



ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

Newsletter

2026 No. 1, March
ISSN 1174-6947 (Print)
ISSN 1179-7444 (Online)

Presidents' Report: 2025–2026

Presidents' Report prepared for the 2026 RNZIH Annual General Meeting (AGM)

I have the privilege of presenting my Annual Report.

Annual General Meeting – online

The National Executive decided that to give every member throughout New Zealand the opportunity to participate in the AGM it would again be conducted online.

Our reports are published in this newsletter for all members.

To make this meeting more interesting we will hold a short AGM and finish with our Vice Patron speaking for about 20 minutes.

Here is the date and time of our meeting:

Date: 22nd June 2026

Time: 7.00–7.40 pm (no later)

Speaker after AGM: John Paynter NDH (Hons), ONZM, AHRIH. Vice Patron RNZIH and Founder of Yummy Fruit, Hawke's Bay.



John Paynter, Vice Patron RNZIH

Title of talk: 'Horticulture: Front window for the university of life'.

Special General Meeting

The Special General Meeting was held 10 Feb 2026 and our new constitution approved.

The minutes of that meeting will be circulated ahead of the AGM. As members know changes to the Incorporated Societies Act required all incorporated societies to revise their constitution and re-register.

We were heartened by the attendance of everyone at the Special General Meeting to consider the new constitution. 27 people were present online with a further eight providing proxies. Having such a meeting online enables members from around New Zealand to participate, saving time, costly travel, and other expenses.

Thank you very much to everybody who participated in person or by proxy, your interest and time were much appreciated.

Constitution

Much time was taken up in 2025 to prepare our new constitution. I can confirm that we completed the re-registration at the end of March well within the timeline.

We have uploaded our new constitution on our website under the 'About Us' tab (or see www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/RNZIH_constitution-rules_2026.pdf). Please have a look at it.

The National Executive is now following the new constitution. As an organisation we were required, under the Act, to have specific items

included in the constitution which meant some new clauses we need to follow.

I have to say that our new constitution is clearer and easier to read and understand. This will be tested during our 2026 Annual General Meeting.

New requirements include, for example:

- Reporting Conflicts of Interest of National Executive Members during the year (if any).
 - ◊ All members of the Executive have completed a required 'Register of Interests' which is updated (if needed) at each monthly meeting.
 - ◊ For example, the Executive record each organisation we belong to.
- Election of Officers (required by law) uses a standard form with:
 - ◊ Written consent to be an officer
 - ◊ A declaration that they are fit to be an officer.

These requirements are relatively easy to understand and complete.

We have specifically made the use of proxy's part of all General Meetings for members to enable greater participation. Note: proxies cannot be used for the National Executive meetings or any subcommittee meetings.

We have retained all the specific Institute activities while at the same time adding subclauses to allow new activities which meet the objectives of the Institute. This can be found in Section 5 of the new constitution.

While the wording of the constitution is clearer and easy to understand, if minor changes (as described in the Act) are required these can be published, and then with input from members, changes can be made by the National Executive without the need for a Special General Meeting.

RNZIH awards

I am pleased to formerly announce the following awards for 2026.

RNZIH National Office	Murray Dawson, RNZIH, c/o Landcare Research, PO Box 69140, Lincoln Email: office@rnzih.org.nz Website: www.rnzih.org.nz Facebook: www.facebook.com/RNZIH YouTube: www.youtube.com/@RNZIH-NZ
Patron	Governor General of New Zealand The Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO
Vice Patron	Beverley McConnell, MNZM, QSM, AHRIH
Vice Patron	John Paynter, NDH (Hons), ONZM, AHRIH

National Executive	
Alan Jolliffe AHRIH (RNZIH President)	7 Greenbank Place, Waitikiri, Parklands, Christchurch 8083 Mobile: 027 204 5679 Email: jolliffea@rnzih.org.nz
Dr Keith Hammett QSM, AHRIH (Immediate Past President)	488C Don Buck Road, Massey, Auckland 0614 Phone: (09) 833 9453 Email: hammettk@rnzih.org.nz
Murray Dawson MNZM, AHRIH (RNZIH Webmaster; Journal Editor)	Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, PO Box 69040, Lincoln 7640, Canterbury Phone: (03) 321 9645 Email: dawsonm@rnzih.org.nz
Dylan Norfield (BGANZ representative)	Dunedin Botanic Garden PO Box 5045, Moray Place, Dunedin 9058 Phone: 027 247 6795 Email: dylan.norfield@dcc.govt.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
Geoffrey Marshall FRIH	29C Kingsview Road, Mt Eden, Auckland 1024 Mobile: 027 4826 880 Email: gimnzy@gmail.com

Associated Trusts	
Shaun Trevan (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: nznntt@cropp-place.nz Website: www.notabletrees.org.nz

Associates of Honour (AHRH):

- **Frances Rawling**, of Dunedin. Heritage Rosarian.
- **Gordon Bailey**, of Wanaka. Parks Manager, horticulturist, Past President of Pukeiti Trust.
- **Penny Cliffin**, of Auckland. Lecturer, garden designer, tour guide and former Secretary of the RNZIH.

Fellowships (FRH):

- **Dylan Northfield**, of Dunedin. Collections Manager of Dunedin Botanic Garden and member of the RNZIH Executive.
- **Jill Reader**, of Christchurch. Lecturer at Lincoln University, Moderator of the Young Horticulturist Competition.
- **Wolfgang Bopp**, of Christchurch. Director of Christchurch Botanic Gardens and Heritage Parks.

Plant Raisers' Award:

- **Elsie Hall**, of Marlborough. Lavender breeder.

Garden History Award:

- **Dr Susette Goldsmith**, of Wellington. Heritage writer.

Horticultural Communicator:

- **Gillian Vine**, of Dunedin. Horticultural writer.

See later in this newsletter for further details of our awardees. Full citations of these outstanding people will be published in the June 2026 issue of the *New Zealand Garden Journal*.

Awards will be presented on Sunday 3rd of May 2026 at the Distinction Hotel Dunedin.

Following the Awards Presentation, the 2026 Banks Memorial Lecture will be presented by Professor Janice Lord of Otago University. Title: 'Tiny but mighty: Insights and knowledge gaps in the pollination of native plants'. All are welcome.

This is in conjunction with the International Plant Production Society (formally the International Plant Propagators' Society). Special thanks to the IPPS-NZ organising committee for allowing this to happen.

Scholarships

In memory of Graeme Mander I wish to acknowledge the wonderful gift of \$10,000 to the capital of each of our scholarships made by Graeme's family. This is very much appreciated as it helps provide strong support for the recipients.

The two scholarships are the Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Scholarship and the RNZIH Memorial Prize Scholarship. Details of these are on our website at www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/awards.html.

If you would like to help increase the capital of these scholarships, I am happy to talk to you privately.

Website

Big thanks to Murray Dawson for all the extra work he has done this year in modernising our website (www.rnzih.org.nz) to make it better for users. It is a very large website with many pages of wonderful information on many aspects of horticulture. This is a resource that is being used by people in New Zealand and from around the world. Take time to visit the site and have a look at the range of information there.

Publications

The Newsletter and the *New Zealand Garden Journal* are the official publications of the RNZIH. We continue to ensure the news and articles are of a high standard.

Articles are always welcome for either publication.

Special thanks to editor Murray Dawson, associate journal editor Andrew Maloy and to June Lincoln for design and type setting of the *New Zealand Garden Journal*.

Social media

The RNZIH Facebook page (www.facebook.com/RNZIH/) currently has 1,800 followers. We are always looking for interesting content for members and other followers of the page.

YouTube

We also have our own YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/@RNZIH-NZ) which we are developing slowly. The objective is to have our Banks Lectures available on this channel. In addition, we wish to include other videos from RNZIH or other events.

Training and Professional Development

Over the last 12 months, Barbara Wheeler and several members of the National Executive have been following the changes in horticultural education, particularly with polytechnics and the Primary ITO. It will be at least another year before an accurate picture will emerge as new organisations settle down in their new roles.

Of particular concern we have noted that almost all polytechnics have abandoned teaching horticulture. The Primary ITO is assessing horticulture at Level 3 and 4 which covers the equivalent of apprenticeships. Feedback to Barbara has been that once Level 4 has been achieved where do people get advanced qualifications? The gap is at Level 5 and above where there are no advanced horticultural qualifications one can study as they work in a full-time job.

There are advanced Level 5–7 qualifications in horticulture, albeit often with a focus on horticulture production, at Lincoln and Massey universities. We have had limited discussion about continuing professional development for horticulture, and this is an area I wish to follow up in 2026.

People power

A big thank you to members of the National Executive who meet online each month to work on activities for the Institute. Thank you for everything you do.

Thanks also to all the others who do voluntary work for the Institute. It is appreciated by everyone.

Alan Jolliffe
President, RNZIH

Documents and reports for the 2026 AGM

AGM Agenda

Online, via Zoom videoconferencing.

Link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78962452589?pwd=fDNUZrYnXdcURcAzbfaskyWx9LgKm.1>

Date: Tuesday, 22nd June 2026

Time: 7.00–7.40 pm (40 mins).

1. Welcome
2. Apologies / In Memoriam
3. Proxies received
4. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interests by National Executive (Nil)
5. Minutes of the 2025 AGM
6. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2025 AGM
7. Presidents' Annual Report
8. Minutes of the 2026 Special General Meeting
9. Statement of Accounts for 2025 and Treasurers report
10. Publications and website report
11. Branch Report (Auckland)
12. Election of Officers
13. Election of External Accountant
14. General Business.

Post AGM talk: 'Horticulture: Front window for the university of life', by John Paynter.

Link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71171027204?pwd=mES1UrbgEjv6Rfej8PvUBLnovK57RP.1>

Time: 7.45 pm (20–40 mins)

In Memoriam

We record with sadness the passing of four members of the RNZIH.

Gary Phillips of Levin passed away 24th July 2024. Gary joined the RNZIH in 2009, following his return from living in Australia – we had lost touch with him over the past two years until learning of his death. Gary was an historian and enjoyed attending our conferences.

Mrs MP Brothers of Auckland passed away in September 2025. She was a member for more than 40 years and had a keen interest in horticulture and gardening.

David Moyle FRIH of Christchurch passed away 8th January 2026, while holidaying in the Marlborough Sounds.



David Moyle FRIH, 19 Nov 1941 – 8 Jan 2026.

He was a member of the RNZIH for 43 years, serving on the National Executive for seven years, and the last Chair of the Canterbury Branch. David was very active in the Christchurch Beautifying Association (CBA).

Helen Leach ONZM, AHRH passed away 23rd January 2026.



Helen Leach ONZM, AHRH, 3 July 1945 – 23 Jan 2026.

She was a professor of anthropology at the University of Otago who researched garden history and was a well-known book author.

RNZIH Finance Report for year ended 31 December 2025

The RNZIH made a cash surplus of \$26,659 for the year ended 31st December 2025.

This surplus includes a one-off donation of \$20,000 from the Mander family to the RNZIH honouring long standing member Graeme Mander. Following the wishes of the Mander family it has been applied in equal parts to the Skellerup fund and Memorial Prize fund. As these existing funds are invested as term deposits the two \$10,000 term deposits were made and these funds plus interest will be transferred to the named funds on their renewal. The RNZIH sincerely thanks the Mander family for this donation towards the capital of the two scholarship funds.

With the SFFF research project funded by MPI and the Digitisation project funded by Lotteries Heritage being substantially completed, expenditure has reduced.

Both projects have provided benefits to the RNZIH and more widely to all of horticulture.

The RNZIH publications were the main expense over this period. Other main expenses relate to the presentation of Awards and the Banks Lecture.

The following are the term deposits for the Scholarships:

- \$85,606: Memorial Prize fund
- \$124,755: Skellerup fund
- \$10,117: Mander donation to Skellerup fund
- \$10,107: Mander donation to Memorial Prize fund.

Chris Webb
Treasurer RNZIH

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 2025

Compilation Report

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.) For the year ended 31 December 2025

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 2025.

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 3, Salisbury Street
Christchurch 8013

Dated: 13 February 2025

Entity Information

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.) For the year ended 31 December 2025

'Who are we?', 'Why do we exist?'

Legal Name of Entity

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

Entity Type and Legal Basis

Incorporated Society with Charity Status.

Registration Number

Charity Registration Number CC30414

Entity's Purpose or Mission

To encourage the science of Horticulture

Entity Structure

Institute Structure: Our executive committee currently comprises of the following executive office 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 Jolliffe	President
Chris Webb	Treasurer
Murray Dawson	Executive members
Dylan Norfield	Executive members
Barbara Wheeler	Executive members
Dr. Keith 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.

Approval of Financial Report

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.) For the year ended 31 December 2025

Entity's Reliance on Volunteers and Donated Goods or Services

100% reliance of volunteers.

Physical Address

C/- Landcare Research
54 Gerald Street
Lincoln 7608

Postal Address

PO Box 85012
Lincoln University
Lincoln 7647

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 2025.

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 2025

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 2025

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

	NOTES	2025	2024
Revenue			
Revenue from Government Funding	1	-	2,783
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	1	20,040	380
Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members	1	12,109	13,581
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	1	12,220	13,361
Total Revenue		44,369	30,104
Expenses			
Costs related to providing goods or service	2	17,709	46,637
Other expenses	2	1	1
Total Expenses		17,710	46,638
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		26,659	(16,534)

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 Service Performance

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)
For the year ended 31 December 2025

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 Position

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)
As at 31 December 2025

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

	NOTES	31 DEC 2025	31 DEC 2024
Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank accounts and cash	3	164,867	175,088
Debtors and prepayments	3	4,847	1,987
Total Current Assets		169,714	177,076
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	7	8
Award/Prize Fund Accounts		85,606	81,701
Skellerup Fund Award		124,755	119,237
Skellerup		10,117	-
Memorial Trust		10,107	-
Total Non-Current Assets		230,592	200,946
Total Assets		400,306	378,022
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	4	2,045	6,420
Total Liabilities		2,045	6,420
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		398,261	371,602
Accumulated Funds			
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	6	363,042	336,383
Accumulated Funds - SFFF Project	7	35,219	35,219
Total Accumulated Funds		398,261	371,602

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 2025

'How the entity has received and used cash'

	2025	2024
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Donations, fundraising and other similar receipts	20,020	380
Fees, subscriptions and other receipts from members	11,300	21,989
Receipts from Government Funding	-	3,200
Interest, dividends and other investment receipts	2,573	5,437
GST	645	1,727
Payments to suppliers and employees	(24,759)	(45,625)
Total Cash Flows from Operating Activities	9,779	(12,852)
Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities		
Cash Flows from Other Investing and Financing Activities		
BNZ Term Deposit 03009	(10,000)	-
BNZ Term Deposit 03008	(10,000)	-
Total Cash Flows from Other Investing and Financing Activities	(20,000)	-
Total Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities	(20,000)	-
Net Increase/ (Decrease) in Cash	(10,221)	(12,852)
Cash Balances		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	175,088	187,980
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	164,867	175,088
Net change in cash for period	(10,221)	(12,892)

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 2025

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 2025

	2025	2024
1. Analysis of Revenue		
Revenue from Government Funding		
Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures Project	-	2,783
Total Revenue from Government Funding	-	2,783
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue		
Donations Received	20,040	380
Total Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue	20,040	380
Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members		
Subscription Receipts	12,109	13,581
Total Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members	12,109	13,581
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue		
Interest Received	12,220	13,361
Total Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	12,220	13,361
	2025	2024

2. Analysis of Expenses

Costs related to providing goods or services		
Accountancy Fees	1,053	989
AGM Expenses	1,400	-
Bank Charges	-	1
Catering	2,474	1,422
Donations	-	1,500
Gifts	-	100
Honorarium - Journal Editor & Website Maintenance	1,000	500
Insurance	-	1,311
Licences & Registrations	67	67
Lottery Grant Digitisation Expenses	-	13,162
Medals	77	-
Newsletters & Journals	300	-
Printing, Stamps & Stationery	6,065	10,518
SFFF Project - Expenses	3,950	11,724
Shellerup Award	400	4,500
Xero	924	844
Total Costs related to providing goods or services	17,709	46,637

	2025	2024
Other expenses		
Depreciation as per Schedule	1	1
Total Other expenses	1	1

3. Analysis of Assets

	2025	2024
Bank accounts and cash		
Operating Account	62,708	69,852
Project Account	98,845	97,508
External Funding Research Account	3,314	7,728
Total Bank accounts and cash	164,867	175,088

Debtors and prepayments

Accounts Receivable	4,225	1,410
GST	605	512
Total Debtors and prepayments	4,830	1,922

Investments

BNZ Term Deposit 03004	85,606	81,701
BNZ Term Deposit 03007	124,755	119,237
BNZ Term Deposit 03008	10,117	-
BNZ Term Deposit 03009	10,107	-
Total Investments	230,585	200,938

4. Analysis of Liabilities

	2025	2024
Creditors and accrued expenses		
Accounts Payable	-	4,625
GST	(16)	-
Receipts in advance	2,045	1,795
Total Creditors and accrued expenses	2,029	6,420

5. Property, Plant and Equipment

	2025	2024
Furniture and Fittings		
Furniture and fittings owned	285	285
Accumulated depreciation - furniture and fittings owned	(278)	(277)
Total Furniture and Fittings	7	8
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	7	8

	2025	2024
6. Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds		
Opening Balance	336,383	352,917
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	26,659	(16,534)
Total Accumulated Funds	363,042	336,383
Total Accumulated Funds	363,042	336,383

7. Accumulated Funds

	2025	2024
Sustainable Future Fibre Fund		
Opening Balance	35,219	35,219
Total Sustainable Future Fibre Fund	35,219	35,219
Total Accumulated Funds	35,219	35,219

8. Commitments

There are no commitments as at 31 December 2024 (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.

Publications and website report: 2025–2026

Publications

2025 saw the production of our newsletters and journals with the usual diverse (and hopefully interesting) range of content.

I remain grateful of the continued support from Andrew Maloy (associate editor) and June Lincoln (designer) in producing our journal, which ensures its quality is of an international standard.

I must apologise for the lateness in getting the December 2025 issue of our journal out to members. We ended up short of content meaning that I had to write a major article (on poisonous plants) from scratch.

Please do get in touch with me if you have an idea for an interesting and original article that you could contribute. For example, it was great to have first-time contributor Renee Johnson writing a lead article based on her Young Horticulturist of the Year prize to investigate garden history and design in Japan – this was well-illustrated an interesting account.

Website

Work is ongoing to keep our online content up-to-date. This includes details of our executive, awardees, and key members.

Most of our major webpages have now been updated and re-uploaded to follow the new design layout, first implemented three years ago. However, it's true that many of the subpages, such as the 700 individual webpages in the Plant Doctor Archive (www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/plant_doctor.html) are still to be modernised, which remains a time-consuming challenge. I've also learned how to do video-editing for our new YouTube channel.

It's hard to believe that it has been more than a quarter of a century since the first version of our website!

Murray Dawson
RNZIH Webmaster and Journal Editor

Auckland Branch report 2025

Branch Committee members:

Chair/Secretary – Penny Cliffin

Treasurer – Geoffrey Marshall

Newsletter editors – Geoffrey Marshall and Ross Ferguson

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

Many thanks to our committee for continuing to contribute to branch activities.

Branch Activities

Summer Tree Walk and AGM – 1 pm, Saturday 1st March 2025

This was held at Pah Homestead Café, Monte Cecilia Park, Hillsborough.

Committee and branch members met on the veranda of the Pah Homestead for lunch. We conducted the usual AGM business, reporting on branch and national events and re-electing the branch committee.

After the business was completed, we took a stroll around the expansive grounds, taking in various trees including the avenue of huge Moreton Bay figs (*Ficus macrophylla*), the native milk tree (*Paratrophis microphylla*), the delicate serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*) and a mighty tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*).



Amelanchier canadensis (serviceberry or shadbush).
Photo: © Penny Cliffin.



Image from Yvonne's 'Garden on the Hill' website (<https://gardenonthehill.co.nz/>) featuring sweet peas bred by Dr Keith Hammett.

Spring Trip to West Auckland – 18th October 2025: A visit Dr Keith Hammett's and Yvonne Baker's properties

Most of our members will know Dr Keith Hammett. He is a private professional plant breeder based in west Auckland. He has developed the grounds of his 4 ha property as an arboretum and the site of numerous plant breeding programmes (www.drkeithhammett.co.nz/).

Keith has established the largest and most diverse collection of clivia in New Zealand. This contains over 30,000 plants, most planted under trees. All six species are represented. The clivia were still blooming well at Keith's, despite the late visit date.

We then went on to visit Yvonne Baker at her boutique flower farm titled 'Garden on the Hill'. Yvonne trained at Wisley (UK) and has held many horticultural roles including at Container Nurseries, working with Keith, and at the Auckland Botanic Gardens.

She has put her horticultural knowledge to good use in developing her flower farm. The flower gardens are very impressive with the wide range of plants in good health without spraying. Yvonne grows a wide range of annuals, perennials and shrubs for use in the bouquets for sale to the public, on site and at local markets. She also sells seeds and books.

Christmas Party at Eden Gardens – 4th December 2025

A successful end of year lunch was held at Eden Garden. Ten attendees including past committee members, Sue Davison and Mary Petley, branch members Peter Bilton and Keith Hammett plus the current committee.

The gardens were looking lovely, and we enjoyed a walk around after lunch. Geoffrey is on the Executive Committee for the gardens. He reported that a new café manager had recently been appointed.

Ngā mihi nui

Penny Cliffin
Chair, Auckland Branch RNZIH

2026 RNZIH Awardees

Congratulations to our Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture award recipients for 2026.

There are three new associates – **Fran Rawling**, **Gordon Bailey** and **Penny Cliffin**; three new fellows – **Dylan Norfield**, **Jill Reader** and **Wolfgang Bopp**; a plant raiser – **Elsie Hall**; a garden history awardee – **Susette Goldsmith**; and a new horticultural communicator – **Gillian Vine**.

Wolfgang and Susette are unable to attend the Dunedin awards ceremony and will be presented with their certificate and medal at a later date.

Associates of Honour

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

For more than 30 years, **Fran Rawling QSM, AHRIH** has been the leading heart and voice behind the preservation of historic roses in Aotearoa–NZ. Her tireless voluntary work ensures that rare and beautiful cultivars aren't just memories but living parts of our landscape.



Fran Rawling, RNZIH Associate of Honour (AHRIH) for 2026. Photo: © Liz Greenwood.

Fran played a pivotal role in creating the NZ National Register of Heritage Roses, mobilising a nationwide effort to find and save rare roses from disappearing forever. Through her work with Heritage Roses New Zealand Inc. (HRNZI), she has provided national leadership as Otago Convenor, Treasurer, and twice as National President, helping to build the organisation's influence and effectiveness in protecting New Zealand's rose heritage.

She is the driving force behind the heritage rose collection at the Dunedin Northern Cemetery – now one of the most important collections in the Southern Hemisphere.

Alongside her husband Mike, she created the stunning Wylde Willow Garden, in Abbotsford, Dunedin. This was a garden of National Significance when listed by the New Zealand Gardens Trust. Wylde Willow is often used as a venue for Heritage Roses Otago and other meetings and public workshops promoting the care of old roses.

Her lifelong dedication was honoured with a Queen's Service Medal (QSM) in 2021 for her services to heritage rose conservation.

In 2022 at the World Rose Convention in Adelaide, Fran was awarded the World Federation of Rose Societies World Rose Award in recognition of her dedicated service in the promotion of The Rose.

Through vision, leadership, resilience and voluntary effort, Fran Rawling has made an exceptional contribution to the conservation of heritage roses and to horticulture in New Zealand.

The RNZIH are proud to announce Frances Joan Rawling as an Associate of Honour of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture for 2026.

Congratulations, Fran!



Gordon Bailey, RNZIH Associate of Honour (AHRIH) for 2026.

From mowing lawns in Waimate as a schoolboy to becoming a leading figure of parks management and rhododendron conservation, **Gordon Bailey AHRIH** has a career and interests that are a testament to dedication, leadership, and a deep-rooted love for plants and public spaces.

Gordon has had a long and distinguished career.

He has shaped the landscapes of the South Island, serving as Parks Manager for the Gore, Queenstown Lakes, and Central Otago District Councils. His work has ensured our public spaces remain vibrant and well-managed for all to enjoy.

As a long-standing Chairman of the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust, Gordon spearheaded an internationally significant conservation strategy. He helped create a nationwide network of partner gardens to ensure endangered species thrive in climates best suited for them.

Following a passion ignited in his youth, Gordon has visited China six times to study rhododendrons in the wild and collect seeds, many of which are now growing across New Zealand.

In 2025 Gordon was awarded Life Membership of the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust. He is also a recipient of the prestigious Ian Galloway Memorial Cup.

As former Chair of the NZ Horticulture Industry Training Organisation and the Otago Conservation Board, Gordon has spent decades mentoring others and advocating for the environment.

Whether he is tending to his large collection of peonies and trilliums at home or guiding national conservation strategies, Gordon's influence on New Zealand horticulture is profound.

Already a Fellow of the RNZIH, we are proud to celebrate Gordon Frank Bailey as an Associate of Honour of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture for 2026.

Congratulations, Gordon!

We are delighted to name Penelope (**Penny**) **Cliffin** as an Associate of Honour of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (AHR IH) for 2026.



Penny Cliffin, RNZIH Associate of Honour (AHR IH) for 2026.

From the lecture halls of Unitec to the canopy of Auckland's notable trees and beyond, Penny has spent her career championing landscape design and urban arboriculture.

For more than 22 years, Penny taught landscape design at Unitec, shaping the careers of countless emerging designers with her practical wisdom and passion.

As a leading expert on Auckland's tree collections, Penny has been a vital voice on the Auckland Tree Council since 2016 and represented the NZ Notable Trees Trust.

A founding member and past president of the Garden Design Society of NZ, Penny has lent her expert eye as a judge for the Ellerslie Flower Shows, Auckland Flower Show, and Head Judge for the Registered Master Landscapers National awards. She is also an Assessor for the NZ Gardens Trust.

Through her business Hiko Garden Tours, Penny continues to lead enthusiasts on horticultural journeys across New Zealand and around the world. She has just returned from a tour in Japan.

Through all her activities, Penny has shown leadership and the ability to communicate with students, society members, and the general public.

Penny served on the RNZIH National Executive for 12 years and currently chairs the Auckland Branch, and we deeply appreciate her dedication to the Institute. In 2007 she was made a Fellow of the Institute (FRIH). In 2026, we are proud to recognise Penny Cliffin's broader contributions to horticulture and arboriculture in New Zealand by bestowing our highest award, an Associate of Honour.

Congratulations Penny!

Fellowships

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."*

Dylan Norfield is a new Fellow of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture for 2026.

From a childhood in the UK winning flower shows at age 10 to becoming a self-described "plant fanatic" in Dunedin, Dylan's journey is one of horticultural passion and excellence.

Born in Tavistock, Devon, Dylan's parents Andrew and Rosemary had a huge influence on his horticultural future. Both were avid plants-people, running Norfields plant nursery from the 1980s. The family business specialised in rare trees and shrubs, especially maples. With its own arboretum covering 40 acres Norfields was primarily a seed orchard and a trial area for growing new species and hybrids.

Dylan coordinated the horticultural shows sales and displays for Norfields, with ten Royal Horticultural Society shows around the UK each year. Dylan's plant displays won more than 30 RHS gold medals and five consecutive Chelsea gold medals. This included a primetime TV appearance in 2004 for the nursery's successes.



Dyland Norfield, Fellow of the RNZIH (FRIH) for 2026.

Falling in love with Dunedin while on holiday, Dylan and Joanne emigrated to NZ in 2005. Initially working for Blueskin wholesale nursery in Waitati, for the following 15 years Dylan has been a driving force at the Dunedin Botanic Garden, curating more than 2,000 species and overseeing the plant collections that make the garden a world-class destination.

His personal garden at Doctors Point – carved out of gorse and scrub – is now home to more than 1,400 rare species. Doctors Point was named a 5-star NZ Gardens Trust garden of National Significance in 2025.

Dylan has generously shared his horticultural knowledge. He has written over 100 articles for *Kiwi Gardener*, *Otago Daily Times*, *NZ Gardener*, and other publications. He has spoken at conferences, co-hosted radio shows and led masterclasses to inspire the next generation of growers.

His philosophy says it best: "The more you learn, the more you realise you do not know." His humility and expertise make him a truly deserving Fellow.

Congratulations, Dylan!



Jill Reader, Fellow of the RNZIH (FRIH) for 2026.

Jill Reader has a Fellowship with the RNZIH for 2026.

Jill's horticultural journey started not in a childhood garden, but as a homeowner in the 1980s who turned a necessity garden into a lifelong career in research and education.

Her early professional development included work in plant production nurseries, where she gained practical, hands-on expertise. She joined Crop & Food Research (as it was then known) and worked as Glasshouse Manager overseeing genetically modified plant facilities and several GM field trials.

During this time, she contributed to more than 50 research papers, reports and conference presentations, demonstrating both technical capability and a strong commitment to advancing horticultural science. While at Crop and Food, Jill continued her studies at Lincoln University, completing a Graduate Diploma in Applied Science.

Jill has given decades of service to the IPPS-NZ Region. Over three decades of membership, she has served six years as editor, and eight years progressing through as 2nd Vice-President, 1st Vice-President, President, and

International Director for the NZ Region. For her services to the NZ Region, Jill received the John Follett Award of Recognition in 2013. These 17 years of service on the committee reflect both dedication and sustained influence within one of horticulture's most important professional organisations.

Since joining the teaching staff at Lincoln University in 2012, Jill has been passionate about horticultural education in New Zealand. She teaches across both diploma and degree programmes, delivering courses in plant propagation and amenity horticulture.

Jill has also contributed to the development of emerging professionals through her role as Moderator of the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition over the past four years, supporting and encouraging excellence among the next generation of horticulturists. This competition is managed by the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture NZ Education Trust, and Jill has been a member of the RNZIH for the past 12 years.

Jillian Kay Reader's sustained and distinguished service to horticulture, particularly in education and professional leadership, makes her a most worth Fellow of the RNZIH.

Congratulations Jill!

The RNZIH is proud to award a Fellowship to **Wolfgang Bopp**, Director of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens and Garden Parks. Since arriving in New Zealand in 2018, Wolfgang has provided transformative leadership, overseeing critical restoration projects and strengthening the Gardens' focus on conservation horticulture and biosecurity research.

Wolfgang's horticultural journey began in Germany and led him to some of the most prestigious institutions in the United Kingdom. His UK career highlights include:

- National Botanic Garden of Wales: Served as the inaugural Curator for a Millennium Project, helping launch the 568-acre site on time and budget.



Wolfgang Bopp, RNZIH Fellow for 2026.

- Sir Harold Hillier Gardens: Spent more than a decade as Curator then Director, where he managed one of the world's most diverse hardy plant collections.
- *The Guardian's* Prodigy List: In 2004, he was named one of 80 talented young people predicted to "shape our lives in the 21st century" – a prediction he has certainly fulfilled!

While still in the UK, Wolfgang was a trustee of the Plant Collections Network for the UK and Ireland for more than 10 years. He is a life member of both the International Dendrology Society and the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). A lifelong learner and volunteer, he remains a corresponding member of the RHS Woody Plant Expert Group and was a senior RHS Floral Judge.

Wolfgang's impact in New Zealand is also noteworthy. At the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, Wolfgang has navigated unique challenges – from managing the 2019 mosque attack floral tributes to the current restoration of the Cuninghame Conservatory.

He has been instrumental in several partnerships with:

- The Department of Conservation on seed banking and reintroducing rare native plants.
- Leading the Gardens' participation in international sentinel plant studies to protect New Zealand's borders.
- Increasing collaboration with Canterbury University and driving the city's Urban Forest Plan.

The next projects on the horizon include developing a Children's Garden and Gondwana Garden.

Beyond his role in Christchurch, Wolfgang is a Director of BGANZ (Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand) and Deputy Chair of the New Zealand Gardens Trust.

Wolfgang has been a member of the RNZIH since arriving in New Zealand and recently became a New Zealand citizen. The RNZIH is delighted to recognise his immense expertise and dedication to horticulture with this Fellowship.

Congratulations, Wolfgang!

Plant Raiser

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."*

Elsie Hall is the 2026 Plant Raiser awardee.

Elsie is a world-renowned lavender breeder from the Wairau Valley. Her most famous creation, 'Thumbelina Leigh', is a global superstar with around a million plants produced in Europe every single year.

Extracting and purifying essential oils became an important part of her work. Many of her oils have won prizes in the NZ Lavender Oil Association competitions. In 2019 Elsie was awarded Life Membership of the Association.



Elsie Hall, 2026 recipient of the RNZIH Plant Raisers' award.

The location of their property, in addition to the lavender fields enabled a significant contribution to the tourist industry. On offer to visitors were Elsie's lavender oils, art works, and lavender flavoured muffins, chocolate and ice cream.

With nine patented cultivars and others under evaluation, including the LA Petite dwarf series, Elsie's work defines the "fabric of horticulture" worldwide.

Elsie considers the following to be her most significant cultivars (to date), here named for the 2026 Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture Plant Raisers' Award:

- 'Azure Leigh'
- 'Grace Leigh'
- 'La Petite Blue'
- 'Thumbelina Leigh'
- 'Myrleigh'

Congratulations, Elsie!



Lavandula angustifolia 'Azure Leigh'.



Lavandula angustifolia 'Grace Leigh'.



Lavandula angustifolia 'La Petite Blue'.



Lavandula angustifolia 'Thumbelina Leigh'.



Lavandula stoechas 'Myrleigh'.



Susette Goldsmith, RNZIH Garden History Awardee for 2026.

Garden History Award

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

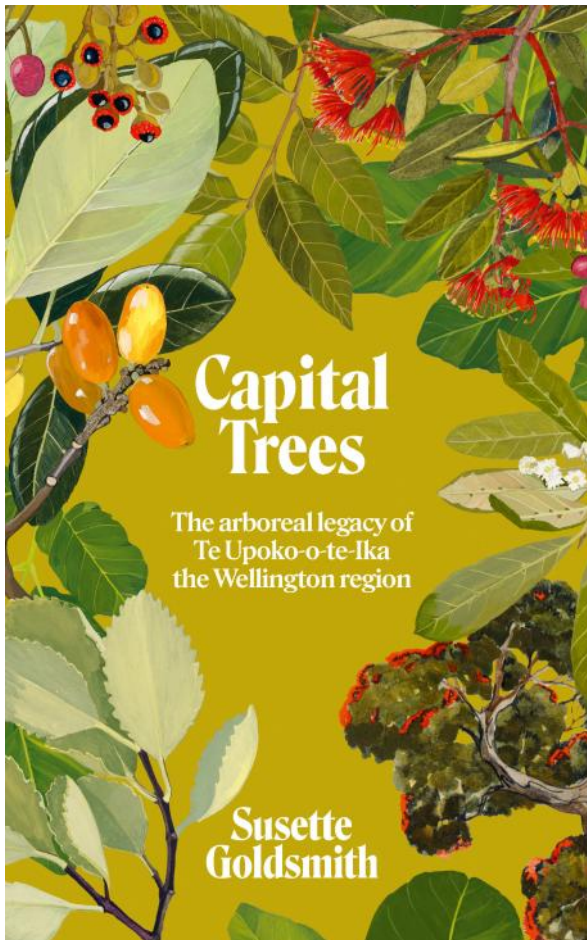
The RNZIH is proud to present the 2026 Garden History Award to **Dr Susette Goldsmith** for her distinguished contributions to the documentation, interpretation, and protection of New Zealand’s garden and arboreal heritage.

Susette’s work is characterised by academic rigor and the ability to bridge the gap between research and public awareness. Her doctoral research at Victoria University of Wellington redefined how we view trees – moving beyond biological descriptions to treat them as ‘natural monuments’ with complex social and historical narratives.

Her extensive research has culminated in several landmark publications:

- *Capital Trees* (2025): Her most recent work traces the arboreal legacy of the Wellington region, including a detailed history of the RNZIH’s role in heritage tree protection.
- *Tree Sense* (2021): A diverse collection of essays and art that challenges readers to rethink the role of trees in our well-being and future.
- *The Gardenmakers of Taranaki* (1997): An essential record of regional horticultural history, reflecting her long-standing commitment to New Zealand’s gardens.

Susette has dedicated years to exploring the ‘unauthorised’ heritage values of trees – advocating for them as essential placeholders of national memory. Her editorial expertise was instrumental in recording the history of the legendary nursery Duncan and Davies, and her broader interest in social history has even explored the rituals of New Zealand’s tea and coffee cultures.



Book cover of *Capital Trees*, Susette Goldsmith's latest work.

As an Adjunct Research Fellow at the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies, Susette continues to use engaging storytelling to make historical research accessible to the public. Her work ensures that the stories of our cultivated landscapes are not only recorded but protected for future generations.

The RNZIH celebrates Dr Susette Goldsmith for her outstanding dedication to safeguarding the living legacies of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Horticultural Communicator

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

Gillian Vine is the winner of the 2026 Horticultural Communicator Award.

From planting her first potato at age four to becoming one of New Zealand's most prolific garden writers, Gillian's impact on the horticultural community is remarkable.

Born in Southland, Gillian has become the voice of Otago gardening. Over 20 years, she has written 600 articles for the *Otago Daily Times* (ODT). As well as features on plants and people, she covered local, national, and overseas gardens and shows.

There are few notable gardens around Dunedin that she has not reported on or visited.

Dedicated to promoting gardening, Gillian once even posed nude for the ODT to highlight National Nude Gardening Day!

For more than 15 years, Gillian has also been a regular contributor to *Kiwi Gardener* magazine and writes a monthly garden feature for the *Greymouth Star*.

Her newspaper and magazine work in New Zealand and overseas, on a variety of subjects, has been recognised by many awards. These include:

- The Singapore Tourism Board's Best English language travel feature (in *NZ Woman's Weekly*)
- NZ Travel Writers' prize (*The Southland Times*)
- Australasian Catholic Press Association's headline-writing prize and a writing award (*The Tablet*)
- Several NZ Community Newspaper Association prizes (*The Star*).

More than just a writer, Gillian is a dedicated and hands-on gardener, flower show exhibitor, and editor for the Otago Rose Society.

Gillian Vine's lifelong dedication to sharing the joy of plants and people makes her a truly worthy recipient of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticultural Communicator Award for 2026.



Jillian Vine, 2026 recipient of the RNZIH Horticultural Communicator Award.



RNZIH award medal.

New members

We warmly welcome our new members:

Regular members:

Carol Winsley Whangarei
Dr Hans Maurer Auckland
Arran Murch Tauranga

Student member:

Chester Nevil Waikato

Society member:

Waikato Horticultural Society Hamilton



ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

