



ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

Newsletter

2024 No. 1, March
ISSN 1174-6947 (Print)
ISSN 1179-7444 (Online)

Presidents' Report: 2023–2024

Presidents' Report prepared for the 2024 Annual General Meeting

Last year we held the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in July to celebrate 100 years since the founding of the New Zealand Institute of Horticulture on 18 July 1923. We received the Royal Charter from His Majesty, The King, and on 23 March 1939 adopted the new name "The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture".

The celebration in Auckland was managed by the Auckland Branch Committee and was a great success. The tree plantings, talks, tours, and discussions all added to the weekend along with a successful AGM and the presentation of awards. Thank you to everyone involved. Much of this was reported in our previous newsletter.

Later in the year our President Dr Keith Hammett decided to retire from that position and his work for and with the RNZIH was acknowledged in our last newsletter. However, it is proper that we formally acknowledge his contribution in the 2024 Annual Report. Keith, thank you for everything you have done for the RNZIH. Keith has not left the National Executive but carries on as Immediate Past President and continues to bring his wisdom and experience to our meetings.

As it is not that long since our last AGM I will cover a number of topics that stretch back prior to that and continue today.

RNZIH awards

We continue a long tradition of presenting awards to outstanding people who love all things horticulture. Short citations are in this newsletter. Please read them.



Congratulations to the 2024 awardees who are listed below.

Associate of Honour (AHRH), limited to 60 members at any one time:

- **Des Snell** of Auckland (*Commercial Horticulture* magazine)
- **Diane Griffin** of Auckland (Auckland Horticultural Council)
- **John McCullough** of New Plymouth (Egmont Seeds).

Fellowship (FRIH):

- **Barbara Wheeler** of Auckland (Curator, Auckland Botanic Garden)
- **Lady Gillian Deane** of Kapiti ('Te Maimai' garden)

Plant Raisers' Award:

- **Bob Matthews** of Whanganui (Matthews Roses)

Garden History Award:

- **Tony Barnes** of New Plymouth (retired)

Horticultural Communicator Award:

- **Fiona Eadie** of Dunedin (Larnach Castle).

Digital archive

Members will recall that in 2023 we received a Lottery Environment and Heritage Committee grant to fund the digitisation of our historic journals, bulletins, newsletters, and other publications from the very beginnings of the Institute. We were also able to separately digitise some specialist publications which we have been entrusted with and have permission to make publicly available.

The project, '100 years of horticultural history', involved scanning and uploading more than 11,500 pages from more than 200 publications produced from 1925 to 2005. Work was undertaken as part of the RNZIH centenary celebrations. Content so far includes:

- RNZIH Newsletters: 1925 onwards
- RNZIH Journals: 1929 onwards
- History of the RNZIH (1925–1950) by M.J. O'Sullivan.

Additionally, the following have also been digitised:

- *Subtropicals* magazine. Magazine of the Subtropicals Society published from 2002 to 2006 as "A forum for the exchange of ideas and information on the identification, growth requirements and sourcing of native and exotic subtropical plants (and tropics) suitable for gardens in the milder parts of NZ."
- *Epiflora* magazine. Magazine of the Wellington Hoya and Epiphytic Plant Society published quarterly from 1992 to 2011 by the Wellington Hoya and Epiphytic Plant Society to: "Share thoughts, observations and ideas in growing hoyas and epiphytic plants."
- NZ Clivia Club magazine. Archive of the New Zealand Clivia Club which ran from 2002 to 2022. They also had a website until 2020.

RNZIH National Office	PO Box 85012, Lincoln University, Lincoln 7647 Email: office@rnzih.org.nz Website: www.rnzih.org.nz Facebook: www.facebook.com/RNZIH
Patron	Governor General of New Zealand The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO
Vice Patron	Beverley McConnell, MNZM, QSM, AHRH

National Executive

Alan Jolliffe AHRH (RNZIH President)	7 Greenbank Place, Waitikiri, Parklands, Christchurch 8083 Mobile: 027 204 5679 Email: jolliffea@rnzih.org.nz
Dr Keith Hammett QSM, AHRH (Immediate Past President)	488C Don Buck Road, Massey, Auckland 0614 Phone: (09) 833 9453 Email: hammettk@rnzih.org.nz
Penny Cliffin FRIH (Notable Trees Trust representative)	34 Lloyd Ave, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 Phone: (09) 846 7193 Mobile: 021 488 000 Email: cliffinp@rnzih.org.nz
Murray Dawson MNZM, AHRH (RNZIH Webmaster; Journal Editor)	Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, PO Box 69040, Lincoln 7640, Canterbury Phone: (03) 321 9645 Email: dawsonm@rnzih.org.nz
Clare Shearman FRIH (BGANZ representative)	Wellington Botanic Gardens 101 Glenmore St, Kelburn, Wellington 6012 Phone: (04) 499 1400 Email: shearmanc@rnzih.org.nz
Chris Webb FRIH (RNZIH Treasurer)	'Woodbridge', 8630 Paeroa Kopu Road, RD 4, Paeroa 3674 Mobile: 021 0234 3936 Email: webbc@rnzih.org.nz
Barbara Wheeler FRIH	Auckland Botanic Gardens, 102 Hill Road, Manurewa 2105, Auckland Phone: (09) 267 1457 Email: wheelerb@rnzih.org.nz

Associated Trusts

Hamish Gates (RNZIH Education Trust Chairperson)	Email: chair@younghort.co.nz Website: www.younghort.co.nz
Victoria Read (Trust Manager, New Zealand Gardens Trust)	Mobile: 027 694 8778 (027 NZGTrst) Email: info@gardens.org.nz Website: www.gardens.org.nz
Brad Cadwallader FRIH (New Zealand Notable Trees Trust)	33 Cropp Place, Richmond, Nelson 7020 Email: nzntt@cropp-place.nz Website: www.notabletrees.org.nz

This digital archive is already being used by people searching for historical information on the Institute, plants, horticulture, and other topics. Take time to investigate and read this new content as you continue your adventures in horticulture.

This work was led by Murray Dawson who is our editor, webmaster, and fount of all knowledge. Thank you, Murray.

Research

Our new digital archive, outlined above, provides a new resource for those researching notable horticulturists, garden history, or who need access to a wealth of early articles, many of which are just as relevant today.

We are continuing the work of the 'Taking Stock' project by undertaking further presence in New Zealand investigations for exotic species of interest to professional growers and plant enthusiasts. This involves collaborations with Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, Massey University, the Environmental Protection Authority, MPI, and specialist plant groups and societies.

The RNZIH are working more closely with the Hebe Society, based in the UK, to formally register hebes and other NZ native plants.

Facebook

Since beginning the RNZIH Facebook page in 2017 it has gathered attention from members and other interested people, and today it has more than 1,500 Followers. We post information on the page that is relevant to members and our followers. It also acts as a simple way for us to send out items of interest, such as profiles of our award winners to a much wider audience.

Website

Visitors to our website will have noticed changes throughout the year. Our Webmaster Murray Dawson has been busy updating many of the popular sections to a more modern look and feel. The big addition has been the digital archives noted above.

Murray has prepared a website and publications report for this newsletter and the AGM.

Long term and continuing goals

Thinking about the future is also about knowing where we have come from and what we are doing now. The National Executive is continuing this process, and topics we are considering are awards, publications, website, social media, cultivar registration, AGM, Banks Lecture, conferences/symposia, plant collections, closer relationships with other horticultural groups, horticultural careers, and professional development.

It would be useful if members thought about how we can develop and enhance these areas and provide some feedback to the National Executive by email or personal discussions.

Knowing where we have come from also enables us to think about our role in horticultural education. Members may know that up until about 1990 the RNZIH ran many examinations and issued diplomas and certificates. Unfortunately, with the creation of ITO's (Industry Training Organisations) the Government of the day changed our Act of Parliament to remove that function. Our Diplomas included:

- National Diploma in Horticulture (Amenity)
- National Diploma in Horticulture (Floriculture)
- National Diploma in Horticulture (Fruit Production)
- National Diploma in Horticulture (Nursery Production)
- National Diploma in Horticulture (Vegetable Production).

Our Certificates included:

- Certificate In Horticultural Management
- Certificate in Horticultural Theory
- Certificate in Parks Practice (Groundskeeping)
- Horticultural Sales Certificate
- National Certificate in Horticulture (Amenity)

- National Certificate in Horticulture (Floriculture)
- National Certificate in Horticulture (Fruit Production)
- National Certificate in Horticulture (Nursery Production)
- National Certificate in Horticulture (Vegetable Production).

Many graduates fondly remember the NDH and its acceptance as the standard for horticulture in New Zealand. Times have changed with new qualifications in the NZQA system and at Polytechnics, now Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology, and at universities.

Options we can consider include a system of recognition of continuing professional development or establishing a professional diploma outside the NZ Government qualifications framework – if we can.

I found this paragraph in a 1989 Editorial in the RNZIH Bulletin by Lawrie Metcalf which is still true today:

“Perhaps apprentices unintentionally, or otherwise, labour under the misapprehension that once they have their course ..., they have then completed their learning process. Nothing could be further from the truth because their learning has only just begun.”

Your thoughts on this topic would be appreciated.

Behind the scenes

We are compiling an Operations Manual to document many of our administration functions. This takes time and frequent updating but is worthwhile by providing a consistent and valuable resource for existing and new members of the National Executive.

Clear documentation of our back-room functions helps ensure they are streamlined and work well in our modern society.

Finance

The financial report is provided by our Treasurer in this Newsletter for the AGM. At present we are financially stable but do not have reserve funds for any major new projects. Much of our work is carried out voluntarily. We have been fortunate to gain financial assistance from Lotteries for the digitisation project and MPI for the ‘Taking Stock’ project.

National Executive

I take this opportunity to thank all the members of the National Executive for their dedication, participation, and work over the last year. It is appreciated by everyone. Also, our volunteers including Andrew Maloy (Associate Editor) and June Lincoln (Journal Typesetting) provide outstanding contributions. The remaining Branch is Auckland and they have been of great help this year in organising the 100 Year Celebration in Auckland. Thank you to all.

Conclusion

I am firmly of the opinion that horticulture in all its forms has a large part to play in the economic, social, cultural, and environmental well-being of New Zealand. There are other organisations we may be able to partner with. The RNZIH’s continuing goals can be developed while at the same time ensuring the goals are supporting each other to provide a consistent message and knowledge to advance horticulture in New Zealand.

Alan Jolliffe
President, RNZIH

Documents and reports for the 2024 AGM

**RNZIH evening, in association with the
New Zealand Gardens Trust Conference**

Venue: The Blenheim Club, 92 High Street,
Blenheim

Date: Thursday 11 April 2024

Time: 5.00–7.45 pm.

5.00 pm Nibbles and cash bar. Mix and mingle.
Meet the RNZIH National Executive and
NZGT Trustees.
5.45 pm The Banks Lecture, 'Global Food
Security'.
6.45 pm RNZIH Annual General Meeting.
7.15 pm RNZIH Awards Presentations.
7.45 pm Finish. Free time for dining locally in
Blenheim.

2024 Banks Memorial Lecture (a free public lecture)

**'Global Food Security – in a changing world
and the impact on NZ', by Bill Brett AHRIH**



Abstract

A major consequence of an increasing global population and climate change is the requirement to provide food security for the world in a sustainable manner. The results from more than 200 of the world's leading scientists covering all aspects of food production including growing and production, distribution, storage, nutrition, alternative protein, processing, waste, and cost will be considered.

All these aspects of food must then be considered relative to land use and climate change. We may not have all the answers, but clear pointers are emerging.

Bill Brett's Biography

Bill Brett has a long, wide-ranging and distinguished career in horticulture. This was recognised in 2021, with the Associate of Honour award from the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture.

Following graduation from Massey, he worked in field research, then moved into technical advisory roles, initially in agrichemicals, then later for Yates. Retail beckoned and following a brief period with Botanix Garden Centres, he was approached by Mitre 10 NZ to set up the garden division which he managed for five years. In 1995 Bill set up his consultancy and training business and soon had many nursery and garden centre clients in NZ, Australia, Ireland, and the UK.

Simultaneous with the above Bill was also the technical partner in a large kiwifruit orchard. He served on the board of the former Nursery & Garden Industry Association for 12 years, two as President.

In retirement in Nelson, Bill has authored two books – *Garden Pest & Disease Control* and *The Home Orchard*. Bill is self-sufficient in vegetables from a small backyard. Until recently, before down-sizing, he was also self-sufficient in fruit.

Bill has maintained a close interest in food production and climate change impact.

AGM Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies / In Memoriam
3. Minutes of the 2023 AGM
4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2023 AGM
5. Presidents' Annual Report
6. Statement of Accounts for 2023
7. Publications and website report
8. Branch Report (Auckland)
9. Trust Reports
10. Election of Officers
11. General Business.

Financial report

The financial report for 2023 shows a cash loss of \$109,452 whereas in 2022 there was a profit of \$48,543.

The cash loss was caused by payments received in 2021 and 2022 in regards to the SFFF 'Taking Stock' project being utilised in 2023.

In 2022 there was income of \$30,827 from the Lotteries grants committee for digitisation of our newsletters and journals which was not received in 2023. These funds will be utilised in the year ending 31 December 2024.

Income from membership subscriptions for 2023 was \$16,470 which was an increase from \$14,418 in 2022.

With deposit interest rates rising interest income was \$16,681, an increase from \$4,336 in 2022.

Expenses were tightly controlled with the major expense being that of printing and distributing the newsletters and journals being \$15,299 compared to \$16,255 in 2022.

There are still some outstanding subscriptions for 2024.

Chris Webb
Treasurer RNZIH

Below: some covers of the many journals that have recently been digitised and uploaded.

HORTICULTURE
IN NEW ZEALAND
Journal of The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)



Volume 4 Winter 1993 Number 2

HORTICULTURE
IN NEW ZEALAND
Journal of The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)



Volume 5 Summer 1994 Number 1

HORTICULTURE
IN NEW ZEALAND
Journal of The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)



Volume 5 Winter 1994 Number 2

HORTICULTURE
IN NEW ZEALAND
Journal of The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)



Volume 6 Winter 1995 Number 1

FINAL ISSUE: INCLUDES PROCEEDINGS, 1ST NEW ZEALAND TREE SYMPOSIUM, HORTICULTURE, 11-15 AUGUST 1994, AND INDEX TO VOLUMES 4-6

Publications and website report: 2023–2024

Publications

Over this reporting period, we switched the printing and distribution of our newsletters and journals from The Printery, Massey University, to The Selwyn Printing Company. The Selwyn Printing Company have a branch based at Lincoln which is more convenient and cost effective.

Our newsletters have continued to be circulated electronically – by email and deposited online at www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/news.html – with a smaller number of hardcopies distributed to libraries and other places such as regional councils.

In contrast to some previous years, we had abundant content for our 2023 journals, thanks largely to Isabella Kerby's (Lincoln University) excellent series of profiles on Canterbury and Otago nurserymen and seedsmen. Both journals for that year focussed on horticultural history of Aotearoa New Zealand to mark the 100th anniversary of the RNZIH.

Although our December 2023 issue was printed well before Christmas, we discovered a delay in distribution for most members which has been resolved.

June Lincoln (of the Gisborne area) has continued to typeset and design our journals, and we are very grateful that she is doing this on a voluntary basis.

Contents

3	Compilation Report
4	Entity Information
6	Approval of Financial Report
7	Statement of Service Performance
8	Statement of Financial Performance
9	Statement of Financial Position
10	Statement of Cash Flows
11	Statement of Accounting Policies
12	Notes to the Performance Report

Performance Report

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Compilation Report

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.) For the year ended 31 December 2023

Compilation Report to the Directors of Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.).

Scope

On the basis of information provided and in accordance with Service Engagement Standard 2 Compilation of Financial Information, we have compiled the financial statements of Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

These statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in the Notes to these financial statements.

Responsibilities

The governing body are solely responsible for the information contained in this financial report and have determined that the accounting policies 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. 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 expertise to undertake the compilation of the financial statements from information you provided. Our procedures do not include verification or validation procedures. No audit or review engagement has been performed and accordingly no assurance is expressed.

Independence

We have no involvement with Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.) other than for the preparation of financial statements and management reports and offering advice based on the financial information provided.

Disclaimer

We have compiled these financial statements based on information provided which has not been subject to an audit or review engagement. Accordingly, we do not accept any responsibility for the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the compiled financial information contained in the financial statements. Nor do we accept any liability of any kind whatsoever, including liability by reason of negligence, to any person for losses incurred as a result of placing reliance on this financial report.

McCoy & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
Level 1, 149 Victoria Street
Christchurch 8013

Dated: 22 February 2024

Entity Information

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.) For the year ended 31 December 2023

"What are we?", "Why do we exist?"

Legal Name of Entity

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

Entity Type and Legal Beads

Incorporated Society with Charity Status.

Registration Number

Charity Registration Number CC20414

Entity's Purpose or Mission

To encourage the science of Horticulture

Entity Structure

Entity Structure: Our executive committee currently comprises of the following executive officer positions: A president, a Treasurer and secretary and three additional members.

Operational Structure: The executive committee manages the day to day affairs of the RNZIH.

Name	Position
Alan Jeffries	President
Penny Clifton	Secretary
Chris Webb	Treasurer
Murray Deason	Executive members
Chris Stepien	Executive members
Bethana Wheeler	Executive members
Dr. Ralph Hammett	Executive members
Geoffrey Marshall	Executive members

Main Sources of Entity's Cash and Resources

Membership subscriptions.

Main Methods Used by Entity to Raise Funds

Subscriptions and Donations.

Entity's Reliance on Volunteers and Donated Goods or Services
100% reliance on volunteers.

Physical Address

C2, Landscape Research
54 Gerald Street
Lincoln 7640

Postal Address

PO Box 86013
Lincoln University
Lincoln 7647

Approval of Financial Report

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)
For the year ended 31 December 2023

The Governing body are pleased to present the approved financial report including the historical financial statements of Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.) for year ended 31 December 2023.

APPROVED

Alan Jolliffe

President

Date

Chris Webb

Executive Member

Date

Statement of Service Performance

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Description of Entity's Outcomes

Over the past year, we responded to all incoming correspondence to provide advice, information and guidance. We have overseen several other charitable trust's under our guidance and supported plant conservation projects, including compilation of a 'National Register of significant collections'.

Provided educational and scientific publications on Horticultural matters and held workshops and tours on ornamental and commercial horticulture.

The RNZIH in conjunction with Landcare Research are managing a Project on behalf of the Ministry of Primary Industries under the Sustainable Future Fibre Fund in relation to plants in New Zealand.

Additional Output Measures

Mission and Outcome: To encourage and improve horticulture in New Zealand by promoting the understanding, appreciation, conservation and use of plants.

Statement of Financial Performance

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)
For the year ended 31 December 2023

'How was it funded?' and 'What did it cost?'

	NOTES	2023	2022
Revenue			
Revenue from Government Funding	1	5,173	128,765
Revenue from Grants	1	-	30,827
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	1	140	12,237
Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members	1	19,281	14,418
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	1	16,681	4,336
Total Revenue		41,274	190,584
Expenses			
Volunteer and employee related costs	2	460	-
Costs related to providing goods or service	2	150,264	140,970
Other expenses	2	1	1,071
Total Expenses		150,725	142,041
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		(109,452)	48,543

This statement has been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

Statement of Financial Position

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)
As at 31 December 2023

'What the entity owns' and 'What the entity owes?'

	NOTES	31 DEC 2023	31 DEC 2022
Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank accounts and cash	3	187,980	296,409
Debtors and prepayments	3	7,132	20,556
Total Current Assets		195,113	316,965
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	9	10
Investments	3	193,015	180,626
Total Non-Current Assets		193,024	180,636
Total Assets		388,136	497,601
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	4	-	14
Total Liabilities		-	14
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		388,136	497,588
Accumulated Funds			
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	6	352,917	338,414
Accumulated Funds - SFFF Project	7	35,219	159,174
Total Accumulated Funds		388,136	497,588

This statement has been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

Statement of Cash Flows

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)
For the year ended 31 December 2023

'How the entity has received and used cash'

	2023	2022
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Donations, fundraising and other similar receipts	140	12,237
Fees, subscriptions and other receipts from members	16,470	16,895
Receipts from Government Funding	5,175	138,000
Interest, dividends and other investment receipts	4,292	609
Cash receipts from other operating activities	774	45,531
GST	36,755	2,014
Payments to suppliers and employees	(172,035)	(161,036)
Cash flows from other operating activities	-	(1,230)
Total Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(108,429)	53,020
Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities		
Payments to purchase investments	-	-
Total Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities	-	-
Net Increase/ (Decrease) in Cash	(108,429)	53,020
Cash Balances		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	296,409	243,389
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	187,980	296,409
Net change in cash for period	(108,429)	53,020

This statement has been prepared without conducting an audit or review engagement, and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.

Statement of Accounting Policies

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Basis of Preparation

The entity has elected to apply PBE SFR-A (NFP) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting - Accrual (Not-For-Profit) on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses equal to or less than \$2,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The entity is registered for GST. All amounts are stated exclusive of goods and services tax (GST) except for accounts payable and accounts receivable which are stated inclusive of GST.

Income Tax

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.) is wholly exempt from New Zealand income tax having fully complied with all statutory conditions for these exemptions.

Bank Accounts and Cash

Bank accounts and cash in the Statement of Cash Flows comprise cash balances and bank balances (including short term deposits) with original maturities of 90 days or less.

Tier 2 PBE Accounting Standards Applied

There were no Tier 2 accounting policies applied.

Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies. Policies have been applied on a consistent basis with those of the previous reporting period.

Notes to the Performance Report

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)
For the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
1. Analysis of Revenue		
Revenue from Government Funding		
Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures Project	5,173	128,765
Total Revenue from Government Funding	5,173	128,765
Revenue from Grants		
Lottery Grant Digitisation Funds	-	30,827
Total Revenue from Grants	-	30,827
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue		
Donations Received	140	12,237
Total Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	140	12,237
Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members		
Subscription Receipts	19,281	14,418
Total Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members	19,281	14,418
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue		
Interest Received	16,681	4,336
Total Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	16,681	4,336
	2023	2022
2. Analysis of Expenses		
Volunteer and employee related costs		
Travel - National	460	-
Total Volunteer and employee related costs	460	-
Costs related to providing goods or services		
Accountancy Fees	999	972
AGM Expenses	1,374	-
Bank Charges	40	40
Donations	1,500	2,093
General Expenses	67	67
Honorarium - Journal Editor & Website Maintenance	1,000	1,000
Medals	69	-
Newsletters & Journals	-	14,324
Printing, Stamps & Stationery	15,299	1,931
SFFF Project - Expenses	125,128	115,440
Skellerup Award	-	4,348
Xero	788	756
Total Costs related to providing goods or services	150,264	140,970

	2023	2022
Other expenses		
Bad Debts	-	1,070
Depreciation as per Schedule	1	2
Total Other expenses	1	1,071

3. Analysis of Assets	2023	2022
Bank accounts and cash		
BNZ Cheque Account	91,529	62,294
BNZ Publishing Account	96,444	94,166
BNZ Funding Account	8	139,949
Total Bank accounts and cash	187,980	296,409

Debtors and prepayments		
Accounts Receivable	5,959	205
GST	1,174	20,351
Total Debtors and prepayments	7,132	20,556

Investments		
BNZ Term Deposit 03004	80,590	73,505
BNZ Term Deposit 03007	112,425	107,121
Total Investments	193,015	180,626

4. Analysis of Liabilities	2023	2022
Creditors and accrued expenses		
Accounts Payable	-	14
Total Creditors and accrued expenses	-	14

5. Property, Plant and Equipment	2023	2022
Furniture and Fittings		
Furniture and fittings owned	285	285
Accumulated depreciation - furniture and fittings owned	(276)	(275)
Total Furniture and Fittings	9	10
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	9	10

	2023	2022
6. Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds		
Opening Balance	338,414	303,196
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	14,503	35,218
Total Accumulated Funds	352,917	338,414

Total Accumulated Funds	352,917	338,414
--------------------------------	----------------	----------------

7. Accumulated Funds	2023	2022
Sustainable Future Fibre Fund		
Opening Balance	159,174	145,849
Accumulated Funds - Sustainable Future Fibre Fund	(123,955)	13,325
Total Sustainable Future Fibre Fund	35,219	159,174
Total Accumulated Funds	35,219	159,174

8. Commitments

There are no commitments as at 31 December 2023 (Last year - nil).

9. Related Parties

There were no transactions involving related parties during the financial year.

10. Events After the Balance Date

There were no events that have occurred after the balance date that would have a material impact on the Performance Report (Last year - nil).

11. Ability to Continue Operating

The entity will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

Website

The focus over this period has been on uploading our entire back-catalogue of historic bulletins, newsletters, and journals dating back to 1925. Our newsletter archive is at www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/news.html#NewsArchive and our historic journals at www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/NZ_Garden_Journal_index.htm#JournalArchive both contain a wealth of interesting information that's accessible online for the first time. This work has been made possible thanks to a Lottery Environment and Heritage Committee grant, with full completion scheduled for June 2024.

Another newly added resource is *Epiflora*, the magazine of the former Wellington Hoya and Epiphytic Plant Society. This series was published from 1992 until 2011. Despite containing much useful information still of interest today, this publication is hard to find and not available for library interloan. Jane and Roy Griffith for kindly granted the RNZIH permission to make their magazine content freely available online at www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/Epiflora_Magazine.htm, for non-commercial use, and Robyn Gibson generously provided her collection of hard copies to the RNZIH for digitisation.

Murray Dawson
RNZIH Webmaster and Journal Editor

Branch report (Auckland) 2023–2024

Branch Committee members:

Chair – Penny Cliffin
Secretary – Bronwen Rowse
Treasurer – Geoffrey Marshall
Newsletter editor – Ross Ferguson
Committee members – Colin Bradshaw,
Dave Dawson, Andrew Maloy.

Many thanks to our committee for continuing to contribute to branch activities. Thank you to Bronwen Rowse, our secretary, for keeping our

minutes and to Ross Ferguson for preparing the Branch newsletters, and to Geoffrey Marshall our treasurer. This committee was re-elected at the AGM in October 2023.

Four members of the local Branch also serve on the National Executive of the Institute: Penny Cliffin, Keith Hammett, Geoffrey Marshall, and Barbara Wheeler.

AGM 2023: This was held at the West Lynn Gardens, Parker Avenue, New Lynn. After a tour of the gardens, terminated by a sudden downpour, the AGM was held with re-election of the committee and the presentation of the Chair's report. Noelyn Parr was presented with her certificate as an Associate of Honour of the Institute. She established Lyndale Nursery in 1960 after completing her apprenticeship with nurseryman and plant breeder Jack Clark. Malcolm Woolmore AHRIH, her successor, attended the meeting.

Saturday 17 February 2024 – Matakana trip

Our summer trip was to Liz Morrow's garden, Omaio, and Matakana Palms and garden.

Omaio has a 6-star 'Garden of International Significance' rating from the NZ Gardens Trust. Omaio means "place of peace, quiet and tranquillity". It is a coastal property of 7.28 ha on the Takatū Peninsula, 10 minutes from Matakana. The planting is predominantly native, the largest of the feature trees being a pūriri estimated to be between 800 and 1,000 years old, but there is a fusion of other carefully selected plants which suit the location and setting. The canopy of established native trees provides protective shade where clivias, hydrangeas, rengarenga (*Arthropodium*), bergenias, hostas and ferns flourish. Omaio was planted to create calm – the colour palette is soft, and tones of green dominate.

Matakana Palms, Omaha Flats Road, is the property of Bruce and Raewyn Whistler. They specialise in palms, cycads, clivias (including some with deep green throats) and other subtropical plants. We visited their private garden, seeing their extensive palm and cycad plantings, lake, and new waterfall development.



Omaio, a six-star Garden of International Significance. Photo: © NZ Gardens Trust.

Upcoming Branch AGM – Sunday 21 April 2024 – Fernglen Gardens, 36 Kauri Rd, Birkenhead

Events for that day:

- 1.00 pm Garden walk
- 2.00 pm AGM
- 3.00 pm Afternoon tea.

Optional visits to Chelsea Reserve and Smith's Bush may follow – to be confirmed.

Fernglen Gardens was the property of the late Muriel Fisher and is now owned by the Auckland Council and administered by the Auckland Council Parks Department. The Gardens (about 2 ha) is largely of native plants and there is a collection of rare alpine plants.

Chelsea Estate Heritage Park (60 Colonial Road, Chatswood) is a coastal reserve in Birkenhead that is home to the Chelsea Sugar Refinery. Some tracks in the park are closed to prevent the spread of kauri dieback. There are steep paths down to good views of the Waitematā. Smith's Bush (although partly destroyed by the Northern Motorway) has some of the oldest remnant bush on the North Shore, including giant pūriri, kaihikatea and tōtara.

Notable Trees at Unitec, Mt Albert

Penny Cliffin, Auckland Branch Chair, RNZIH (pcliffin@gmail.com) writes:

I am very concerned about the loss of notable trees on the Unitec campus site in Mt Albert. The original resource consent for the Unitec / Wairaka housing development went through council as a shovel-ready COVID 19 project (without public consultation) back in 2020.

The developers are now applying for Plan Change 94 to allow higher-rise tower blocks in the northwest corner of the site up to 72 m in height and also to purchase more Unitec open space land around Building 48 to fulfil the council's open space requirement.

This area is a botanical hotspot where the most notable campus trees are located. I feel strongly that these trees are an integral part of the 1896 building's landscape and should remain in the same legal ownership parcel.

So far, the developers have shown little regard for the campus trees, chopping them down to achieve *carte blanche* building sites, without any attempt to integrate any trees into space between the buildings.

I feel strongly that we must protest about this approach now there is an avenue to do so. I encourage you to consider making a submission personally and as a society or supporting the Tree Council submission.

I have worked with the Tree Council to write a submission based on 7 key points, which can be found at:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KHPkOYhK41RGOL9RYzXeHj73yAwH--yx/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=105018107725110402650&rtpof=true&sd=true

Alan Jolliffe, as President of the RNZIH, made a submission on the Plan Change on our behalf.

**Penny Cliffin
Chair, Auckland Branch RNZIH**

2024 RNZIH Awardees

Congratulations to our Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture award recipients for 2024.

We have three new associates – **Des Snell**, **Diane Griffin** and **John McCullough**; two new fellows – **Barbara Wheeler** and **Lady Gillian Deane**; a plant raiser – **Bob Matthews**; a garden history recipient – **Tony Barnes**; and a new horticultural communicator – **Fiona Eadie**.

Associates of Honour

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

Des Snell is owner of The Reference Publishing Company in Auckland.



Desmond Snell, RNZIH Associate of Honour (AHRH) for 2024. Photo: © Commercial Horticulture.

Des manages the publication of *Commercial Horticulture* magazine (the NZ nursery industry trade journal), the *NZ Nursery Register* (an annual directory of nurseries and related businesses), and organises industry trade shows.

Des's journey follows an unconventional career path, diverging from the typical horticultural trajectory. Beginning in the early 1960s after leaving St Peters College, Des embarked on a varied series of experiences. Initially attending

Auckland University with aspirations for a career in architecture, circumstances led him down a different path.

Following the passing of his father, Des travelled around New Zealand in his 1939 V8 Ford, engaging in diverse jobs and adventures (and generally getting into mischief!). From being a laboratory pulp and paper tester at NZ Forest Products' Kinleith Mill to working on the Manapouri Power Project, erecting war-surplus diesel storage tanks, his experiences were marked by rugged environments and challenging conditions.

Returning to Auckland, Des explored different roles, including a builder's labourer and freelance writer. Eventually joining Universal Business Directories, he worked on trade magazines such as *Better Business* and *Sea Spray*. In 1967, he married Linda, and the couple ventured to Australia, where Des secured a position with Thompson Publications, working on trade magazines like *Tenders*.

Driven by newfound confidence from reading a motivational book, Des aimed for a job at *The Australian* newspaper, successfully joining as a reporter. Progressing through the ranks, he became a specialised “stone sub” working with hot metal type and picture blocks in the era before the internet and modern printing techniques.

Despite success, Des grew discontent with the ephemeral nature of newspaper production. This dissatisfaction led him to leave *The Australian*. Returning to Auckland, Des decided on a major change and opened a takeaway food shop. This venture was an overwhelming success, but very demanding and Des sold the business after more than a year to restore some normalcy in their lives.

Next, Des transitioned to the timber stain business, realising he could make stains using as a raw ingredient the waste cooking oil from shops like the one he owned. Des capitalized on the booming Auckland subdivisions market, creating high-quality fence stains.

Simultaneously, he published *The Engineering Reference Handbook*, a comprehensive annual directory for the engineering industry.

In 1979, a new opportunity emerged when Des took over *Commercial Horticulture*, which at the time had a much more modest circulation. Running it alongside other ventures, he successfully managed and developed the magazine. Des also delved into software development for the printing industry with Printcost, gaining widespread usage across New Zealand, Australia, the UK, and the US.

Over the years, Reference Publishing, Des's company, introduced the *NZ Nursery Register*, Trade Day industry trade shows, and the Signs Please garden centre sign holders, expanding into various facets of the horticultural industry.

Des's story is a testament to adaptability, resilience, and entrepreneurial spirit, demonstrating that unexpected turns can lead to diverse and successful ventures in horticulture, journalism, software development, and publishing.

An Associate of Honour by the RNZIH is fitting acknowledgement of all Des's achievements.

Diane Griffin is the current President of Auckland Horticultural Council (AHC).

As a child she learnt basic gardening from her parents who had a large vegetable garden and grew old fashioned roses.

Diane chose the commercial course of subjects at High School, and then developed her organisational skills by attending night classes at the Auckland College of Education (ACE) where she gained certificates in Financial Management, Office Management, Communication skills and Information Management.

She has had a varied and rewarding career, as a Social Co-ordinator at a retirement village, a Bursar at a High School, and a PA to a Deputy Principal. This diverse background provided



Diane Griffin, RNZIH Associate of Honour (AHRIH) for 2024.

Diane with invaluable experience for her current role with the AHC.

Diane was a member of the Auckland Herb Society for many years in the role of Secretary, and during this time she started the Hobsonville Herb Group whose members planted an herb garden in the community gardens at Hobsonville Point for the use of the local residents. She is currently Secretary of the Kumeu Garden Club.

In 2018 she attended the AGM of the Auckland Horticultural Council which revealed they were on the brink of closing due to lack of members to run the organisation and there was a proposal on the floor to hold a dissolution meeting. This prompted Diane to speak out about the fact that after so many years of operation this would be a devastating loss to the community and especially to the 40 clubs using the premises. She volunteered for the role of Secretary but at the meeting they were unable to secure a President and Treasurer.

Not to be dissuaded she then obtained a list of contacts for all the clubs that belonged to the AHC and wrote a letter explaining the situation. From this, she was able to attract a committee of 10 people to fill the empty roles, and so the AHC continued.

After serving as Secretary for three years, in 2021 Diane was elected President and found herself in a legal battle with the Auckland Council over moving to new premises, as the 30-year lease was expiring and the council wanted the area for a recycling station. It was a frustrating and stressful time for everyone and AHC had to engage a Barrister to negotiate on their behalf. Negotiations began and promises were broken, such as replacing “like-for-like”. After much angst, the AHC finally moved to their current premises, but in the process have lost many of their clubs as the meeting rooms are too small to hold them, and all because the Auckland Council changed the approved plans to suit themselves.

The AHC is still vulnerable and requires more contributors to assist with the continuation and growth of their role in horticulture.

As President, Diane has introduced two new annual plant fairs, to increase their annual events to four and gardening night classes for those who work during the day and is currently working on plans for children’s classes.

John McCullough has spent a lifetime on his love of all things horticulture.

This love has grown from helping his father in the garden as a child, then after schoolwork with Watkins Seeds Ltd, and at age 18 deciding horticulture was the career path he wanted to pursue.

With passion and dedication, John quickly rose through the ranks, first becoming Production Manager, then General Manager with Watkins Seeds Ltd at age 29. He moved on to build his own successful seed company, initially with some equally keen co-workers, a business that he subsequently took over independently. It has continued to thrive and is now an example of a truly successful NZ family-owned business, Egmont Seeds.

His pathway involved learning as much information as possible along the way and gaining qualifications in both horticulture and



John McCullough, RNZIH Associate of Honour (AHRH) for 2024.

management. John’s philosophy of “Good business is based on good relationships” has supported him along his journey. He is open and willing to share and learn from customers, suppliers, and all avenues of the industry. Frequent trips are made overseas to ensure that the business is keeping up with changes, new ideas and opportunities.

Egmont Seeds was granted the right to have a transitional facility in-house which allows for a more expedient flow of seed from overseas to the growers. John’s involvement and understanding of many of the intricate MPI rules and regulations has further fuelled his desire to assist the industry. This involves meeting to discuss potential changes that will assist in keeping NZ clean and green but also allowing for importing of items that might otherwise be rejected. Liaising with and helping MPI to understand many of the procedures and different seed coatings, such as pelleted seed, has been an invaluable lesson for everyone. John has also spent many hours helping to write a detailed importing manual which allows a quicker and easier process for the very popular ‘Little Gardener’ promotion in New World supermarkets.

Supporting the Ellerslie Flower Show as the major sponsor for a three-year period was a pinnacle of John’s journey, a truly generous gesture, that came with so much support from

growers, not only financially but with many hours of planning and assisting to bring hundreds of beautiful flowers and flower baskets into the show to inspire all.

Now aged 67 John has not slowed down – he is just as passionate and still thrashing out new ideas and ways to benefit the industry. John’s innovative thinking, generous input of both time and money has been a valuable asset to the wider industry. Modestly he puts his success down, not just to his own endeavours, but to the whole team behind him at Egmont Seeds. The company motto is to “Create excitement in the world of flowers, enabling everyone to take ordinary gardens and transform them into beautiful, bountiful, inspirational and memorable gardens.”

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.”*

Barbara Wheeler’s interest in plants and gardens goes back to her childhood in Dunedin, where she enjoyed spending time in the garden of her grandfather in Halfway Bush and gardening with her parents on their property in the suburb of Belleknowes. Her grandfather was a gardener at Wakari Hospital grounds, but the interest in following a career as a professional horticulturist lay latent in Barbara until she travelled south to Telford Farm in 1989 to undertake a conservation corps programme. Over the 10-month course, Barbara found a strong interest in plants, nature and working outside. Following this path was the natural next step, and in 1990 she began her apprenticeship in horticulture at Dunedin Botanic Garden.

Post apprenticeship, Barbara worked as a qualified gardener and leading hand maintaining Dunedin’s high profile central city reserves. To gain a wider perspective on horticulture Barbara travelled overseas and completed an International Gardener Program at Longwood Gardens, USA.



Barbara Wheeler, Fellow of the RNZIH (FRIH) for 2024.

Returning to Dunedin, she took on a contractor auditing role as a Parks Officer at Dunedin City Council. Realising that to progress further she needed higher qualifications, Barbara left for the UK and completed a Practical Diploma in Horticulture at RHS Wisley. On her return to Dunedin, she worked for a short time in parks for a local contractor before leaving for Sydney, Australia, to take up a gardener role at Admiralty House (garden of the Australian Governor-General).

In 2001, an exciting maternity cover role at Dunedin Botanic Garden came up, and Barbara returned to Dunedin to manage and maintain the Rock, Water and Alpine Plant Collections. At the end of that tenure, Barbara was promoted to Plant Collections Supervisor overseeing the plant collections and operational management. Taking a 13-month sabbatical in 2019, Barbara once again travelled to the USA where she completed the prestigious Longwood Fellows Program. On her return to Dunedin (yet again), she continued as

Plant Collections Supervisor for one year until moving north to Auckland to take on her current role as Curator at Auckland Botanic Gardens.

Throughout her career to date, Barbara has further contributed to horticulture in Dunedin through her volunteer roles on the Dunedin Horticultural Society, Dunedin Open Gardens Association and through associations with many of Dunedin's garden clubs and societies. She also co-produced and co-presented a radio show 'In the Garden' for two years on Otago Access Radio.

On a national level, Barbara continues to work passionately and advocates for increasing the profile of horticulture as a career and promoting opportunities for career development and progression. She is convenor of the BGANZ-NZ horticultural training sub-group and supports Recreation Aotearoa with the Young Amenity Horticulturist sector competition. She joined the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture in 2019 and has served on their National Executive since 2021.

Since childhood **Lady Gillian Deane CNZM, BA** has been in love with Aotearoa New Zealand's native flora. Her grandfather, Harry Wheeler, was passionate about saving the West Auckland kauri (*Agathis australis*) trees (and the shellfish toheroa), and this love of native trees captured the extended family's imagination. As a child she collected and pressed native plants and stayed with friends who spent time with her in their garden.

Returning from Washington DC in 1976 she enjoyed studying and completing the examinations of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture correspondence course. However, she could not complete the practical requirements of the course as her daughter Kristen's medical condition was a priority. Lady Gillian Deane is also a qualified teacher.

Later her husband, Sir Roderick Deane, gave her a 36.5 hectare (90 acre) area of sand dunes, dry swamps and cow paddocks on the Kapiti



Lady Gillian Deane, Fellow of the RNZIH (FRIH) for 2024.

coast from which, after lots of experimentation, a garden devoted to tens of thousands of native trees and shrubs has developed. There are now also two major wetlands with beautiful large ponds between the aeolian dunes.

Her garden, 'Te Maimai', is the subject of the Deane's 2020 book *A guide to Te Maimai: A Natural Garden*. She also features in the book *Flourish*, profiling about 25 leading gardeners and published in 2018.

The Deane's have a long history of philanthropy and sponsorship.

Lady Gillian and Sir Roderick established the Deane Endowment Trust in 1995 in memory of her daughter Kristen and it has provided financial assistance to a wide variety of projects and organisations including those associated with the preservation of wetlands and the conservation of the native plant environment including the nearby Nga Manu Reserve for a NZ Mistletoe Garden. Lady Gillian's anxiety about the spread of Myrtle Rust resulted in providing significant funding to help save some of the NZ threatened species of Myrtaceae, a joint project with Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Native Botanic Garden and Te Papa botanists.

Lady Gillian's interest in the arts and botany led to sponsoring exhibitions of botanic paintings

by Sarah Featon in her hometown of Gisborne, and paintings by Bryan Poole at the East Southland Gallery. At Te Papa Tongarewa, Gillian sponsored two summer students working on the contributions by the brilliant artist and botanist Nancy Adams. These students have been updating readers of the Te Papa summer blog.

At the Archaeology Department of the University of Auckland, Lady Gillian supports several summer scholars each year who have been researching and documenting the seeds of taro (*Colocasia esculenta*) and kūmara (*Ipomoea batatas*), as well as artefacts at the ancient Pa sites on Te Ahuahu (Great Mercury Island) where her ancestors lived on the Northwest promontories. She is of Ngati Whanaunga from Coromandel.

Recently Lady Gillian helped sponsor the publication of *Flora* written by Te Papa botanists and Art Curators and was asked to launch the book at Te Papa. Its publication in 2023 coincided with the centennial of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture, and Lady Gillian has been a member of the Institute since 2015.

The Plant Raisers' Award is granted to *"any nominated individual or organisation who has raised in New Zealand a cultivar, or cultivars, considered to be sufficiently meritorious."*

Bob Matthews of Matthews Nurseries Ltd, Whanganui, receives the 2024 RNZIH Plant Raisers' Award for his selections: *Rosa* 'Anniversary' (Mattlace), *R.* 'Cappuccino' (Mattcup), *R.* 'Cupcake' (Mattcisa), *R.* 'Diamonds Forever' (Mattdiafor), *R.* 'My Best Mate' (Mattbest), *R.* 'My Mum' (Mattmum).

Bob Matthews has devoted his life to his passion for plants, as a rose breeder, nursery operator, and farmer. Over the past 45 years, Bob, along with his wife Cath, has aimed to set the highest industry standards for garden roses in New Zealand, as co-directors of the family business Matthews Nurseries Ltd.



Bob Matthews, 2024 recipient of the RNZIH Plant Raisers' award. Photo: © Matthews Nurseries.

Bob's upbringing on his parents' nursery laid the foundation for his love of roses and farming. He actively participated in all aspects of the nursery, and before taking over from his parents, he worked as an agricultural contractor and pursued short courses at Lincoln University. In 1978, Bob and his wife Cath decided to continue the family business. Their dedication led Matthews Nurseries Ltd to become New Zealand's largest rose nursery in the mid-1990s, with peak production reaching approximately 300,000 bush roses and 50,000 standards.

Throughout this period, Bob initiated his hybridising program, creating over 60 new selections of *Rosa* known for their health, easy care, and repeat flowering properties. His contributions earned him multiple Gold Star of the South Pacific awards from the NZRS International Rose Trial Grounds in Palmerston North. Internationally, Bob represented New Zealand and received accolades at the International Rose Trials in The Hague and Baden Baden. Some of his selections are also cultivated by nurseries in England, France, The Netherlands, South Africa, and, recently, in Barcelona, Spain.

Demonstrating a commitment to environmentally friendly practices, Bob has maintained a completely spray-free trial environment for more than 20 years, ensuring

the introduction of the most easily cared-for rose varieties to the public. Beyond his own creations, he serves as an agent for international breeders, introducing roses from the UK, France, Germany, Australia, and the USA into the New Zealand market.

Bob's influence extends to international judging at various rose trial grounds, representing New Zealand globally. As a founding member of Rose Introducers of New Zealand, he oversaw the development of the NZ Rose of the Year at Rogers Rose Garden. Committed to community beautification, Bob donated numerous rose plants to public gardens throughout New Zealand.

His role in implementing a high health program at Matthews Nurseries, coupled with exclusive virus-free rootstock, showcases Bob's dedication to producing the highest quality plants. His expertise also spans farming, with Matthews managing a Coopworth sheep and arable cropping farm alongside the rose nursery. This integrated knowledge influences best practices in plant production, soil management, and a streamlined spray program, aligning with Matthews Nurseries' commitment to environmentally conscious practices.

Recent collaborations with his daughter Samantha resulted in the development of the "My Rose Collection", featuring repeat-flowering floribunda roses. Notably, the rose 'My Mum' (Mattmum) from this collection has become a popular choice in New Zealand, topping recent NZ Rose Society Rose Reviews' most popular floribunda poll since its introduction in 2012. Bob Matthews' multifaceted contributions have left a lasting impact on the rose industry in New Zealand and beyond.

The Garden History Award is "*granted to any nominated individual or organisation within New Zealand making distinguished contributions to horticultural history and conservation.*"



Tony Barnes, 2024 recipient of the RNZIH Garden History Award.

With a track-record of wholesale rose production spanning fifteen years, **Tony Barnes** of New Plymouth commenced his journey with Egmont Roses in Taranaki and later contributed twelve years to Matthews Roses in Whanganui. His multifaceted role, predominantly behind the scenes, encompassed evaluating breeders' seedlings, virus testing, production planning, quarantine, administration of royalties, and sales and marketing.

Hailing from a tobacco farm in the Motueka Valley, Tony's roots in horticulture date back to childhood. From the age of eight, he began crafting gardens, laying the foundation for a lifelong passion. During his 18 years in supervisory and managerial positions at Duncan and Davies Nurseries, the largest nursery in the Southern Hemisphere at the time, Tony gained extensive knowledge of diverse plant types. His renowned garden 'Ngamamaku' in Taranaki earned distinction in the Taranaki Rhododendron and Garden Festival for more than 25 years, becoming a NZGT Garden of National Significance in 2005.

As a respected plantsman with a national reputation, Tony has shared his expertise through numerous articles in national magazines, newspapers, and speaking engagements at various gardening events, including the Ellerslie Flower Show and Hunter's Garden Marlborough. His role as an assessor for the Taranaki Garden Festival and the NZ Gardens Trust underscores his

commitment to promoting excellence in gardening.

Beyond roses, Tony's horticultural interests extend to *Clivia*, which he has been growing and breeding since 1994. His contributions range from international conferences in South Africa and China to writing a comprehensive history of *Clivia* in New Zealand. Additionally, his involvement with camellias dates back to his teenage years, culminating in leadership roles within the NZ Camellia Society. Serving as National President from 2009 to 2012 and receiving an Honorary Life Membership in 2012, Tony has devoted over three decades to the society's growth and development.

In the last eight years, Tony has focused on identifying and preserving 100+ year old heritage camellia trees in New Zealand, a project that involves extensive travel and collaboration with international camellia enthusiasts. His commitment to camellias extends to chairing the Camellia Memorial Trust, which funds groundbreaking research on camellia petal blight at Massey University.

For his dedication to horticultural heritage in New Zealand, the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture proudly presents Tony Barnes with the 2024 Garden History Award.

The Horticultural Communicator Award recognises "*individuals who are outstanding horticultural communicators.*"

Fiona Eadie has become the third Horticultural Communicator to be recognised by the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture.

Fiona is a fully committed plant advocate and plantsperson. Fiona's mantra is "Knowledge not shared is not knowledge" as said to Professor Rangi Matamua by his grandfather. Fiona in her own words states "So really all I have done is exactly that. It is all luck, the people you meet, the people who have taken a gamble taking you on and always challenging your own abilities." Although Fiona suggests that luck has



Fiona Eadie, 2024 recipient of the RNZIH Horticultural Communicator Award.

played a large part in her successes, we believe good management is also at play.

Fiona is currently Head Gardener at Larnach Castle, Dunedin, where she has worked for more than 20 years. She holds a degree in Botany from Otago University and worked in the Environmental Section of the former NZ Forest Service for four years and then for a short time at the Department of Conservation during its early days of formation. Later she became manager of Oratia Native Plant Nursery in Auckland for 11 years and then moved to Dunedin in 2001.

Fiona has challenged herself with every job she has undertaken, always having gone in feeling she did not know enough to do it. "How do you know if you can do it if you do not try?" Fiona says. She wrote the book, *100 Best Native Plants for New Zealand Gardens*, because Jane Connor, then from Godwit Press, and a regular visitor to the Oratia Native Plant Nursery cajoled her into it ("luck"). As Fiona puts it "The partially dyslexic individual writing a book, who could have believed it?"

Fiona began training apprentices because she told herself in her early forties that she needed to get over her fear of public speaking and briefly worked for Otago Polytechnic. In 2006 she met the people establishing what is now Thoughtplanters – New Zealand, professional trainers in horticulture and arboriculture, and

they asked her to work for them as a specialist tutor in horticulture, communication, and leadership. “Luck” again.

Fiona considers her work on Radio Live with Tony Murrell was again a lucky break – he just happened to hear her on Kathryn Ryans’ Nine to Noon show on Radio New Zealand. Recently Fiona spoke on an English podcast with Mona Abboud of the award-winning Mona’s Garden (<https://monasgarden.co.uk>). The topic was New Zealand native plants, and especially *Corokia*, as Mona holds the UK National Collection of this genus.

Fiona’s writing for *Commercial Horticulture* came about through her suggesting to the then editor Bob Edwards that she could be a contributor, as many horticulturists had little understanding of how plants really worked. He took Fiona on in 2005 and Des Snell, the current editor, has continued to publish her writings for the benefit of the horticultural industry.

Fiona has spoken at Garden Marlborough, New Zealand arboricultural conferences, and

other gardening and horticultural events on NZ native plants and their evolution, physiology, and garden maintenance.

Fiona suggests that her biggest achievement is that in different ways she have given people some understanding of how amazing plants are.

Fiona maintains “It is all luck, the people you meet, the people who have taken a gamble taking you on and always challenging your own abilities. And, knowing that the worst thing you can ever do is not giving something a shot, no matter how scared you are. You may fail, but it is much worse to have never tried. Just do it!”

New members

We warmly welcome our new members:

Paul Ryan	Auckland
Sasha Reekie	Auckland
Brent McNiven	Tauranga
Nick Fagerlund	Lower Hutt
Terri Shaw	Wellington



ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE
PO Box 85012, Lincoln University, Lincoln 7647, NZ

