



ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

Newsletter

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Presidential Ponderings



RNZIH President Keith Hammett alongside Rhys Hall, winner of the Young Horticulturist competition. Photo: RNZIH Education Trust.

Ongoing renewal is a constant in the natural world. Similarly in any field of human activity it is important that each generation makes its contribution and ensures that there are younger generations to follow.

The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (RNZIH) strongly supports the work of the RNZIH Education Trust. The most visible activity of the Trust is organising the annual Young Horticulturist Competition. This is important as it identifies and encourages potential future leaders in various facets of New Zealand horticulture.

Last year the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the event going ahead. This year the bold initiative of combining practical activities and prize giving as a single outdoor event was undertaken. The competition was held at Karaka Bloodstock, the

horse racing industry's sales centre at Karaka, South Auckland. The grounds are beautiful and the facilities impressive.

The RNZIH sponsored the speech segment of the competition. It is essential that horticulture has a strong voice. Executive member Barbara Wheeler joined me and John McCoubrey, judge in previous years, to appraise the speeches.

The topic for the contestants was "The best way to predict the future, is to create it". Rhys Hall representing the wine industry was judged to have given the best speech and was also the overall winner of the contest.

A phrase in Rhys's speech struck a chord with me, namely "The present is our predecessor's future".

The Education Trust is to be congratulated for running a very successful and enjoyable event in challenging circumstances.

Another relationship, that is perhaps not widely known, is that the New Zealand Professional Florists Inc. (NZPF) organisation is affiliated with the RNZIH and all their award certificates are endorsed by the RNZIH.

The NZPF produce an attractive quarterly publication that is not solely concerned with arranging flowers. Articles concerning gardens and growing plants are included. It is particularly pleasing to see that the growing throngs of 'flower farmers' are being supported and encouraged by the florists. Many of the flower farmers are new to horticulture and will benefit from guidance provided by the NZPF.

Congratulations to NZPF Life Member Coral Macdonald. In the New Year's Honours List, Coral was awarded The Queen's Service Medal for Services to Floristry. This recognises numerous hours mentoring floristry students and being involved in the industry for more than six decades.

Keith Hammett
President, RNZIH

RNZIH Annual General Meeting 14th June 2022 via Zoom videoconferencing

In our December 2021 newsletter, we advised that the NZ Gardens Trust conference in Wellington has been rescheduled for April 2023. At that event, the RNZIH will again partner with the NZGT for our AGM and Banks Lecture. 2023 is also the 100th anniversary of the Institute.

For this year, we will hold a short AGM via videoconferencing. Documents will be circulated in advance by email.

**Please mark Tuesday, 14th June 2022,
7.30 pm in your diaries for our AGM
using Zoom videoconferencing.
Email office@rnzih.org.nz for details if
you wish to join us.**

AGM Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies / In Memoriam
3. Minutes of the 2021 AGM
4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2021 AGM
5. Presidents' Annual Report
6. Statement of Accounts for 2021, Budget for 2022 and confirmation of Auditor
7. Update of RNZIH Constitution
8. Branch Report (Auckland)
9. Trust and BGANZ Reports
10. Election of Officers
11. General Business.

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New members

We warmly welcome our new members though the NZGT:

The Urban Jungle, Auckland:
Mark van Kaathoven and Gene Dillman
Bradley's Garden, Ruapehu:
Melana and Simon Bradley
Longfield, Marlborough:
Rob and Lynne Hammond

Congratulations

2022 RNZIH Awardees

Congratulations to our 2022 Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture awardees.

We have two new associates (Gus Evans and John Clemens), five new fellows (Alan Matchett, Gordon Bailey, Ian Soper, Martin Keay and Sue Molloy), a garden history recipient (James Beattie), and a plant raiser (Avogrey Orchard). Jack Hobbs is our first horticultural communicator – this is a brand-new honour bestowed by the RNZIH for 2022.

An Associate of Honour (AHRH) of the RNZIH is the highest honour bestowed by the RNZIH, *“Awarded to persons who have given distinguished service to horticulture in New Zealand.”*



Glenys and Gus Evans AHRH, with their dog Pippi. Photo courtesy of David Haxton, *Kāpiti News*.

Gus Evans has contributed to the practise of horticulture over many years and in different ways. Since 1983, Gus has owned and operated Gus Evans Nurseries in Waikanae, growing a wide range of ornamental plants, New Zealand natives, perennials, trees, and shrubs. Although Gus and Glenys closed their nursery gates in November 2021, after nearly 40 years of service, their lifelong passion for horticulture will continue to thrive.

Gus is a strong supporter of the RNZIH and International Plant Propagators' Society New Zealand Region (IPPS–NZ). He has been an RNZIH member since 1970, and in 1990 received a Fellowship (FRIH). Gus served on the IPPS committee from 1982–88, was 2nd Vice-President in 1985, and treasurer from 1986–88. Gus has attended every IPPS–NZ conference and most field days over the years. His sentiments were captured well in a *Kāpiti News* interview (16th June 2021), where he said, “The New Zealand region of the society is one of the strongest in the world and an amazing group of people who will be friends forever.”

Dr John Clemens is a landscape ecologist, plant biologist and horticulturist. He has been an academic staff member of the University of Sydney, and of Massey and Lincoln Universities.

He has published numerous science and more practically-oriented papers across his areas of expertise. He was a member of the RNZIH for 16 years, editing the *New Zealand Garden Journal* from 2002 until 2004.



Dr John Clemens, RNZIH Associate of Honour (AHRIH) for 2022.

He worked with IPPS–NZ and the nursery industry while Director of the New Zealand Nursery Research Centre from 1987 to 1993. He was awarded the Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Scholarship in 2000 for work on kākābeak (kōwhai ngutu-kākā) biodiversity.

Following a move to Christchurch in 2004, John worked as a landscape architect before being appointed Curator of Christchurch Botanic Gardens in 2009. With the support of the Friends, international and local collaborators, especially those at the School of Biological Sciences, University of Canterbury, he revitalised botanical research in the Gardens. He has given many public talks on the history and potential of the Botanic Gardens and worked with others to guide their future development up until 2018.

John has been the scientific editor of the *Canterbury Botanical Society Journal* for the last 10 years and is actively researching the horticultural and scientific life of early Canterbury.

A Fellow of the RNZIH (FRIH) is bestowed on *“Members who have made a significant contribution to horticulture by their activities or interest in or service to horticulture.”*



Alan Matchett, Fellow (FRIH) of the RNZIH for 2022.

Alan Matchett began his horticulture career in 1980 with Dunedin City Council Parks Department as a horticultural apprentice. After completing his apprenticeship, Alan took on a succession of more senior roles. Then, in 2001 as a result of a restructure, he accepted the position of Team Leader, Botanic Garden & Cemeteries. In addition to the botanic garden, Alan managed Dunedin’s crematorium and cemeteries for the next 10 years until extra demands at the botanic garden released him of that role.

In 2020 the job title was changed to Botanic Garden Manager, a more appropriate fit for the leadership position of a NZ Gardens Trust six-star Botanic Garden.

Over his 42 years with Dunedin City Council and the botanic garden, Alan has had many notable achievements: seed collecting trips to China (1992) and Chatham Islands (1996) to expand the plant collections at Dunedin, re-establishing horticulture trade training and youth engagement in the early 2000s, presenting papers at various Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) congress’s, celebrating Dunedin Botanic Gardens’ 150th anniversary in 2013 – and delivering the RNZIH Banks Memorial Lecture on that subject, managing the replacement of

the Plant Propagation and Nursery Facility 2013–15 and most notably, securing the rights and hosting the prestigious 5th BGCI Global Botanic Garden and 6th BGANZ Congress's in 2013. Alan has served as Chairman of the BGANZ NZ Regional Group (2009–13), BGANZ Council NZ Vice President (2009–13), and is currently a BGANZ NZ Executive Committee Member (from 2005) and BGANZ Assistant Editor for the BOTANIC GARDENER publication (from 2013).

Alan and his wife Jane have been joint members of the RNZIH since 2014.

Gordon Bailey has had a long and varied career in parks and recreation centred in the southern regions of the South Island. After completing a Diploma in Horticulture and a Diploma in Parks and Recreation Administration at Lincoln College, Gordon worked for district councils at Waimate, Timaru, Oamaru (1985–86), Gore (1986–2005), and Queenstown (2005–14). He then worked for the Waikato District Council (2014–16) before returning south for positions in Queenstown, Waikato, and Waitaki. From 2018 to the present, Gordon is the Parks and Recreation Manager for the Central Otago District Council.

Over his career, Gordon remains actively involved in a wide range of professional organisations and the wider community. He is heavily involved in Recreation Aotearoa (formally the NZ Recreation Association), and has served on the Board Appointments Panel (2011–15, 2020–21) and Regional Advisory Group (2018–20). In recognition of his contributions, Gordon received the NZRA Ian Galloway Award (2000) and a Fellowship (2012). He has also served as International Parks and Recreation Association Asia-Pacific World Commissioner (2005–08) and Secretary (2008–12), and attended several international parks congresses.

Gordon is Founding Member of 'Yardstick', a national benchmarking project covering parks assets, services and related operations – since 2002 he has been on their Technical Advisory Group.



Gordon Bailey, Fellow (FRIH) of the RNZIH for 2022.

Other memberships include: the International Dendrology Society (since 1988); NZ Horticultural Industry Training Organisation, serving as a board member (1998–2000) and Chairman (2000–07); NZ Rhododendron Association (1984–2020), serving as President (2009–12); Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Inc., as a board member since 2003, and President since 2012; and the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (since 1985).

Gordon's volunteer and community involvement is also extensive. This includes garden clubs at Gore (Life Member since 2005), Wakatipu (2005–14, serving as President 2010–12), and Wanaka (from 2016), and Rotary Clubs at Queenstown (2005–14), Fairfield, Hamilton (2014–16), and Wanaka (2016–20). To complete this impressive list, Gordon has also served on the Otago Conservation Board (2011–14) and Waikato Conservation Board (2015–16) holding Chairperson and Deputy Chair roles.

Ian Soper formally began his horticulture career as an apprentice at Wallis's Nurseries (East Taieri, Mosgiel). After a brief role with Dunedin City Council leading an operational team overseeing city parks and reserves in the north of the city, Ian went the retail route before going out on his own maintaining some high-profile horticulture spaces such as



Ian Soper, Fellow (FRIH) of the RNZIH for 2022.

Olveston, Dunedin Teachers College, and Carrington Residential College.

Ian then moved to Nelson to take on a role with Sicon as Horticultural Manager, delivering amenity horticultural maintenance to Tasman District and Nelson City Councils.

The next step took Ian to Gore District Council where he spent 16 years as Parks and Recreation Manager, having oversight of high-profile public parks such as Gore Public Gardens and Bannerman Park, as well as other parks, playgrounds, street trees, city plantings and annual bedding displays.

In 2021 Ian moved to Ashburton District Council to take on the role of Open Spaces Manager. Ian values being able to deliver communities with quality 'places and spaces'. He has always supported training initiatives and advocated for employers to train apprentices. This was evident at Sicon, Gore District Council, and now ongoing with new apprentices at Ashburton. Ian says, "Growing our own [future gardeners and horticulturists] is the way to go". He is a dual assessor for the Sports Turf Industry Training Organisation and Primary Industry Training Organisation – Horticulture.

Several organisations have gained from Ian's wealth of knowledge and experience, namely NZ Recreation Association (now Recreation Aotearoa) where Ian was the Otago/Southland Regional Branch Chair and the NZ Park Agencies Managers Group (now Park Leaders Forum) where Ian was a foundation member and is current Chair of Finance. Ian has held a strong connection for more than 15 years with the NZ Gardens Trust, having two registered gardens in Gore, and now has aspirations with the NZGT for registering Ashburton gardens. Ian Soper has been an RNZIH member (via the NZGT) since 2006.

Sue Molloy is a long-standing Botanical Resources Coordinator at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. In this role she maintains the garden, herbarium, and library records, and has a special interest in botanical and horticultural history of Canterbury.



Sue Molloy FRIH, viewing a painting of J.F. Armstrong, Curator of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens 1867–89.

Sue has worked in the Gardens three times over 35 years. The first was in 1982 to gain practical work experience for a Diploma in Horticulture at Lincoln College the following year. The second was in 1984 as the Botanical

Technician with responsibilities including plant records and labels, visitor interpretation panels, and managing the Gardens contribution to the global seed exchange *Index Seminum*. Seed collecting in the Chatham Islands was a highlight of this period. In 1987 Sue gained a RNZIH National Certificate in Horticulture (Amenity). After spending a few years on her OE, including a short time at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Sue re-joined the Gardens staff in Christchurch as the Botanical Resources Coordinator in 1993.

In this capacity, she has personally been involved in databasing tens of thousands of hardcopy plant and herbarium records. Instead of being hand-painted, plant labels are now computer generated. Sue and her colleagues had a major transition in 2014, moving from their old 1950s cramped and damp facilities into a new building with a purpose-built research library and herbarium for their impressive collections. In 2017, John Clemens (the previous Curator) and Sue were successful in renaming the herbarium to the Lawrie Metcalf Herbarium. This fittingly commemorates Lawrie Metcalf AHRH, QSO (1928–2017), one of New Zealand’s most renowned horticulturists, and also a former Curator of Christchurch Botanic Gardens. Sue is also collaborating with John Clemens on research of John and Joseph Armstrong (father and son botanists who emigrated from England) and are publishing their work in a series for the *Canterbury Botanical Society Journal*.

The Christchurch Botanic Gardens were established in 1863 and Sue is passionate about all the historical aspects of the Gardens, including plants, people, buildings, furnishings, and archives. Sue is proud to have had a 20 year plus research project that she instigated come to fruition recently – in late 2021, the Magnetic Observatory Museum in the Gardens was opened to the public. In 1901, the magnetic observatory was erected in the gardens to assist with magnetic surveys including for Antarctic expeditions, and this history had largely been forgotten.

Sue Molloy has been a member of the RNZIH (via the Christchurch City Council) since 2009.

Martin Keay is a professional garden designer and creator in Auckland.



Martin Keay and his Australian terrier Bertie, working at Highwic. Photo by Marcel Tromp, supplied by Heritage NZ.

Martin is much respected and has been a driving force in Auckland gardens for many decades. He works in partnership with a great number of garden lovers and between them they create gardens to inspire and learn from. Martin combines his extensive horticultural knowledge with an artist’s eye, huge passion for plants, and hard physical work (he is in his 70s yet works like a man in his 20s). He has a deep knowledge of Auckland conditions, soils, weather, and topography which informs everything he does. His expertise is also in knowing and planting the best species and selections for the conditions in each garden in which he works. He seeks hard-to-find and underused plants from specialist growers throughout New Zealand to add interest to the gardens he develops. On top of this, he brings his artistic instincts and his vision of the garden

as a whole to bear on his plan. These skills, and his ability to inspire others, are the qualities which have enabled him to bring to the gardens of Auckland, both privately and in the public domain, a unique quality which would not exist without him.

Martin tirelessly gives his time and knowledge freely to many and is a person of great stature in the community. He has contributed a great deal of voluntary time to organisations and gardens such as Heritage Roses, Highwic, and the Nancy Steen Garden. He also speaks regularly to community groups about heritage roses, gardening and plants. Attendances at the events are always high as he is viewed as one of the most experienced gardeners in Auckland.

Martin is a 'master gardener' who fully deserves recognition through a Fellowship with the RNZIH. He has been a member of the RNZIH since 2018.

Congratulations to **Associate Professor James Beattie** for receiving the RNZIH Garden History Award (Award in Horticultural History and Conservation) for 2022.



Associate Professor James Beattie, 2022 recipient of the RNZIH Garden History Award.

James Beattie is a garden, environmental and world historian whose works focus on the Asia-Pacific region, mostly over the last two hundred years. His many books and articles explore cross-cultural exchanges occasioned by British imperialism and globalisation, especially through gardens and plant exchanges. James grew up in the Wairarapa and Yorkshire, and studied history at the University of Otago, where he gained a BA Hons (first class) and a PhD.

From 2005–07, he was Asia New Zealand Postdoctoral Fellow (University of Otago), where he worked on projects related to Lan Yuan 蘭園: Dunedin Chinese Garden, and Japanese gardens.

He then worked for 10 years in the History Programme at University of Waikato, becoming professor in 2017, and from 2017 at Victoria University of Wellington. Throughout, James has strived to promote the study of garden history amongst students and the general public, and to give the subject greater acceptance amongst the academy by demonstrating its applicability to a wide range of topics – from class, gender and race, to ecology, cross-cultural exchange and world history. At Waikato, he developed a cross-cultural graduate course on histories of gardens and landscapes, using the internationally renowned Hamilton Gardens in teaching, as well as giving numerous talks. He also co-founded the Garden History Research Foundation, which promotes understandings of historical gardens through public talks, papers and popular blogs, and in 2017 co-founded Routledge Studies in Gardens in History, which publishes books on garden history.

In 2018 he was appointed Honorary Curator, Lan Yuan 蘭園 Dunedin Chinese Garden, and holds honorary research appointments with several universities in East Asia, Africa, Europe, and Australasia.

James is currently working on several garden-history-related projects, related to Chinese migration, garden-making, health and botanical exchange. He feels privileged to work in the

area of garden history, not least because of the many wonderful people he has met and with whom he has collaborated, as well as the magnificent gardens he has visited.

Congratulations to **Avogrey Orchard**, near Gisborne, and owners **David and Judi Grey** who received the 2022 RNZIH Plant Raisers' award for their three new avocado selections: 'GreyStar', 'Eclipse', and 'Titan'.

These new green-skinned cultivars may be set to change the face of the avocado production industry. The Grey family are pioneers of growing and selecting avocado, dating back to about 1920.



David and Judi Grey, alongside one of their new avocado selections. Photo courtesy of the *Gisborne Herald*.

David and Judi Grey's work was profiled in the *New Zealand Garden Journal* (Vol. 23, No. 2, Dec 2020) and featured in an episode of *Country Calendar* (29th August 2021).

The RNZIH Horticultural Communicator Award is a new award for 2022. We are delighted to congratulate **Jack Hobbs** for being the first recipient.

Jack is widely known to the horticultural community and the gardening public. He is Manager of the Auckland Botanic Gardens, having worked there since 1988. Jack has been a presenter of television gardening programmes from 1991 until 2003, including eight years as a presenter on the beloved *Maggie's Garden Show*. He has been involved



Jack Hobbs, RNZIH Horticultural Communicator for 2022.

as writer and/or photographer for numerous magazines and gardening books. Since 1989 Jack has been a regular contributor of articles and photography to the *New Zealand Gardener*. With Terry Hatch he co-authored *Bulbs for New Zealand Gardeners and Collectors* (1994) and has contributed to other horticultural books including *Ferns for New Zealand Gardens* (Sandra Van der Mast and Jack Hobbs, 1998).

Jack has delivered many public lectures with ease and authority; truly a consummate communicator.

He is a long-standing member of the RNZIH, joining as a student in 1977. In 1990 he was awarded the Plant Raisers' Award (for his breeding work in the popular 'Wiri' series of *Hebe* and *Leptospermum* cultivars), in 1991 became a Fellow of the RNZIH, in 1996 became an Associate of Honour, and from 2006 to 2011 was the President of the RNZIH.

Congratulations to the **Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Trust** for being awarded an RNZIH Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Scholarship. Ōtari is a garden of international significance (with a six-star rating by the NZ Gardens Trust) and is the largest and most significant garden in the world dedicated solely to New Zealand native plants. It is adjacent to Wilton's Bush Reserve

which is an area of more than 100 ha of native bush (unlogged and regenerating), both lying within 5 km of central Wellington city. The Skellerup award will assist a project by Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Trust to produce a significant book recording the history of Ōtari and Wilton's Bush. The purposes of the book include:

- Recording of the history in a readable form, combined with suitable academic rigour
- Recording the stories of older Trust members and others who can still recall the earlier days
- Increasing the awareness of the population of the Wellington region that Ōtari has the largest and most significant botanic garden dedicated to NZ native plants in the world
- Increasing the awareness of the population of the Wellington region of the existence of this amenity so close to the city centre
- Promotion of NZ native plants for academic study, for public planting and for amateur gardeners
- Promotion of the principles of conservation, biodiversity, balance of ecosystems and inter-relations with humans and human activity
- Helping to ensure the survival of Ōtari-Wilton's Bush in the long term.

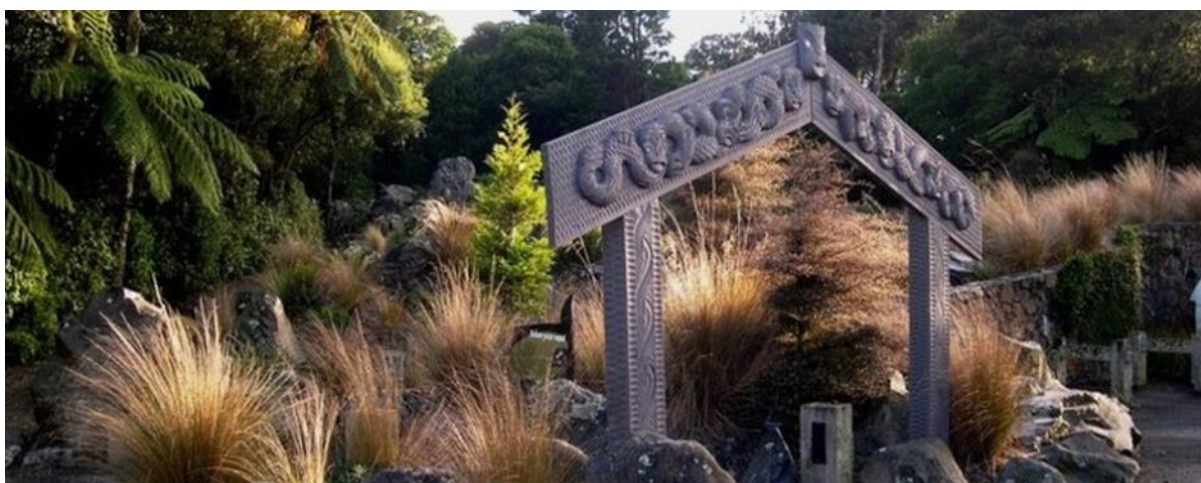
Publication of this worthwhile book is currently scheduled for October 2022.

Congratulations to **Timmy Cooper** of Dunedin for being awarded an RNZIH Memorial Prize Fund. This assisted him to attend the Young Horticulturist grand final in Auckland.



Tim Cooper competing at the Young Horticulturist Competition. Photo: RNZIH Education Trust.

Congratulations to **Mark Jury** of Tikorangi – The Jury Garden for being awarded the Jim Gardiner Magnolia Cup from the Royal Horticultural Society (UK) in December 2021. This international award recognises Mark's contribution to the genus *Magnolia*, including the development of high-quality hybrids, now regarded as garden classics and the introduction of the Fairy series. As stated by the RHS, gardens across the world are richer thanks to Mark's dedication, discernment, and creativity. In 2003, Mark received the Todd Gresham Magnolia award, and in 2007 the RNZIH Plant Raisers' Award for his breeding work on *Camellia*, *Magnolia*, and *Rhododendron* (*New Zealand Garden Journal*, 2007, Vol. 10, No. 1, pp. 21–22).



Entrance to Ōtari-Wilton's Bush. Photo: NZ Gardens Trust.



Mark Jury holding some of his deciduous *Magnolia* selections he grew from seed.



Magnolia 'Fairy Blush'. Photo courtesy Tikorangi – The Jury Garden.

Congratulations to **Coral Macdonald** NZPF Dip.MF QSM, who was awarded The Queen's Service Medal for Services to Floristry in the New Year's Honours list.

Coral has been a florist for more than 60 years and has volunteered countless hours to mentor floristry students. She has helped prepare students for examinations, been an examiner and helped organise examinations for the NZPF. She has been recognised with Master Florist Status by the New Zealand Professional Florists Inc. (NZPF) and has been made a Life Member. She has provided her floristry services to the government and various embassies in Wellington over many years. Since 1987 she has provided formal wreaths and chaplets for

New Zealand government, military, and commemorative events, such as Armistice Day and ANZAC Day to be laid by New Zealand officials overseas. Coral Macdonald is well regarded for her knowledge, attention to detail and cultural appropriateness when preparing formal floral arrangements.



Coral Macdonald NZPF Dip.MF QSM, awarded The Queen's Service Medal for Services to Floristry. Photo: NZPF.

Congratulations to **Malcolm Wong** of Dunedin, who has been awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) in the New Year's Honours list for services to the community and New Zealand -China relations.

Malcolm was Treasurer, Secretary and the Chair of the fundraising subcommittee of the Dunedin Chinese Garden Trust since its inception in 1997. He has been Chair of the Trust since 2008. The Trust has built the only authentic Chinese Garden in Australasia and has gifted it to the city of Dunedin.

Through the Trust, he has fostered the Dunedin -Shanghai sister city relationship, visiting Shanghai on several occasions.

He has supported the Lawrence Chinese Camp Trust who work to record the history of Chinese and gold in central Otago.

Wider community contributions include serving as a councillor on the Otago University Council, as a trustee of the Otago Community Trust, and on the vestry of St John's Church in Dunedin.



Malcolm Wong ONZM.

Introduction

The Young Horticulturist Competition is the 'Grand Final' of the New Zealand horticulture industry competitions. This national competition encourages young people, under the age of 30, employed in the horticulture industry to develop their skills and knowledge. The numerous prizes focus on educational opportunities and career development to not only foster personal development, but also professional and leadership capabilities.

Sector organisations, within the horticulture industry, carry out regional and national competitions to identify sector representatives to go forward to the Young Horticulturist Competition. Six sector finalists, including NZ Arboriculture for their first year, competed in the 2021 Competition held on February 22nd & 23rd 2022 at the Karaka Bloodstock, Auckland. This was the event's seventeenth competition.

The Competition is seen as a premier event in the horticulture industry; usually the awards dinner is attended by more than 200 guests representing a cross section of the horticulture industry including sponsors, suppliers, sector association representatives as well as finalist's employers, friends and family. However, this year due to COVID-19 red light restrictions and the competition having been postponed twice due to lockdowns, we were finally able to run at a limited capacity, with extra precautionary Health & Safety measures in place, finishing up the two-day competition with a livestreamed prizegiving.

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture Education Trust Report, March 2022



During May 2021 the RNZIH Education Trust held a one-day Professional Development Day providing the six 2019 competitors, finalists from the previous Competition in 2019 (no 2020 Competition due to COVID-19), with some inspirational leadership training as well as introducing them to key suppliers and sponsors in the industry. This Professional Development Day encourages cross-sector networking opportunities and further development of connections with the finalists.

The RNZIH Education Trust oversees the organisation of the Young Horticulturist

Competition and the annual Professional Development Day, on behalf of the industry and official partnering sponsors. The vision is to promote excellence and opportunities for young people across horticulture through a high-profile competition. The Education Trust is a not-for-profit, charitable trust.

To ensure the Competition stays strong and relevant in today's environment, several new initiatives were introduced into the 2018 Competition. These continued in our 2019 and recent 2021 Competitions and were fine-tuned to attract a variety of new judges and their expertise.

The 2021 Young Horticulturist Finalists were (left to right):



2021 Young Horticulturist Competition Finalists.

- **Rudrik Tripathi** from Blooming Hill Flowers
- **Hayden Parker** from Morgan & Pollard Landscapes
- **Danielle McBride** from Rural Design 1984 Ltd
- **Rhys Hall** from Indevin – Bankhouse Estate
- **Timmy Cooper** from Bluestone Gardeners and Nursery
- **Martin Manea** from Wellington City Council (not pictured).

Results from the 2021 Young Horticulturist Competition

The 2021 Young Horticulturist

First: Rhys Hall. Rhys is the Assistant Vineyard Manager at Indevin – Bankhouse Estate in Marlborough.



Rhys Hall, overall winner of the Young Horticulturist Competition.

Second: Danielle McBride. Danielle is the Dispatch & Procurement Manager at Rural Design 1984 Ltd. in Northland.

Third: Timmy Cooper. Timmy is a horticulturist at Bluestone Gardeners in Dunedin.

The Countdown Market Innovation Project

First: Danielle McBride. Danielle's project was for an innovative new user-friendly website service 'The Plant Hub' to simplify the sales and procurement process for plant nurseries nationwide.

Second: Rhys Hall. Rhys' technical innovation that solves a clear industry need, a sensor for Machine Harvesting Traceability and Dashboard.

Third: Timmy Cooper. Timmy's project was focussed on connecting Aotearoa's tamariki to native flora and conservation through a child friendly fun educational pack issued each month.

Other Completed Countdown Market Innovation Projects

Rudrik Tripathi: Rudrik's innovation addressed overuse of plastic in the sector and tackled the perennial industry issue of differentiating New Zealand Flowers from imports.

Hayden Parker: Hayden's innovation was a tree QR code, traceability tool ready for implementation.

Martin Manea: Martin's innovation was a potential solution for the troublesome issue of trees growing around power lines.

2021 Individual Award Winners

T&G Practical Activities Award: Rhys Hall, for the highest overall practical activities score during the Grand Final. Rhys won a \$3,500 travel scholarship.

Fruitfed Supplies Leadership Award: Danielle McBride. Danielle won a \$2,500 scholarship towards a Leadership or Outward Bound course.

Primary ITO Career Development Award: Hayden Parker. Hayden won a \$3,000 scholarship to assist with further study or to attend a conference and will be adopted as the Primary ITO ambassador to promote training and career pathways in horticulture.

Bayer Best Practice Award: Rhys Hall, for the highest score in a range of Grand Final activities with a focus on crop management and sustainability practices receives a \$2,500 scholarship.

RNZIH Best Speech Award: Rhys Hall, winning a \$500 cash award.

Horticulture Trust Community Engagement Award: Rhys Hall, winning a \$1,500 cash prize.

Countdown Best in Sector Award: Rhys Hall, winning a \$3,000 cash prize.

Countdown Award: Each finalist received a \$500 award for perseverance and commitment to the competition.

New Zealand Gardens Trust



From the Chair

Kia Ora Members and Friends. NZGT Board meetings for 2022 resumed at the end of January, again on Zoom. This will be our practice in the immediate future.

At the January meeting we discussed the format for the NZGT Annual Meeting, which will be held on Sunday 1st May, through a livestream platform.

The Board also discussed NZGT's assessment process and the need to review and consider introducing new criteria. For example, the Board considers it is important to reference and include the principles of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) and how it interfaces with our gardens. The Board decided that any new criteria under consideration should be 'test-run' on two gardens this year, with the aim of formalising a proposal which can be presented to members and friends, at the Annual Meeting in 2023.

Planning for the new NZGT website is still underway. This is not a straight-forward process, and the Board is aware that a balance needs to be struck between the need for an improved website and the resources it takes to achieve this. We will keep you informed on progress but we hope to have a new and improved website up and running by the end of 2022.

Julie Sperring, our Trust Manager is also working on extending NZGT's reach through social media. To that end she is establishing a 'SMART' team – a 'Social Media Action and Response Team'. Read more below and get in touch if you can help!

Meanwhile, enjoy your gardens and keep well.

**Wendy Palmer
Chair NZGT**

2021 Assessments and new gardens

NZGT's 2021 Assessment round was an exercise in uncertainty! In July we had the potential to visit seven new and 31 existing gardens, but the lockdown, including Auckland's extended lockdown, brought this number down to 23. With four Auckland-based assessors unable to travel, and gardens in that region (and in Northland) inaccessible, our assessment plans were in a constant state of flux.

However, we have now managed to see some wonderful new gardens, including one in Auckland, one in the King Country and two in Marlborough. All four of our new gardens have come into the Trust with five-star ratings – a first in recent times!

North Island gardens

'The Urban Jungle' is a tropical garden in the inner-city suburb of Freemans Bay, owned by Mark van Kaathoven and Gene Dillman.



The Urban Jungle, Auckland.

Needless to say, the garden is full of tropical and semi tropical species dominated by palms and bromeliads. The plants provide horizontal and vertical cover and stray onto the house roof and out onto the road berm. The extensive landscaping of surrounding public spaces is part of Auckland's Greenways initiative.

Originally, the assessors were looking forward to visiting nine gardens (including three new) located in the Waikato, Taupō and Bay of Plenty. After months of changing plans (flights/ car hire/accommodation), all but one of these were postponed until 2022.

Tony Barnes managed to visit Bradley's Garden in Taumarunui in December. Owned by Melana and Simon Bradley, this is a five-acre garden of 'original and striking' rooms, where Tony especially noted the wedding ceremony area, framed by a *Thuja* hedge, and the sunken amphitheatre. The photo below shows the amphitheatre with its limestone terraces.



Bradley's Garden, Taumarunui.

Pauline Murphy and Rob Watson were able to tour Taranaki gardens. A wicked storm the day before the planned visit had Valda at Te Kainga Marire on the phone, expressing concern about the number of fern fronds scattered all over the garden and her fear that they couldn't be cleaned up in time. She was up early clearing on the day of the visit and her garden was declared 'better than ever'.

Potential assessment visits in Palmerston North, Wellington, and Nelson were postponed early on because of the difficulty in getting appropriate assessors to the regions.

There were also limited gardens from these areas on the roster this year. The costs of our visits have to be considered and we try hard to group gardens together within a region. We look forward to developing a full itinerary across the country later this year!

South Island gardens

Rob Watson assessed three gardens in the Blenheim area, including two new gardens: a lovely country garden called 'Eliza's Garden Cottage', submitted by NZGT Chair Wendy Palmer and the very formal Italianate 'Longfield' garden submitted by Rob and Lynne Hammond.



This photo (above) shows how the planting reinforces the coherence of Rob and Lynne's design concept for Longfield.

Wendy Palmer's new garden, Eliza's Garden Cottage is being lovingly restored with the aim of honouring its historic horticultural origins while realising her thirty-year dream of creating a *Cardiocrinum* forest. The image below is testament to that development.



The other Marlborough garden assessed was the perennial favourite 'Winterhome' at Kekerengu, an ongoing tribute to the original designer, the late Susie Macfarlane. Her husband Richard and their adult children now run the property.

Paul Roper-Gee and Renee Davies had no new gardens to visit in Canterbury, but the existing gardens all maintained their high standards. Stoneycrop, belonging to Helen and Brian Coker, deservedly moved up a star. Updates and photos of the many and varied plant species in their maturing garden are often shared by these passionate gardeners on the Trust's Facebook page.

The final region visited was Otago/Southland. Pauline and Dylan assessed the Orokonui Ecosanctuary and three lovely Southland Parks: Bannerman Park, the Gore Public Gardens, and Queens Park in Invercargill. The sanctuary is a must visit for all, including eco-inspired visitors. The three public parks have huge old trees and well laid-out, interesting planting.

The constantly improving quality of the gardens we assessors visit, continues to amaze us. No two gardens are alike. Each has a special quality which we relish. The opportunity to wander through spaces that reflect their owners' creativity and originality, that showcase their understanding of planting design, is a treat for us – and the public – to enjoy.

Thank you to all garden owners, including those we did not manage to visit in 2021. We understand your disappointment if we were not able to get to your property but thank you for your patience and we look forward to visiting you this year. Thanks also to the Assessors who remained patient and flexible throughout, and particularly to Pauline and Rob who undertook more than their share of the 2021 assessments. We would also like to thank Julie, Trust Manager, who managed multiple visit changes with her usual patience, competence and good humour.

Jan Woodhouse
Lead Assessor

Collectors' Gardens

For some time, the Trustees have had a desire to broaden the scope of members of the NZ Gardens Trust and include passionate gardeners who may have gardens that don't fit neatly into the existing NZGT assessment criteria. A subcommittee has been working on a format for a new class of membership under the heading Collectors' Gardens – it's all about the plants. We envisage that this may encompass a wide range of potential gardens such as:

- Collections of a specific genus or genera
- General collections of rare or 'special' plants
- Herb/medicinal gardens
- Māra Māori
- Gardens based on permaculture
- Nurseries with gardens attached.

A requirement will be that the gardens are open to visitors, but this may be for a relatively short season in some cases – a snowdrop collection for instance may only be able to open for a couple of weekends. We envisage that the gardens will not be assessed as current gardens are, but an application form would be completed and two of the following might be required: be known to an existing NZGT member; have appeared in a publication; or provide two independent references.

If accepted for membership the gardens will receive a listing on the website with a photo; however this will not be to the extent of the promotion that assessed gardens get.

Existing members may have collections of plants within their gardens and there is the opportunity for a secondary listing under the Collectors' Gardens heading.

We are at the stage of 'testing the water' and approaching potential members to obtain feedback on the proposal. It may be necessary to tweak the offering, but we hope to go 'live' with the new membership category later this year.

If you are interested in providing constructive feedback, potentially listing your collection, or if you know of people in your area who we could approach, please contact Brian Coker at b.hcoker@xtra.co.nz.

Brian Coker
Trustee and subcommittee convenor

Meet the Trustees: Peter Gillies



Peter Gillies, Trustee of the NZGT.

Position with NZGT: Elected 2019. Conference Committee Chair for 2023 conference.

Garden: 'Gillies Garden', Silverstream, Wellington. A five-star Garden of National Significance, this city garden is nestled in a bush-clad valley. It was recently featured in the *NZ House and Garden* December issue and in the newly released book *In the Company of Gardeners* by Juliet Nicholas and Sue Allison.

Interest in gardening: Peter says there's always been a family interest in gardening, and for him, the activity of gardening and its creation satisfies his right side of the brain. He finds the peace and quiet of garden activity was a welcome change from a busy medical practice. He was also inspired by some key garden designers, notable among them, John Patrick from Victoria.

Best highlight of gardening so far: Making a substantial water feature which is surrounded by buxus and yew hedging.

Future plans: To experiment with new ideas, such as creating a hydrocotyle lawn from two New Zealand native species: *Hydrocotyle novae-zeelandiae* and *Hydrocotyle elongata*.

A garden Peter would like to have if he could: Hidcote (nothing too grand) and an accompanying fleet of enthusiastic gardeners to help with the work. Closer to home, Broadfield in Canterbury (again with a fleet of garden helpers).

#needyourhelpwithsocial!



Kia ora! Is anyone out there keen to join my 'Social Media Action/Response Team' (SMART) to develop ideas and build some momentum around our online community?

I see this as an opportunity to both contribute and learn, so you don't need to be an expert, but you do need to be willing.

Working with me to gather and schedule content would make a massive difference to our presence online – and would give me personally a huge boost!

Please get in touch with me if you're interested – I'd really love to hear from you.

Ngā mihi.

Julie Sperring
NZGT Trust Manager
nzgt@rnzih.org.nz

100 years of horticultural history: The RNZIH journal and newsletter archive

The RNZIH journal and newsletter archive is an invaluable horticultural and social resource spanning a century of contributions.

As part of our centenary celebrations in 2023, we are seeking to digitise our early hardcopies and provide open access to them.

Background

Our journal and newsletter archive provides a unique and invaluable repository of 100 years of horticultural knowledge in New Zealand.

There are numerous articles on indigenous and exotic plants and horticultural practice that are still highly relevant today. Equally important is the social history – tracing changing trends in horticulture, recording the establishment of new gardens/arboreta, and celebrating achievements of past horticulturists.

Unfortunately, this 'deep information well' is largely inaccessible to the community and the RNZIH hardcopies are vulnerable.

No journal or newsletter prior to 2002 is available online. Some physical copies are accessible – by appointment only – at a few specialist libraries, such as the Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa National Library of NZ and Uare Taoka o Hākena Hocken Collections. This is of limited value as the contents are not electronically searchable making it very difficult to find the information being sought.

For 40 years, the RNZIH archive was held in our National Office at Lincoln. However, the lease of this space ceased in 2018, following notice of Lincoln University's intent to demolish the building.

As a temporary measure, the physical archive is held at the RNZIH editors' private residence which does not provide a permanent solution for preserving this resource and making it publicly available.

In addition, there is some silverfish damage dating back to storage of the collection at Lincoln University.

Digitisation project

To provide full community access to this repository, and to ensure preservation of this valuable resource for all New Zealanders (and the global community), we seek to digitise our hardcopies and provide open access to them.

We estimate that this will involve scanning more than 11,500 pages of publications ranging from 1925 to 2005. These include a multitude of titles for our newsletters and journals:

- *Bulletin of the New Zealand Institute of Horticulture*: Vol.1, No.1, Jan 1925 to Vol.1, No.5, May 1928.
- *Journal of the New Zealand Institute of Horticulture*: Vol.1, 1929 to Vol.17, No.2, 1947 (or later).
- *NZ Plants & Gardens: Journal of the RNZIH*: Vol.1, No.1, Dec 1954 to Vol.7, No.8, Sep 1968.
- *Journal of the RNZIH N.S.:* Vol.1, No.1, Dec 1968 to Vol.2, No.5, Dec 1971.
- *Annual Journal of the RNZIH*: 1973, Vol.1 to 1989, Vol.16.
- *Newsletter RNZIH*: Vol.1, No.2, Sept 1972 to Vol.1, No.8, Dec 1975.
- *Horticulture in New Zealand (Bulletin of the RNZIH)*: Vol.1, Spring 1976 to Vol.49, Autumn 1989.
- *Horticulture in New Zealand (Journal of the RNZIH)*: 1990, Vol.1, No.1 to 2001, Vol.4, No.2.
- *Newsletter RNZIH*: 1994, No.1 (and earlier) to 2005, No.3.

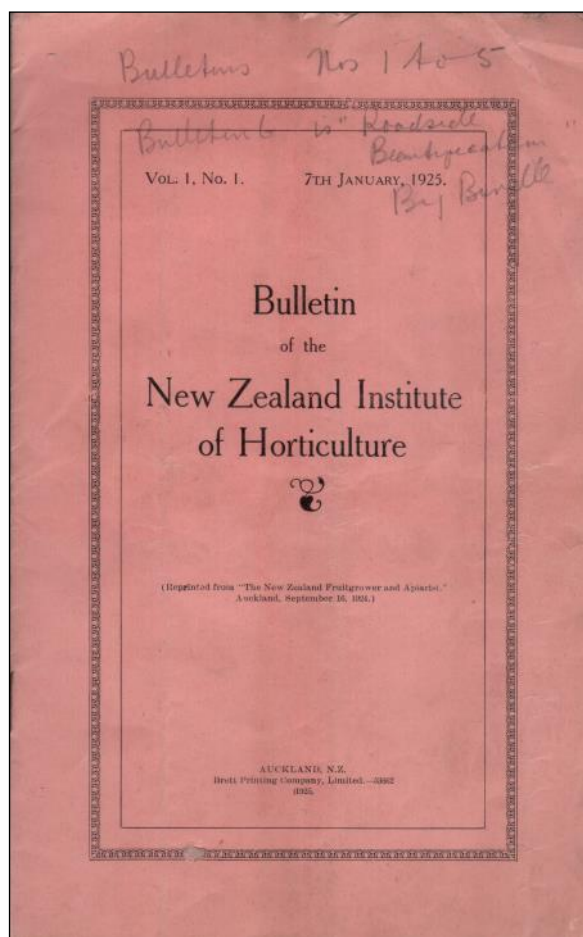
This proposed new online archive, predating 'digital age' versions, will be made freely available on the RNZIH website as high quality PDF files. Free digital access will reduce wear-and-tear on the remaining print-based and largely inaccessible journals and newsletters.

We will also work with specialist horticultural/botanical libraries (e.g., at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin) to supply any gaps in their current holdings, providing them with better coverage and permanent homes for the physical copies.

In addition, the National Library of NZ will receive related resources (e.g., our historic photos and minute-books) for conservation and protection.

To help achieve these aims, we have submitted a Lottery Environment and Heritage application. We will keep members informed of progress and let you know if we are successful.

Murray Dawson



Front cover of *Bulletin of the New Zealand Institute of Horticulture*, Vol.1, No.1, 7th January 1925. This is the first bulletin of the RNZIH. The first article contains the aims and aspirations of the Institute outlined by then President Dr L. Cockayne. He writes: "Foremost amongst the immediate aims stands forth the matter of horticultural education..."



Cover of the Winter 1990 Journal, illustrating a diversity of mānuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*) cultivars. Sadly, several of the cultivars photographed are now rare or extinct in New Zealand.



1994 RNZIH Newsletter, promoting the Open Garden Scheme – this initiative was a fore-runner to the work of the NZ Gardens Trust. The RNZIH has patchy coverage of newsletters from this era.



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