newsletters sent by email, please contact us at office@rnzih.org.nz. Email addresses are kept confidential, and our Journal remains in print format and is posted to all of our members. We appreciate that this is not an option for some of our members who are not regular users of the Internet and email.

If you haven't already done so, please remember to pay your subscriptions. Last year, some subscriptions were received very late. Many thanks to those of you who promptly paid.

Your membership is valued and helps to ensure the ongoing viability of the Institute. Thank you so much for your continued support of the RNZIH.





Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.) For the year ended 31 December 2015

Compilation Report to the Trustees of Royal NZ Institute of Hortkulture (Inc.)

odoo

On the basis of information provided and in accordance with Service Engagement Standard No.2: Compilation of Financial information, we have compile of the financial statements of Royal NZ institute of Hontsulture (inc.) for the period ended 31 December 2015.

As described in Note 1 to the financial statements, these financial statements are a special purpose report, for internal management and saxation purposes only.

Responsibilities

You are solely responsible for the information contained in these financial statements and have determined that the accounting politides used are appropriate to meet your needs and for the purpose that the financial statements were prepared.

The financial statements were prepared exclusively for your benefit and we do not accept responsibility to any other person for the contents of the financial statements.

No audit or review engagement undertaken

Our procedures use accounting experties to undertake the compilation of the financial statements from information provided and do not include verification or validation of that information. No audit or review engagement has been performed and accordingly no assurance is expressed.

Reporting Framework

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

31 December 2015

Financial Reports

The accounting policies adopted are not in conformity with geneally accepted accounting practice. Accordingly the financial statements should only be relied on for the expressly state d purpose.

Chartered Accountants

Smith McCoy Alford Ltd Chartered Accountants

Christchurch

25 February 2016

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These financial statements have not been subject to auditor review, and should be each in conjunction with the statched Compilation Report.

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Trust Directory



Performance



Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

For the year ended 31 December 2015

Nature of Business

Furtherance of Horficulture and Promotion of Education

Date of Formation

The Constitute was adopted on 1 March 1975

IRD Number

010-575-036

Accountants

Smith McCoy Alford Limited Level 1 149 Victoria Street Christchurch 8013

Bank of New Zealand

Statement of Financial

For the 12 months ended 31 December 2015 Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

Dec-14

Dec-15

Publications Services	38	1,453
Subscription Receipts	16,102	15,267
TFBIS Progress Payments	40,000	
Total Sales	56,137	16,720
Gross Profit	56,137	16,720
OtherIncome		
Donations Received	1,020	1,703
Interest Received	4,664	9,252
Lotterles Commission	28,463	
Sundry Income	7,947	2,443
Total Other Income	42,093	13,398
Accountancy Fees	056	950
Bank Charges	182	191
Computer Expenses	909	009
Donations	1,500	
General Expenses	2112	1
Grant - RNZIH Education Trust		870
Honorarium - Journal Editor & Website Maintenance		1,000
Insurance	1.29	179
Newsletters & Journals	12,756	11,944
Plant Collections	112/28	14,189
Printing, Stamps & Stationery	47	75
Rents	1,826	1,954
Skelenp Award	4,783	
Telephone & Tolls	•	445
Total Expenses	62,943	32,853
Depredation as per Schedule	3,528	5,012
Total Depredation	3,528	5,012
Total	1.07/99	37,865
Trustees Income (Deficit) before Taxation	31,758	(0,747)
Total Adjustments and Taxation for the Year	*	351
Net Surplus (Deficit) for the Year	31,758	(747)
	10000	

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Statement of Movements in Equity



Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.) As at 31 December 2015

31 Dec 2014

31 Dec 2015

Trust Equity		
Opening Balance	292,533	300,281
plus movement for the year		
Current Year Earnings	31,758	(7,747)
Total movement for the year	95,758	(0,747)
Total Trust Equity	192,258	292,533

Statement of Financial Position



Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.) As at 31 December 2015

31 Dec 2014

31 Dec 2015

Assets		
Qurrent Assets		
BNZ Cheque Account	21,433	20,817
BNZ Publishing Account	137,183	103,702
Trade and Other Receivables		
Trade receivables	*	(229)
Total Trade and Other Receivables		(329)
Total Current Assets	318,851	124,289
Non Current Assets		
Fixed Assets as per Schedule	5,073	8,601
Total Non Current Assets	5,073	109'8
Investments		
BNZ Yerm Deposit 03004	18809	58,366
BNZ Term De posit 03007	98,237	99,370
Total Investments	811,921	157,736
Total Assets	322,807	290,627
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
GST	(1,484.1)	(1,907)
Total Current Liabilities	(1,484)	(1,907)
Total Liabilities	(1,484)	(1,907)

Signoff

Retained Earnings Total Trust Equity

Not Assets Trust Equity

292,533

292,533

324,291

For and on behalf of:

Pres

Dated this:.....day of 2015

The accompanying notes from part of these financial statements. These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review, and should be read in conjunction with the statched Compliation Report. The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review, and should be read in conjunction with the stacked Compliation Report.

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Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.) 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015

Name	Cost	Rate	Purchased	Disposed	1-Jan-15	Purchases	Depreciation	Disposals	Accum Dep	31-Dec-15
Office Equipment										
Apple Keyboard	302	0.096None	1 Dec 2012		*		150		302	
Apple System Peripheral	90	0.096None	1 Dec 2012					-	90	
Banner	284	14.0%DV	1 Dec 2012		31	1	4		257	27
Brother HL 1040 Laser Printer	622	48.0%DV	1 Dec 2012				5.5		622	
Calculator	120	0.096None	1 Dec 2012						120	
Celeron Computer & Printer	1,855	48.0%DV	1 Dec 2012		4		2		1,853	2
Chair	475	0.09tNone	1 Dec 2012						475	
Computer - Philips	1,933	48.0%DV	1 Dec 2012				0.50		1,933	
Computer Printer	2,400	0.0%None	1 Dec 2012				(L)		2,400	
Computer Trolley	183	0.096None	1 Jan 2012						183	
Computer Trolley	536	0.096None	1 Dec 2012						536	
Cordless Phone	221	0.096None	1 Dec 2012			2			221	
Database	15,217	20.0%SL	30 Jun 2012		7,608		3,043		10,652	4,565
Database	8,080	20.0%SL	1 Dec 2012			÷			8,080	
Display Board	1,584	0.09tNone	1 Dec 2012				S 570		1,584	
Filing Cabinet	1,854	0.096None	1 Dec 2012						1,854	
Four Drawer Filing Cabinets (2)	617	0.096None	1 Dec 2012						617	•

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review, and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

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Depreciation Schedule



Name	Cost	Rate	Purchased	Disposed	1-Jan-15	Purchases	Depreciation	Disposals	Accum Dep	31-Dec-15
Heater	50	0.0%None	1 Dec 2012			-	-	-	50	
Klipbind Compact Punchbinder	575	0.0%None	1 Dec 2012				•	-	575	
Laptop for TFBIS	1,434	50.0%DV	30 May 2014		956	-	478	-	956	478
Laser Printer	5,300	0.096None	1 Dec 2012			-		-	5,300	
Microsoft & Pagemaker Software	991	48.0%DV	1 Dec 2012		•	•		•	991	•
Mistral Fan	47	0.096None	1 Dec 2012			-	-	-	47	
Two Drawer Filing Cabinet	444	0.0%None	1 Dec 2012						444	
Two Tier Adjustable Computer Unit	210	0.0%None	1 Dec 2012			•		•	210	
Typist Chair with Arms	229	0.0%None	1 Dec 2012						229	
Typist Chair without Arms	249	0.0%None	1 Dec 2012					-	249	
Website Software	551	48.0%DV	1 Dec 2012			-		-	551	
Total Office Equipment	46,453				8,600	•	3,528		41,381	5,072
Total	46,453				8,600		3,528		41,381	5,072

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Notes to the Financial



Notes to the Financial Statements

No provision for income tax has been made as there is no current or deferred tax payable

11. Taxation



Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2015 Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

1. Statement of Accounting Policies

The financial statements presented here are for the entity Royal NZ institute of Horsculture (inc.), and is engaged in the business of furtherance of horsculture and promotion of education.

These financial statements are of special purpose and have been prepared for taxation purposes on the principles contained in the income fax Act 2007 and internal management purposes.

The accounting policies adopted are not in conformity with geneally accepted accounting practice. Accordingly, the financials tatements should only be relied on for the expressly state dourpose.

2. Measurement Base

The accounting principles recognised as appropriate for the measurement and reporting of earnings and financial position on an historical cost basis have been used, with the exception of certain them for which specific accounting policies have been identified.

3. Changes in Accounting Polides

There have been no changes in Accounting Policies All policies have been applied on bases consistent with those used in previous years.

4. Fixed Assets and Depredation

A I fined assets are recorded at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depredation of the assets has been calculated at the maximum rates permitted by the income fax Act 2007.

The enty has the following asset classes.

The enty input of the Solva Dhinishing Value.

Office Equipment, 20% Straight Line.

5. Goods and Services Tax

These financial statements have been prepared on a GST exclusive basis with the exception of Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable

6. Investments

Share investments in listed companies are stated at their fair value. Initially they are recorded at oost, and are then valued at market bid prices at the Statement of Rhandal Position date in subsequent periods. Any gains or losses generated as a result of revaluation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance. Other investments are stated at cost less any amortisation. Amortisation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

7. Accounts Receivable

Receivables are stated at their estimated realisable value. Bad debts are written off in theyear in which they are identified.

8. Audit

9. Confingent Liabilities

These financial statements have not been audited.

At balance date conthigent liabilities have been estimated at \$MII (2013: \$NII).

10. Securities and Guarantees

There was no overdraft as at balance date nor was any facility arranged

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These financial statements have not been subject to audit or review, and should be read in conjunction with the stacked Compilation Report.

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Saving Notable Trees in Christchurch

According to the givealittle donation page at https://givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/chchnotabletrees, more than 2000 listed trees in Christchurch are under threat.

The website states that:

"As a result of a process introduced under the Canterbury Earthquake emergency powers legislation (the CER Act), protection is being removed from 80% of Christchurch's notable trees. We are a group who has organised to fight this environmental disaster, coming on top of so much other earthquake loss. So far we have negotiated a deal which would see more than 900 of these trees saved. We need help to save the rest, and to make sure that no one backs out of the agreement that has already been reached."

The NZ Notable Trees Trust (NZNTT) and other organisations are supporting the battle to save Christchurch's outstanding trees. The Trust, along with a number of other submitters, are fighting to save approximately 2000 heritage and notable trees from being struck off the Christchurch City Council protected tree schedule.

The NZNTT along with the Christchurch Civic Trust have set up the givealittle page to allow individuals and organisations to support the work going into retaining the important tree heritage of the Garden City.

On that page you can find an overview of the situation and a number of updates of our progress.

The organisers of the campaign ask that you show your support on the donations page alongside others like NZAA, RNZIH, NZNTT, The Specimen Tree Company, The Tree Council (Auckland) Inc, and many other industry members and concerned individuals. They are asking our members if they would consider donating \$50 (but really as much or as little as they can afford).

Meet some of the trees under threat and profiled on the givealittle page



The Burnside cabbage tree(s) (*Cordyline australis*) may be several hundred years old and with major cultural significance.



The "Yaldhurst Gum", a magnificent Tasmanian blue gum (Eucalyptus globulus).



The Cooptown limes (*Tilia*), an avenue planted in 1940 to commemorate the centenary of the Treaty of Waitangi and a significant landmark on the Christchurch-Akaroa highway (SH 75).



This landmark pōhutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*), at Clifton Bay in Sumner, is the largest of this species in Christchurch.



This northern rātā (*Metrosideros robusta*), at Le Bons Bay on Banks Peninsula is reputedly both the largest and oldest of this species within the wider Christchurch City area.

Research in the RNZIH archive

In October last year (2015) I made my second foray into the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture National Office archive housed in two small rooms on the Lincoln University campus. My interest in these documents began with my Master's research at Victoria University into garden heritage in this country and, specifically, into the challenges faced by the stewards of the gardens at our historic places.

During one busy week at Lincoln in July/August 2013 I pored through the many invaluable documents that record meetings and reports of the Institute since its earliest days. Of particular interest for my Master's thesis was the project of the Institute's Garden History Group which, in the mid-1980s, set out to make a national survey of garden heritage and to bring together New Zealanders interested in garden history and its various aspects, "... garden and landscape design and its relation to architecture, art, literature, philosophy and society including that of pre-European settlement of New Zealand; plant introductions to New Zealand; propagation and taxonomy; planning, maintenance and conservation of gardens, farm stations, estates and native bush remnants; other related subjects". ¹

My October visit to the RNZIH archive was prompted by my current PhD research which seeks to examine the process of arboreal heritage in this country and to determine the values, meanings and understandings, and the human and non-human forces that have shaped and continue to shape it today. Re-reading the archived documents has given me a detailed overview of the Institute's efforts since 1938 to achieve protection for notable and historic trees. The remit "that the Government be approached with a view to preserving the trees planted by our pioneers, or other historic trees" discussed and passed at the annual conference of that year set the scene for much of the activity towards recognition of our tree heritage that followed.²

The work of the Institute is at the heart of New Zealand's arboreal heritage process, and the minutes, reports and publications held at Lincoln University and elsewhere have again proved to be a rich primary resource. I am indebted to the RNZIH – and in particular Murray Dawson – for allowing me access once again to this very valuable archive.

Susette Goldsmith, PhD candidate Museum and Heritage Studies Victoria University of Wellington

Editors Note: We were pleased that Susette was able to make use of our records and that she recognises their value. The RNZIH National Office has been based on the Lincoln University campus since 1977 — for 39 years! Here are some dates, with thanks to David Shillito for hunting through our historic Bulletins:

- 1923: "The New Zealand Institute of Horticulture" was incorporated.
- 1939: the Institute was granted a "Royal Charter", and the national executive adopted the name "The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture".
- 1976: the Dominion Secretary was Keith Lemmon, PO Box 450, Wellington.
- 1977: the Dominion Secretary was Mrs R. Nugent, PO Box 12, Lincoln College.
- 1978: the Dominion Secretary was Mr R.A. Foubister.
- 1984: the National Secretary was Mr P.W.N. Neeson.
- 1985: the National Secretary was Mr Dave Cameron, and several Administration Officers filled that role since then, including Enid Reeves, Linda Sallabanks, and Tanya Maylam.
- 2011: our last Administration Officer, Tanya Maylam, resigned.

¹'RNZIH Garden History Group, Draft Proposal', 23 April 1986, RNZIH National Executive Minutes.

²Minutes of the 15th Annual Meeting and Conference of the RNZIH, Christchurch, 27 January 1938.

Following Tanya's departure, Eddie Wullems and Murray Dawson took on administration duties on a voluntary basis, using a 'virtual office' with the Institutes electronic files shared on 'the cloud'. So for the last five years, our National Office has been used for storing our physical records.

Lincoln University recently advised us that the building where we store our records is likely to be demolished in the near future, spelling the end of an era for the Institute. Our postal address and contact details will remain the same.

Mystery Plant

Does anyone recognise the flowering bulb in these photographs?

It has been growing in my garden for an indeterminate number of years (somewhere between eight and 20) but flowered only after I lifted it last spring from the shaded area where it was growing, replanted it in a container, and moved it along with other pots of bulbs to a sunny place.

When flower buds appeared in late January 2016 I thought it might be the double form of the summer snow-flake, *Ornithogalum candicans*, that I'd been given by a friend a few years ago, but as summer grew warmer and the buds began to swell it became patently obvious that it was not an *Ornithogalum*.

As the flowers opened it also became obvious that I was looking at a member of the Hyacinthaceae, and there was nothing about the flowers to suggest that it is anything other than a species of *Eucomis*. The problem is that except for the individual flowers, and spots on the lower stem and leaf bases, nothing about it fits *Eucomis*.

Some 10 species of this African genus are known, according to he plant list maintained by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the Missouri Botanical Gardens. My plant's over-all appearance cannot be matched to any of their descriptions. For most people, the main distinguishing feature of the genus *Eucomis* is the prominent pineapple-like tuft of leaves at the top of the flower stem. This feature gave the genus its name. "Eucomis" literally means "tufted head". A close inspection of my plant revealed that this feature is present, but only in a very rudimentary form, with "leaves" only about 2 mm long. You need a lens to see them.

Typically, *Eucomis* flowers are crowded together in a very dense spike, with the individual flowers on short pedicels, about 2 cm long. My bulb has widely spaced flowers, as can be seen from the photographs, with the flowers on pedicels between 5 cm and 7 cm long. In other respects, the plant is indistinguishable from the most common species, *E. comosa*. The flowers of my plant have the typical purple eye and greenish white petals of the latter species. As they age the petals turn bright apple green, so the tentative conclusion is that my plant is indeed *Eucomis comosa*, but in a very atypical form. But I could be wrong.

Mutations, or "sports" as they are known in horticulture, are not uncommon in frequently cultivated plants such as hostas, rhododendrons, and roses. Species, or more often hybrids, of *Eucomis* are less common, but are grown in many gardens throughout lowland New Zealand. It would be interesting to know whether anyone else has seen a mutation of this kind among them.

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