



ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (Inc.)

NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 450
WELLINGTON

Vol. 1 No. 6

DECEMBER, 1974.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Member,

In the last newsletter reference was made to the financial position of the Institute and to the proposed constitutional changes.

Since then both subjects have been given further consideration. With the current situation some urgent steps were essential regarding subscriptions before the start of the 1974-75 financial year which commenced on 1st October 1974. The Conference on 13th September therefore resolved that the annual subscription rates, excluding the Institute's official journal, be as follows:

Ordinary (or general members)	\$5.00
Fellows (elected)	\$6.00
Joint Husband-Wife membership	\$1.00 less than the
aggregate of the two appropriate individual rates.	

Provided sufficient orders for the Journal are received to warrant publication at a reasonable cost, financial members may order and pay for a copy of Official Journal No. 3—due in 1975. The capitation grant to District Councils—where functioning, remains at 50 cents per member or is 75 cents for joint husband/wife subscriptions.

I regret that these increased rates are essential and appeal to all members to continue their membership, particularly over this period of constitutional reorganisation. All members will receive our newsletters.

Subscription rates for small local societies are being raised to \$6.00, national non commercial societies to \$13.00 and commercial associations to \$26.00, this increase being \$1.00 in each case.

Now is the time for members to help the Institute financially by enrolling as many small local societies as possible, especially in districts where no District Councils are functioning. A large number of member societies would make the Institute more truly representative and give societies the opportunity to demonstrate they really cared about New Zealand horticulture and that the Institute was filling an essential co-ordinating role with many aspects of horticulture such as—labelling and preserving notable and historic trees, plants of garden excellence, judging rules and "Flowers for Shows", plant "patents" and in providing an opportunity for young men and women to gain a recognised qualification in horticulture, especially if they are unable to attend either Massey or Lincoln.

When the new constitution comes into operation I recommend to the new executive that a personal recruitment approach be made to all occupational horticulturists who earn their living in horticulture, especially those on university, parks, or research staff or in the advisory, plant

quarantine or other regulatory services. I feel sure that many such persons will welcome the opportunity to become national members.

The Special Conference of Delegates to consider the revised constitution met on Friday 13 September, 1974, and with certain amendments approved the rules as set out in an eight page paper marked A. It should be noted by members that all decisions made at this special conference shall be subject to confirmation at the next annual conference.

If confirmed next year every member by action and voting rights should directly play a more significant part in the affairs of the Institute. Each member will be free to attend the annual conference, speak and vote. If unable to attend, proxy votes will be accepted on the appropriate form. Each member is entitled to a postal vote in the election for members of the executive.

The Institute will continue to encourage the formation of new District Councils and to encourage District Councils in their work, but details regarding the activities of District Councils will not be set out in the Constitution nor will District Councils continue to appoint representatives to the executive with voting rights related to numerical strength. However, it is proposed that the terms and conditions within which District Councils may operate shall be drafted and presented to next year's conference. The aims and objects shall conform as closely as possible to the aims and objects of the Institute.

The clause in the draft constitution on which the special conference was divided was 5(c) which currently states—The executive shall consist of the Chairman elected under clause 5(a) and eleven National members duly nominated and elected at the annual general meeting of members for a term of three years. Election to the executive shall be carried out by means of a postal vote of members.

Reconsideration is being given to a recommendation by the minority present at the conference that election to the executive be not restricted to National members but open to any member.

From the above review I'm sure all members realise that the 1975 conference at Hamilton is of great significance to the Institute as an organisation and to each one of us personally, so I hope as many members as possible will be present to launch a revitalised Institute.

Wishing you the warmest seasonal greetings for Christmas and the New Year.

A.M.W. Greig,
Dominion President.

HORTICULTURAL GLEANINGS FROM OVERSEAS

by R.H. Mole, F.R.I.H.(N.Z.)
N.D.H.(N.Z.) Wellington.

Part Two

As I peered through the train window en route from London to the Midlands I was relieved to see that, despite its 55 million population, there still existed sizable areas of farmland; the fields were enclosed by the neat hedges of hawthorn and the rural landscape overall was still dotted freely with mature native trees of oak, lime, ash, elm and so on, giving a truly park-like effect.

In the field of horticulture and recreation, my home town, Kettering, Northamptonshire, is known widely for its first class loam (advertised for years in leading horticultural journals) and its Wicksteed Park. This private park, open to the public, (no admission charge) covers over 300 acres and was founded over 60 years ago by Charles Wicksteed the head of an engineering firm specialising in the manufacture of playground equipment. Two acres of playground equip-

ment are present in the park to-day, but this amenity is only one of many, boating lake, swimming pools, water chute, railway, cycling track, horse rides, tennis, golf, putting greens are a few others, which, to my mind, make Wicksteed Park the complete family park and one which I have yet to see equalled in catering for people of all ages. Mr F.P. Knight, ex Director of the R.H.S. Gardens at Wisley has recently been commissioned to plan an arboretum for the park.

Chester Zoological Gardens in north-west England were visited on a perfect sunny day towards the end of August. This was my first visit to this 330 acre site controlled by the North of England Zoological Society. Animals there were aplenty, the majority exhibited in large outdoor enclosures—the enclosure in many instances being an inconspicuous ‘haha’, the deep trench system now widely adopted in many leading zoos throughout the world. However, it was not the animals that gained my chief attention, but the well planned and well grown bedding schemes. Within an establishment not devoted primarily to horticulture, these garden features at Chester Zoo were the best seen by me anywhere and reflect the ability of the planners, maintenance staff, and the benefit of using plenty of organic manure!!

For two days I was guest of Mr R. Evison, the congenial and capable Director of Brighton Parks & Gardens Department which controls over 2,500 acres of open spaces. A tour of different sections of the Department proved most interesting. For the record Brighton has what is reckoned to be the tallest *Euonymus japonica* in the U.K. Planted in 1882 against a high sea wall, it has been 60 ft tall for the last 40 years. Its well-being, especially in its early years is considered to be the installation of a sprinkler system which washes off salt deposit when deemed necessary. Mr Evison informed me that reel mowers are used exclusively by his Department to avoid possible damage to persons or structures. Biggest money spinner in the Department comes from its three mini golf courses which net a clear profit of about £15,000 annually.

Edinburgh Botanic Garden, R.H.S. Garden, Wisley and Kew Gardens, Richmond, were visited in that order. The new, vast greenhouse unit at Edinburgh was most impressive. Absence of internal supports permit landscaping of the interior sections to be designed as small gardens, as opposed to the usual display system of potted plants on staging. The R.H.S. garden is still the one that, aesthetically, pleases me most. Much has changed there in recent years, the majority being improvements, but the formal ‘pseudo swimming pool’ constructed immediately in front of the fine old laboratory seems to me to be totally out of place. Compared to Wisley and Edinburgh gardens, Kew, Britain’s best botanic garden, seemed to have changed little. In the bromeliad house, I noted cylindrical, hollow sections of cork oak (*Quercus suber*) being used to camouflage interior supports. Having put two or three 1 ft. long sections around the posts the hollow interior was filled with plastic. Using a metal frame, the same sections could easily be used to envelop the framework and so provide an instant artificial tree useful for perching epiphytic plants.

My main quest of seeing a sizable collection of New Zealand plants in the U.K. was realised at the Logan Botanic Garden situated at the southern tip of a narrow peninsula in Wigtownshire, south-west Scotland—a location similar to that of Wellington. Here hundreds of New Zealand plants were seen thriving in a garden surrounded on three sides by the sea. Extensive use was made of *Cordyline australis* (cabbage tree) which helps to give this Scottish public garden a truly tropical appearance. Eye catching specimens of numerous tree ferns were also present, notably *Cyathea dealbata* and *C. medullaris*. There was no doubt that the large number of people visiting this isolated garden was proof of its popularity. At the same time, it was a pleasing thought that the majority of plants people came to see growing there were of New Zealand origin.

COBHAM DRIVE – WELLINGTON

By Jacob De Ruiter, Dip. Hort., Dip. P.R.A.
(Technical Assistant, Wellington Parks Department)

Cobham Drive is a busy road in Wellington because it is a vital link between the Eastern Suburbs and the city. The area, of course, is always in the public eye.

In the past it was a flat, barren, dull landscape which turned a dead brown colour during summer droughts. It was considered by the Wellington City Council Parks & Reserves Department to be an area in need of beautification.

Large quantities of boulders were introduced in May 1973 to change the character and break up the dull flatness. At first the scheme was criticised and feared to be a traffic hazard. This, however, has not been the case and I have seen the boulders act as a safety barrier against oncoming traffic.

Topsoil was spread around the boulders to enable planting to take place. Difficulty was experienced on Cobham Drive because it has such a harsh climate. On the northern side is Evans Bay, from where the heavy salt laden winds blow, throwing salt water onto the roadway and across planting. This causes salinity and burn off. On part of the southern side is the airport which causes a major pollution problem in the form of fumes from aircraft.

Then there are the soil problems; the parent material is rotten rock which was introduced to build up the road, and on top of this there is 6" of heavy loam topsoil, causing ponding in winter and turns rock hard during summer droughts. Due to these soil conditions, it is difficult to introduce plants which grow in a typical coastal setting where the soil is usually gravel and sand. Cobham Drive hasn't got this typical soil profile, and so the introduction of Marram grass to Cobham Drive is difficult.

With our experience of these problems the Department has tried to make its planting approach an ecological one, where the species chosen are to dominate weeds, for maintenance reasons, and withstand the climatic conditions, yet giving a strong natural coastal character. To achieve this, the Department has planted selected species closely together in bold groups, to give strong textures and background colours. Close planting in a site like Cobham Drive is essential, as one plant tends to shelter the other. Plants selected with confidence for such a site include: *Phormium colensoi*, *P. tenax*, *Coprosma repens*, *Olearia traversii*, *Cortaderia toetoe*, *Arthropodium cirrhatum*, *Carpobrotis*.

The list is a small example, but one may notice that the plants have some natural modification for protection and transpiration control and that a large proportion of our selection are monocotyledonous plants. Monocots, I believe, have a natural advantage of swaying with the wind rather than standing upright against it.

It is felt prudent to plant as many natives as possible, to represent a typical New Zealand coastal character, bold in design and visually interesting to the people who pass it every day.

REWARDS OF CAREFREE GARDENING

By Barbara Matthews

One of my most pleasant recollections of a visit to England was a meeting with the late Mrs Margery Fish, author of several books on gardening and a noted horticulturist. She had a very charming old home, East Lambrook Manor at Petherton, Somerset, which, since her death, has become a National Trust property and continues to be open to the public.

I wonder if those who are carrying on at the Manor are also continuing her concepts of gardening. "I hate the hoe," she told me, and, "nobody is allowed to use a hoe in my garden." In her first book, "We Made a Garden", she tells how her husband was a tidy gardener who believed in the constant use of the hoe and kept the place in such good order that they didn't have weeds or other adventitious plants. But when he died she deliberately let many seedlings grow and the reward was worth all the extra work that hand-weeding involved.

She had an eye like a hawk for any variations, and seedlings that looked promising were given every chance to develop their full potential. Since she was an ardent collector of interesting and unusual species, hybrids and cultivars of herbaceous perennials in particular, she quite often found curious varieties and forms, some of which deserved further growing to prove their worth and finally, propagation and naming, as for example *Artemisia* "Lambrook Silver" which is a greatly improved form of the popular seaside plant, *A. absinthium*. She was very pleased with a bright yellow form of *Euphorbia characias*, which she pointed out, and this was exhibited at Chelsea Flower Show the following year.

In one part of her garden there was an old ditch, an ideal situation for moisture loving plants, and on its banks she grew almost every bog or damp-soil perennial you could imagine, from primulas to hostas, giant rheums to ferns. Here the plants mingled together in happy profusion, in a carefree plan that was quite fascinating. She chose the best situation for each plant with unerring instinct, whether it was a crevice in a wall or a place in her herbaceous border. And this also with careful consideration of the all-year effect, in form and colour.

Plants became Margery Fish's life and I saw Lambrook Manor in what was to be her final year there. She loved the place intensely and knew every plant in its 3 acres. Her last book, "Carefree Gardening" passes on very clearly the lessons she learnt about maintenance free gardens, and her philosophy about using plants naturally is a clear message to us all. As a writer she had the unusual ability to pass on her practical knowledge and experience and I am sure her books will be an inspiration to all gardeners for many more years.

PROPERTY LAW AMENDMENT BILL

By J.G. Short, F.R.I.H.(N.Z.), Wellington.

The Dominion Council, on having its attention drawn to the matter of the proposed section 129C of the Property Law Amendment Bill saw fit to set up a sub-committee to make immediate submissions to the Select Committee of Parliament concerned. A submission has now been made and we await the time of the hearing when members from Wellington will have opportunity to support their submissions and to assess the reaction of the Select Committee.

Broadly speaking the submission outlines the ways in which this amendment to the Property Act will go further than the amendment to the Fencing Act which has been the subject of earlier approaches to Government by the R.N.Z.I.H. We have pointed out that there is general and grave concern at what appears to be a further weakening of the rights of those living in urban areas to have and to enjoy trees as part of their landscape.

Our submission concludes with the following paragraph:—

"We hope that the Amendment where it relates to trees will not become law. We find that the clause in the Amendment to the Fencing Act 26A covers the situation and should not be tampered with until we are able to pass legislation such as the Tree Preservation Orders of the Town and Country Planning Act of England and Wales, 1964. Until trees and the place they have in the urban landscape are better defined, they remain too much at risk in New Zealand."

We are aware that submissions on this subject have been made by a number of Local Bodies and kindred associations including the Institute of Park & Recreation Administration.

ANNOUNCING THE FIRST NEW ZEALAND FLOWER OF THE YEAR

N.Z. Nurserymen's Association

New Zealand Nurserymen recognise the wealth of magnificent flower plants that have been improved by hybridists throughout the world. In other countries where the population is so much bigger, the seed producers heavily promote their creations. This is further publicised when they win awards such as the All American Selection, and Award of Merit. Then the seed houses display colourful catalogues and supply point of sale banners and posters. Finally, the retailer promotes on a local basis as heavily as his budget will allow, and where you've got a population of gardeners, this budget can be quite large. With garden commentators looking for new material, soon the gardening public will be acquainted with the best the world can offer.

In New Zealand we cannot do all this so our bedding plant growers have decided to test these plants under New Zealand conditions, and select one variety each season. This variety must not only perform well but in the judges' eyes have real merit on the New Zealand scene.

Such a plant has been chosen for this spring: Petunia 'Rangatira'. It is an all-double multi-flora mixed variety. It is true that double petunias have been available in recent years. However, the selection committee agree that the colour range and the weather resistance of the flowers and the bushier habit of the plant will make this petunia a very popular flower for New Zealand gardening. It is an expensive variety, 80 cents for six plants, but they are worth it. When in full flower, they become the focal point of the garden and they flower for months.

The special features Petunia 'Rangatira' possesses are a more dwarf and compact habit with brighter coloured flowers—pink, salmon, white, red & white, rose, rose & white, scarlet plus blue & white as well as blue. The strong firm flower petals will withstand adverse weather better than other double petunias. They are also earlier flowering than comparable varieties.

All in all a variety that can be highly recommended.

FLORAL ART HANDBOOK

Published by the R.N.Z.I.H. (Inc.)

A guide to Exhibitors, Stewards, Judges and all involved with Floral Art competitions. Handy purse or pocket size, plasticised cover, lie-flat binding. Price \$1.50 cash with order—from the Dominion Secretary, P.O. Box 450, Wellington.

ANNUAL DOMINION CONFERENCE

Notice is hereby given of the holding of the Annual General Meeting and Dominion Conference of Delegates in Hamilton on February 28 and March 1, 1975.

Official Opening (followed by informal programme) at 8 p.m. Friday, February 28 by His Excellency the Governor-General Sir Denis Blundell, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.B.E., accompanied by Her Excellency Lady Blundell. Business Session at 9 a.m. and Banks Lecture at 8 p.m. on Saturday, 1st March.

Members are invited to be present.

K.J. Lemmon,
Dominion Secretary.

PRUNUS IN SOUTHLAND

By G.A.R. Petrie, N.D.H.(N.Z.), A.H.R.I.H.(N.Z.).

Each spring in Southland, provided the winds stay away, the Prunus family which includes the ornamental plums, apricots, peaches, almonds and cherries, make a fine contribution to the Carnival of Spring and this season has been one of the best in the history of the province since we experienced only 52.1 millimeters of rain in the last two months, plus a total absence of gale force winds.

Many people proclaim against the Prunus family saying that they do not last long enough, but if space permits a collection could be planted which will bloom from August until late October.

Locally the first Prunus flowers appear early in August with varieties like Prunus Nigra, Prunus Moseri and Prunus Blireiana in succession, followed by Prunus Incame O'kame which again this season was a sheer delight, simply smothered in deep rose pink single flowers.

I have several of this variety interplanted with Prunus Yedoensis and under-planted with a hundred or more dwarf early Rhododendrons. Prunus Yedoensis flowers at just about the same time as Prunus Incame O'kame and is acclaimed in Japan as perhaps the finest cherry of all. It is certainly one of my favourites and a tree that should be planted locally far more than it is at present. The full beauty of this species, however, is not fully appreciated in young specimens but upon reaching a height of 10 feet to 15 feet the pendent branches, smothered in single pinkish white flowers, are a fine sight.

Just about this time Prunus Companulata from Formosa bursts into bloom, the pendent clusters of bell shaped flowers are the reddist of all the cherries. Small gardens are catered for also, Prunus Incisa being a dwarf bush species with pink flowers.

There is Prunus Glandulosa of which there are at least two forms, a double white and a double pink which never seem to grow much taller than 4 feet in this District.

There is Prunus Triloba Flore Pleno, a fine Chinese species producing masses of quite large pale pink rosettes each season. There is also a dwarf species but because it flowers best on the current season's growth, a light pruning after flowering is required.

A very popular tree, filling a gap in the procession of Prunus during late September, is the variety Prunus Shirotal which is perhaps better known as Mt Fuji and with its broad spreading habit, in time reaching the proportions of a horizontal elm, makes a beautiful specimen tree where space permits. As the name suggests the flowers are snow white, semi double to double and hang in clusters.

Another distinctive Cherry with a habit similar to the Lombardy poplar is Prunus Amanagawa with large semi double pale pink flowers. There are not many of this specie in Southland and they, too, could be planted in greater numbers, making a fine avenue or street tree.

During October there are many varieties in flower but the most popular and best known would be Prunus Kanzan which many gardeners know best as J.H. Veitch. The flowers are large and purplish pink in colour, the foliage as it appears being a bronzy green. About the same time Prunus Takasago, which is synonymus with Prunus Sieboldti, bursts into bloom, the large clusters of pale pink flowers being a good companion for Kanzan. Other good varieties in pink shadings flowering at this time include Prunus Pink Perfection, Ko Fugens and Hokusai. Another variety seldom seen in private gardens is Prunus Ukon, commonly called the green cherry. To me the flowers look more yellow than green, but whatever the colour, I consider Ukon to be a very fine variety.

Perhaps the last of the Flowering Cherries to bloom locally would be Shimidsu Sakura, a spreading tree featuring masses of pinkish buds, the flowers opening to white.

Always admired in Queens Park each Spring is a fine specimen of *Prunus Avium*, now over 60 feet in height, and during early October is festooned with masses of white blooms. One must not overlook *Prunus Subhirtella* var *Autumnalis* either of which in this district turns on fine displays of delicate single pink flowers in Autumn and again in the Spring. There is a fine avenue of this specie approaching Queens Park.

I am also reminded of *Prunus Subhirtella Pendula*, the weeping rosebud cherry, *Prunus Yedoensis Perpendens* whose branches in time will reach the ground and *Prunus Kiku*, probably known best as Cheals weeping cherry. I would not like to say which of these I like best as they all develop into beautiful specimens.

During late October *Prunus Padus*, the bird cherry, is a fine sight and every year at this time simply smother themselves with racemes of single white flowers, the trees themselves sometimes reaching heights of 50 feet or more.

Well, as I said, the *Prunus* family provide us with a long season of flowering in Southland, three months or longer and are considered to be among the hardiest of deciduous flowering trees.

However, the degree of perfection to which they reach in any one season, as anywhere else in New Zealand I suppose, depends entirely upon the absence of gale force winds.

BAY OF PLENTY DISTRICT COUNCIL **Report from Daisy Hardwick, F.R.I.H.(N.Z.)**

In mid-September the members of the District Council staged their first Show in the Tauranga Town Hall. The local branch of the Camellia Society and Horticultural and Beautifying Society co-operated, lending also their show furniture. One side of the Hall was devoted to Camellias and the other featured a garden layout created by the City Parks Dept. With simulated grass for lawn, water fall, shrubs and massed banks of flowers and a garden seat a complete garden effect was produced. Numbered floral arrangements scattered throughout the show were judged by popular vote on cards which were on sale to those wishing to take part. A cactus garden with unusual specimens and some grafted forms were also well displayed.

The climate and soil of Tauranga are ideally suited to South African and Australian plants and specimens often better grown than in their natural habitat were displayed with exotic effect. These were exhibited by a local grower of cut flowers who also propogates his own stock. They included full vases and specimens of rare and difficult to grow *Protea* such as *P.nana* (syn *rosacea*), *P.barbigera*, *P.macrocephala*, *P.neriifolia* (pink and white), *P.lepidocarpodendron*, *P.obtusifolia*, *P.mundtii*, *P.pulchella* and *P.longifolia* with also the variety Clarke's Red. *Leucodendrons* were represented with specimens of *L.abscondens*, *L.argenteum*, *L.laureolum*, *L.plumosum*, *L.sessile* and *L.tinctum*. There were also *Ericas*, *Serruria florida*, *S.artemisifolia*, *Cryptandra amara*, *Mimetes* and *Thryptomene calycina*.

A competitive section of small fruits, sub-tropical and warm-temperate were displayed on the stage with school competitions featuring native plants and also backed up with trade displays at the rear. Other competitive sections of cut flowers included trees, shrubs and narcissus. Afternoon tea was served in a room decorated with a background of named Camellia blooms and some more unusual flowers.

This first show put on by the Tauranga District Council was well received and gave great satisfaction to the members who appreciated the support given by local firms in the form of prizes and publicity.

Tauranga District Council goes on to report the discussion of two totally different subjects at the October meeting. The first was on the Cacti inhabitants of the most arid and barren places while the second dealt with orchids most of the more colourful of which come from the luxuriance of hot and humid jungles.

A local horticulturist Mr Brian Chudleigh who specialises in Cacti showed his beautiful slides and described the many different types and his methods of propagation and cultivation. Most of the Cacti shown were natives of Arizona and Mexico but some came from the Andes and as far south as Cape Horn where the climate of South America includes the fierce summer heat and winter snow. The size of specimens ranges from the minute to gigantic and suitable types when grafted presented an intriguing picture of colourful tops on sturdy root stocks.

As he showed his colourful slides he described the growth to maturity and the time it takes with different species. Large flowered scented pearly white 'Queen of the Night' which lasts in flower for 14 hours is a species to be compared with many others which have bright coloured flowers. Methods of pollination were also described, some being pollinated by night flying moths, others by various insects while a few are pollinated by smaller birds.

Illustrations included hoary old specimens of *Carnegiea gigantea* with holes made by woodpeckers, *Lemaireocereus* with organ-pipe like growth, pillar-like growths of *Cephalocereus*, rounded barrel-like growth of *Ferocactus* and many other variations to be seen in *Echinocereus*, *Opuntia* and cushions of *Mammillaria*. Curious and striking vegetative growths are matched by a wide range of flower size and colour with the interesting effects produced by circular wreaths of blossoms in the rounded growing forms. Added to the attraction of the flowers were the seed pods of varying shapes and of bright colours as they ripen.

With the addition of peat and coarse sand and provided with good drainage Mr Chudleigh grows a major part of his collection out of doors and in his local garden soil. Specimens of Cacti that are featured on the Mexican coat of arms, others that were deified by the Aztecs and all of them presenting a wonderful plend of curious shapes, beautiful flowers and many variations of a plant's adaption to its environment.

For this October meeting the stage was massed with orchids all grown by a local enthusiast Mrs Lees, who answered many questions about potting mixtures, cultivation and propagation. The display was made up mainly of modern varieties of *Cymbidium* with sprays of blossom 4 or 5 feet high in a wide range of colours. The quantity and quality of the flowers and the health of the plants were a tribute to the skill and care given by Mrs Lees.

GARDEN TOUR 1974

Auckland District Council

For the weekend of October 5th and 6th, the Auckland District Council arranged a local garden tour which attracted 76 members and friends of the R.N.Z.I.H.

As organiser I have been asked to supply details of the tour committee's work.

With the date settled, suitable gardens were inspected six months in advance, routes were checked and, wherever possible, these went through scenic areas. However, the itinerary had to remain elastic as Auckland's capricious weather could easily wreck havoc amongst the chosen gardens and it wasn't until a few days before the tour that the route was finalised and a few gardens and parks held in reserve.

Two buses were necessary as some gardens could not comfortably accommodate 76 people visiting them at one time; consequently two itineraries were drawn up with buses meeting for morning tea and lunch.

Saturday's route took us via Tamaki Drive to St Heliers and thence to Remuera for morning tea and an official welcome. From there we travelled via the summit of Mt Eden to the western side of the city and lunch in the Oratia district. We then visited a garden set amongst bush in the Nihotupu area before driving along the Scenic Drive with its magnificent trees to a New Lynn garden and a quick visit to the commercial nursery alongside.

An informal evening function was held at Westhaven at which specimens of flowers and shrubs were displayed and discussed. A short talk about progress being made by the Regional Authority in the establishment of a Botanical Garden was given by the A.R.A. Parks Director, Mr P. Jew, after which supper was served.

On Sunday we crossed the harbour and visited North Shore gardens. We called at a small Northcote garden where everything was perfection, before going on to morning tea in a beautiful park-like garden in the same vicinity. From there we walked along a short street where, in the original subdivision, large totaras had been left standing and houses had been built amongst these trees to take full advantage of them. Our next call was to a Takapuna North garden in which no space had been wasted on the double section. Lunch was a smorgasbord at the Birkenhead Inn.

Returning to the city we travelled to Eden Garden via the Domain and then went on to Cornwall Park to view the large trees there. A brief resume of the history of the Park was given. Afternoon tea was served at Horticultural Headquarters where speeches were made and farewells said.

The cost of the weekend including Sunday lunch was \$10 per head. This did not, of course, cover travel to Auckland or accommodation. The buses travelled 90 miles but 570 miles were clocked up by committee members testing routes etc.

From the number of appreciative letters received, effort put into organising the tour has been well worthwhile and trips of this nature obviously fill a need of the gardening community. We endeavoured to show participants gardens in a variety of sizes and with plantings differing from each other as widely as possible as well as giving them brief glimpses of a few of our lovely parks.

Noel Kitchen,
Convener, Organising Committee.

*(A detailed description of the gardens visited will be in the next Newsletter.)

FROM THE DOMINION SECRETARY'S DESK

- The Commissioner for the Environment genuinely appreciated receiving the views of the Institute on environmental matters relating to horticulture which were conveyed by letter under the headings:- Passive Recreation, Identification and Preservation of Historic and Notable Trees, Highway Beautification.
- Mr L.J. Metcalf of Christchurch has succeeded Mr J.P. Salinger of Palmerston North as N.Z. representative on the Nomenclature Committee of the International Society of Horticultural Science.
- News of the death of Mrs Frank Knight of Woking, England, in September, has been received with regret; many will reflect upon the pleasure of meeting Mr and Mrs Knight when they visited N.Z. . At his retirement Mr Knight was Director of Wisley Garden.

- Our 1975 Conference in Hamilton (Feb.28-Mar. 2) will be a vitally important one and we are looking for a good attendance by members. It will be the first for very many years to be officially opened by our Patron, His Excellency the Governor-General. Official Opening-February 28, at 8 p.m.
- Members are urged to act promptly on the letter they will be receiving shortly concerning the 1975 Annual Journal.
- Congratulations were conveyed to Mr Victor Davies personally and to the firm, Duncan & Davies Ltd, on the occasion of their 75th Anniversary this year.
- Since our last Newsletter, Fellowship status has been conferred upon W. Crooks and R.J. Berry of Gisborne, H.H. Gardiner of Christchurch, Mrs E. Ramsay, Mrs E.A. Dobson, Miss A.M. Presants and H.T. Hall of Wellington.
- The Dominion Council submitted the nomination of Professor Newhook (Auckland) for election to the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Board.
- Our President, Mr Greig, attended the Official Opening of the Conservation Week in Christchurch this year.
- The Institute's examinations were held during November at 26 centres ranging from Rawene in the North to Invercargill. Our sincere thanks are offered to those of our members who assisted with these examinations in one way or another. The results are not expected to be available before the end of January.
- The Dominion Secretary and staff extend the Season's Greetings to all members. The office will be closed for the usual annual vacation until January 21.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enrol me as a member of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture Inc. I enclose the first year's subscription (1974-5 year \$5).

NAME (Please Print)

ADDRESS

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