



ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE (Inc.)

NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 450
WELLINGTON

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DECEMBER 1975

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Member,

On 1st January 1976 the Constitutional changeover moves a further step when the Caretaker Committee becomes the Interim executive responsible for the Institute's affairs until those elected by postal ballot become the Executive at the Annual General Meeting on 30th April next.

You have been advised the names of the members of the Caretaker Committee which has now met and elected Mr Gavin Henderson of Dunedin as its Chairman. Mr Henderson is a qualified horticulturist and is currently Director of Parks and Reserves in that City. He is keenly interested in horticultural education and feels it is an integrating factor between commercial horticulturists and members of this Institute in general. During the interim period I am sure that the Institute's affairs are in capable hands under his chairmanship. As from 1st January all policy decisions rest with the Caretaker Executive, of which the Dominion President is not formally a member, although adequate liaison between the Executive and the President should be maintained as he is still required to preside at the 1976 Annual General Meeting.

The final meeting of the Dominion Council is to be held in mid December and I take this opportunity, on your behalf, to thank members of Council who are retiring, for their conscientious and constructive work for New Zealand Horticulture over a period of change combined with increasing financial difficulties in the administration of the Institute's affairs. In addition the high cost of travel led to greater financial strains on the individual living out of Wellington or on District Councils which assisted their representative to attend. During these years also - an increasing responsibility and work load fell on a dwindling band of horticulturists in the Capital City. These strains led to misunderstandings amongst members of the Institute, especially when it was agreed that a revision of the Constitution was essential, but it was far from clear how the Institute would really become financially strong and horticulturally efficient so as to maintain or establish itself in New Zealand and Internationally as the co-ordinating agency and professional leader of Horticulture in this country as its prefix 'Royal' implies.

As Dominion President of the Institute over the past three years I extend my personal thanks to all Dominion Councillors for their co-operation and assistance at the regular quarterly meetings and the special meetings and conferences over this period. Together I hope we have laid the foundations for the second fifty years in the life of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

This Newsletter is written from Melbourne where we are visiting our younger daughter and family. Here in Victoria, as in New South Wales, we are impressed with the greater affinity there is between people and trees. Houses are built amongst the eucalypts – roads are built leaving a fringe of trees, and even the footpaths curve around existing trees. Every horticulturist visiting Melbourne should make a point of seeing and enjoying two outstanding examples of man and nature in harmony – as seen at the Royal Botanic Gardens near the City centre, and the National Rhododendron garden in the Dandenong Range.

Lyndall and I take this opportunity to extend to all members our personal greetings and best wishes for Christmas and for the New Year 1976. We hope to meet as many as are able to attend the Annual Meeting commencing on Friday 30th April in Wellington.

Sincerely yours

A.M.W. GREIG
Dominion President.

In his remarks above our President, Mr Greig, has outlined some of the changes that are taking place under the new constitution of the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture and the reasons for these changes.

The Caretaker Executive was set up to prepare the way for the changes to the new constitution and to arrange for the Annual General Meeting. Wellington has been chosen as the venue for both the Banks Lecture and the A.G.M. over the weekend of April 30–May 2, 1976.

One of the primary aims of the Caretaker Executive has been to encourage those engaged in horticulture production to take a more active part in the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture so that it may fairly be said that the Institute represents all the horticultural interests.

In these days of inflationary costs it is necessary to look closely at the financial position in which the Institute finds itself. The Caretaker Executive has received a report from the Finance Committee and the facts must be faced that it has now become of paramount importance for survival that membership subscriptions must be reviewed. Our Secretary, on whom we have had to place so much reliance, must be paid accordingly and while I am pleased to report a small increase in his remuneration I am sorry to state that it still falls far short of the service the Institute receives.

The Institute will continue to be engaged in fostering all aspects of horticulture by publishing a quality journal, conducting examinations for the National Horticultural Diplomas and promoting horticultural education at all levels. The Caretaker Executive is keen to see an Annual Conference as an educational conference, possibly divorced from the A.G.M., but associated with other National Conferences of horticultural bodies.

It seems inevitable that the Institute must rely more heavily in the future on its District Councils to promote and develop such things as a Seed Exchange, Plant Identification Service a Library Service, revision of publications such as "Flowers for Shows" and many other things that come up from time to time. The Executive, by meeting only two or three times each year, will have little time to initiate or develop major projects.

What do you expect as a member of the Institute? Make your views known to your District Council.

Gavin G. Henderson
Chairman, Caretaker Executive.

EASTWOODHILL

It will be of considerable interest to many of our members that on the 13th of June last a private Bill was passed by Parliament to establish the Eastwoodhill Trust Board.

The establishment of this Trust Board should now make it possible for this arboretum to be preserved, maintained and improved. This is something that the Institute has been interested in for many years.

Eastwoodhill is a property that was owned by the late William Douglas Cook who was a sheepfarmer with a property some 23 miles from Gisborne. Following service in the First World War Mr Cook visited many of the wonderful old homes and parks and returned to New Zealand with the firm desire to improve his house environment by creating a beautiful garden and planting suitable trees to complete the setting. Before long he became so interested that he was importing trees from all parts of the world.

Gradually his arboretum area extended as he established areas with particular trees, shrubs, bulbs etc. Created small Lakes and bridged the Stream that flows through the property. Built paths along the valleys and up the slopes. At the time of his death, approximately 160 acres had been planted.

Mr Arthur Greig visited Eastwoodhill about 1963 and reported to the Institute that this arboretum which contained the finest collection of trees in the Australasia should be preserved. Mr Cook was ageing but did not appear to be on the best of terms with people in the Gisborne area and the city was not well equipped to take over such a property — Mr Cook did not wish it anyway.

The writer subsequently made several visits to Eastwoodhill taking a number of prominent Horticulturists to assess the possibilities of preserving the developing the property. The outcome was that Mr Cook offered it to the Institute as a gift if we could take over full responsibility. A wonderful offer but one that the Institute had to ultimately decline. The bright side resulting from the visits to Gisborne was the interest shown by Mr Bob Berry and Mr W.H. Way and through him Mr H.B. Williams.

Mr Williams purchased the property in 1965. It comprises 323 acres overall, 160 acres of arboretum and the balance in farmland. The transaction included the library of books and periodicals which Cook had collected over the years dealing with Botanical, Horticultural and arboreta matters which is now housed in the H.B. Williams Library in Gisborne.

The property now given to the Trust comprises the 323 acres of land with the dwelling house, cottage, the before mentioned Cook library, the sheep, cattle and chattels valued at over \$12,000. The M.A. Williams Charitable Trust has transferred to the Eastwoodhill Trust shares in New Zealand Companies and cash totalling \$50,000. It is hoped that this latter endowment will soon be increased by contributions from other charitable trusts and individuals.

The 160 acres not in trees and shrubs will continue to be farmed until such time as additional land is required for the arboretum.

The names of the Trust Board appointed under the Act are:

Mr H.B. Williams — Chairman appointed by the Governor-General

Mr T.L.C. Williams — (A farmer with a long interest in trees on his own property and now chairman of the Cook County Council). Appointed by the Council

Mr F.E. Faulkner – (A farmer who has over the years given a great deal of practical assistance to Eastwoodhill, has been prominent in farm forestry in the district and is at present associated with a nursery). Appointed by the N.Z. Farm Forestry Association.

Mr R Berry – (Who compiled the list of trees and shrubs at Eastwoodhill). Appointed by the Poverty Bay Horticultural Society, which in turn is affiliated to the R.N.Z.I.H. Mr Berry is also a member of the R.N.Z.I.H.

The Secretary of the Board is Mr T Cook of the Gisborne office of the Land and Survey.

The Treasurer is Mr W.J. Oates of McCulloch, Butler and Spence, Accountants, Gisborne.

The D.S.I.R., Massey University and N.Z. Forest Research Institute will appoint persons to the advisory committee.

Mr and Mrs Crooks (well known to visitors to Eastwoodhill in the past) have retired to live in Gisborne. Their places have been taken by Mr and Mrs Weatherall, who are both doing a magnificent job for the arboretum. Mr Weatherall also does the farm work.

The Board has decided that the arboretum shall be **open to the public between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays**. It will be closed from the end of the May holidays during June and July to the commencement of the August holidays.

The Board will be pleased for Botanists, Horticulturists and persons having a scientific or special interest in Eastwoodhill to go at other times by making an appointment with Mr D. Weatherall, whose address is Eastwoodhill, Ngatapa, Gisborne. Phone 39599 through the Gisborne exchange.

Eastwoodhill is 23 miles from Gisborne on a tarsealed road to the gate, on the Rere-Wharekopae Road at the junction with the Hihiroroa Road. From a layman's point of view, Autumn is the best time to visit Eastwoodhill as the Oaks, Poplars, Maples, Sycamores, etc. then have their Autumn colours. Spring is also a good time when the Magnolias, Daffodils, Rhododendrons, Azaleas, etc. are in bloom, as a large number of trees are deciduous. The summer is a good time for the expert.

SEED EXCHANGE

The Auckland District Council seed exchange is now in operation. Here is how it works: Write to the following address enclosing a stamped and addressed envelope—

Dr M.G. Goodey
81 Gladstone Road,
Parnell.
Auckland 1.

You will be sent the seed list from which you can then place orders, again through Dr Goodey. Orders are limited to 10 packets per member at this stage, but may be increased later.

The seeds ordered will be posted to you free of cost. However to ensure that the exchange can continue, you should send stamps to the value of those needed to forward the seeds to you, after receiving your order.

Please include alternative choices with your order to avoid disappointment resulting from short supply.

Contributors of seed are needed and all contributors will receive preference in seed orders!

This seed exchange will involve a considerable amount of work by the Auckland District Council, so please give them your support.

PARKS & RESERVES IN THE TROPICS

Donal Duthie, Wellington

In October of 1974 I was fortunate enough to have three weeks in Singapore. During this time I had a detailed look at many sections of the Parks Department. My contact in the Department was Mr Kau Aun Soon who has a position roughly equivalent to an overseer. I had previously met Mr Kau in 1972 when he came to New Zealand as part of the Colombo Plan to study nursery management and horticulture in general. During my stay he was an excellent guide and host, not only around the Parks Department but around all the fascinating sights of modern Singapore.

This was my first visit to Singapore and I had previously been told that changes were taking place in this city since it had become independent from the Federation of Malasia, however I quickly realised that massive changes are under way, especially in the field of ornamental horticulture. Today it is Government policy to make the Island a tourist centre of the East and a lot of money is spent in following this policy through.

It is the aim to plant suitable trees along-side and down the centre of every main road on the Island. Today it is very hard to find a stretch of road that has not been planted and by all accounts most of this has been done in very recent years.

In the parks this same policy shows through in clean, well kept parks where, with modern landscaping ideas the maximum use is made of each park. The inner city parks were green havens of retreat from the tangle of boisterous traffic. The newer parks show very imaginative design and buildings are attractive as well as functional. Most parks had a small cafe with open seating and some specialised in a particular kind of restaurant such as seafood, Japanese or Malay food. Some parks had special activities such as selling caged birds, or tropical fish.

At the new Zoo the landscaping has created such a pleasant atmosphere that I'm sure it would be quite possible to have an enjoyable visit even if you had no interest in the animals, or birds.

In the centre of Singapore harbour lies the island of Sentosa. This island had been a British army camp! and a few of the buildings still remain, however the whole island is now being developed as a tourist resort complete with golf course, swimming lagoon, fishing village, an aerial cableway linking the mainland and a 'Coralarium' which is an aquarium of living coral.

The Botanic Gardens were started in 1822 at the suggestion of Sir Stamford Raffles and from that date until the Federation of Malasia was created the gardens had a distinctly British background. All the senior staff were appointed from Kew and the landscaping in the cultivated areas has an English look even today. The lake could easily have been created by Capability Brown and there is a circular rose garden with a bandstand in the middle that looks most Edwardian. The English atmosphere even pervaded the Japanese occupation of World War II as the invaders took care to see that administration was unaltered and that

administration was unaltered and that work continued as normal. Since Singapore opted out of the Federated States of Malasia the Botanic Gardens have been incorporated into the Singapore Parks Department.

The Botanic Gardens was instrumental in the introduction of the rubber plant to S.E. Asia. The discovery of rubber was made by Indians of South America and they obtained it from the small tree, *Hevea braziliensis*. Seventy thousand seeds of this plant were shipped to Kew where the seed was sown, but only 3000 germinated. The seedlings were dispatched in Wardian cases to Java, Ceylon and Singapore. Twenty three plants reached Singapore, only to die. A further fifty were sent and these survived and were to become the basis of huge plantations right through S.E. Asia, and since then the Botanic Garden has become the world centre for technical advice on rubber growing.

In more recent years the gardens have been the starting point in the creation of an industry selling orchids as cut flowers. Hybridising of suitable species and the technical knowledge of cultivation has been passed on to local growers and today orchids from Singapore are flown all over the world. In the Gardens they have a magnificent display of orchids and each day practical demonstrations on the propagation and cultivation of orchids are given.

Botanically the gardens are very well laid out. The range of plants is wide, well grown, well labelled and well grouped for comparison. The collection of palms is immense and they are opening up new areas in order to expand the palm collection. Eleven acres are set aside in original jungle condition complete with monkeys and I am told, some snakes.

A walk through this area made me realise that we have very few large trees in New Zealand. This thought was later confirmed in visits to Malasia and Indonesia.

Bedding plants and displays of bedding as we know them are completely unknown in Singapore, I think that this is partly because of the humid high temperatures but mainly because of the torrential downpours that come daily through the monsoon season. The nearest I saw to annual bedding was a display of Bourganvillea, Celosia, Coleus, Dreffenbachia etc. grown in pots and staged on planks, such as is done in public glasshouses in New Zealand.

In the nurseries of the Parks Department progress is not as evident as in the rest of the Department. The huge demand for plants in recent years has burdened the system and old methods are not easily changed. To add to the problems, fresh water is expensive and scarce and top soil unavailable. To ease the scarcity of water, treated sewerage is often used, but it burns the foliage of even hardy plants like palms and wipes out some of the tender plants.

The absence of top soil is made good by the 'burnt earth' method, which is an ancient Chinese way of treating clay. First a huge heap of firewood is made, then the clay, still damp, is hauled from the pits and packed over the logs forming a shell several feet thick. Holes are left for air around the base and a tin shelter built overhead to ward off the monsoon downpours. Once lit the fire may burn for up to two months. The end result is a burnt clay that has granulated to pieces about the size of a marble or smaller. This combined with charcoal from the fire is the potting medium and with one or two exceptions everything from a Dieffenbachia to a Vanda is grown in this.

In the nurseries all plants are container grown, the rainfall being quite unsuited for open ground planting. The containers are made of the traditional clay or vulcanised rubber but the PVC bag so common in New Zealand nurseries is starting to make an appearance.

Because of the torrential rain, all containers have to be raised above ground level and the usual method is to lay planks on stout posts.

I was surprised to see the range of conifers grown, especially Junipers, as this was a genus I had not associated with the tropics but they grow a number of species in big quantities and what surprised me more than the presence of the Junipers was the method of propagation. Until very recently all Junipers and most other conifers were grown by marcottage or as we call it in New Zealand aerial layering and sometimes Chinese layering. While I was there I heard a good deal of controversy as to whether or not Junipers could be grown from cuttings and in spite of large batches there were cutting grown I still met people who believed that there is only one way to propagate Junipers – from marcottage.

The nurseries are also beset with labour problems and although labour is reasonably plentiful, there is a tremendous shortage of skilled labour and there is no training programme for labour such as an apprenticeship and not much opportunity for promotion unless a university qualification is held. The Botanic Gardens does have a school of ornamental horticulture with a two year course, but the intake is limited to about ten students a year and many of these are from overseas.

In spite of the problems the nurseries turn out huge quantities of plants and generally of a good grade.

To conclude, I am of the impression that Singapore is well on the way to becoming the garden city that the Government is so intent on. In time I am sure that Singapore will be renown not only for its shipping, its international airport, its cheap shopping and commercial activities, but also as a beautiful city and a place of horticultural interest.

FLOWER AND SCENIC TOUR

The Timaru Horticultural Society have organised a tour to Britain and the Continent, leaving May 1976 and taking sixty days. The highlight of the tour will be a visit to the Chelsea Flower Show. The tour has been planned to provide for a leisurely travel pace and includes such features as a visit to Wisley Gardens, Kew Gardens and Savill Gardens, a day at Heidelberg, sightseeing in Paris and a tour of Vancouver Island. The tour is restricted to approximately 30 people and bookings close on January 31.

If you are interested, or require further information, would you contact:

Mrs C.M. Duyster
Secretary, Horticultural Society
12 Claremont Rd.
Timaru

ESTABLISHED TREES – TAKEN FOR GRANTED?

R.H. Mole, Wellington

A proficient amateur gardener will not only choose the right tree for the right place, but will also take trouble to see that ground preparation, planting procedure, staking etc. are attended to when planting ornamental trees. Much ado is often the case prior to and during actual tree planting ceremonies under the control of professional horticulturists, but with the successful establishment of the trees, and the passage of time, what proposals are made to look after these trees for the rest of their lives – possibly none.

Despite their often lofty proportions and apparent robust nature, trees, throughout their lives, are certainly vulnerable to attack from many quarters – above and below ground.

Space permits brief reference only to one of the hazards which may affect the welfare of many established trees – namely drought.

Leaf form and structure affect the rate of transpiration but, theoretically, the larger the tree the greater the water loss by transpiration and therefore the greater the need to replace such a deficit from the soil. If such supply is not forthcoming the tree will begin to show signs of stress. For example loss of leaves resulting in terminal die-back. If the adverse situation is prolonged the death of the tree is likely to occur. Temporary shortage of water is likely, in any case, to weaken the constitution of trees making them more vulnerable to attack by parasitic fungi or bacteria.

Many trees in the Wellington area have shown signs of stress during periods of drought in recent years – the death of some specimens being directly attributable to dehydration. Earthworks which damage the roots of trees or lower the existing water table, of course compound the situation.

Trees are vital to landscaping projects – large and small. Trees provide a sense of maturity in the landscape. We need trees to give shelter; to control erosion; to attract wild life; to provide shade; screen undesirable objects; to give privacy; to act as a baffle against noise and dirt and of course to be objects of beauty. There is no doubt therefore as to their importance. There is also no doubt with regard to their susceptibility to unfavourable conditions.

When you are busy watering your flower beds and vegetables in dry periods, spare a thought for what should be the permanent members of your garden. Do not take their welfare for granted – your trees may need water too.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

**1975 Annual Journal
Floral Art Handbook**

Copies of these publications may be purchased from the Dominion Secretary, P.O. Box 450
Wellington.

Journal \$3.50 Floral Art Handbook \$1.50 (cash with order please).

STUDY TOUR OF THE U.K. AND CANADA

A brief description

**by Richard J. Nanson
Deputy Director of Parks –
Wellington City Council.**

I was fortunate to be sent by the Wellington City Council to undertake a study tour for two months in the U.K. and Canada in July or August.

The purpose of the tour was essentially to see how similar departments are run in the U.K. and Canada, how they were endeavouring to meet the demands of the present day with its problems of rising costs, shortage of suitable labour and the increased leisure time of people. Whilst the emphasis was on parks and open spaces, and certain technical aspects of my job, I was also able to observe the effects of local Government Re-organisation on

Parks and Recreation Departments in the U.K. In Canada their use of open space, and the need as they saw it to educate the public in outdoor pursuits and their community recreation programmes are of particular interest to me.

Upon arrival in the U.K. the weather was hot and sunny and it stayed that way for the six weeks I was there. The countryside and gardens looked fresh and full of flowers initially, but, as time went on many things looked tired and very dry, and the haze that tends to cover Britain anyway, became disappointingly thick a lot of the time.

Before attending the annual Parks Conference in Sheffield my first stop was Brighton, and in all my travels in Britain I never saw better rose displays, particularly in the public gardens. The plants were exceptionally well grown, of tremendous vigour and quality and without blemish from pest or disease. I know it was still relatively early in their summer, but it was a great boost to one's morale to see roses grown so well.

Because of my interest in plants, gardens and the seasons generally, it was a little disconcerting having left frosts and bare trees to suddenly find oneself in the midst of a veritable Garden of Eden. Particularly when our host suggested we stop and pick strawberries on the way back to London!

I found that no cities could boast of better bedding displays than Brighton, London and Bath and in the latter they saw to it that the plants climbed poles and buildings to end up in baskets and window boxes. Most of us are used to ground level displays but when they hit you at eye level as well, it makes you realise what can be done in a city without much wind. By the time I had reached Bath the haze over the country was thicker than ever and I longed for a couple of days of the wind that keeps Wellington so well ventilated, and atmosphere crystal clear.

This was my second visit to the U.K. and although there were some noticeable changes, in the number of people, their new towns, and motorways, essentially the gardens were as colourful as ever and the trees as large and profuse as before. In fact, I am sure that the private garden is as attractive as ever with its wonderful selection of plants, growing in almost wild or abandoned freedom, in a way that has been so typically British. On the other hand the public parks have begun to reduce the amount and standard of pure horticultural work they engage in, unless they are a major tourist centre. Partly because of economic pressures (as some parks directors see it) but more particularly because of social pressure, there are strong reasons to have their resources put towards recreation for the community.

Farewell Britain, hello Canada, and a tour across 3,000 miles of Canada organised by Parks and Recreation Canada. We started in Montreal and travelled to Vancouver by plane, boat and coach seeing a lot of a very large and lovely country with a population of 22½ million. It's hard to confine my remarks to a few lines, but generally the private gardens in the wealthy suburbs were well maintained but with no floral colour and few home grown vegetables. Perhaps the harsh winter climate discouraged people, because on the milder West Coast of Vancouver City, and in particular Vancouver Island, the private gardens were of a type similar to our own in New Zealand. The public parks on the other hand were well planned, very well maintained and colourful.

The Canadian people were proud of their heritage, their country and their public parks, and the national flag was flown on all buildings and in a lot of the parks.

I can't do justice, in an article like this, to the excellence of their fine trees, judiciously preserved and planted in their open spaces and town centres. One has to see to believe the detailed attention given to paving, street furniture, lamp standards, integrated with trees and colour, especially at places such as the Montreal Botanic Gardens, Ottawa's Rideau Canal and precincts, Toronto's city centre, Vancouver's Stanley Park and Vancouver Island's Butchart Gardens and Victoria City.

Victoria city has gone to a lot of trouble to preserve its Victorian appearance. The scene was one of old world charm with a riot of colour in the hanging baskets, tubs, courtyards, hotel grounds, and city gardens. The Empress Hotel, true to the period, even served Victorian afternoon teas to old ladies in high backed chairs, as part of a very real tourist attraction.

Throughout all of Canada the lawns, public and private, were better grown (in that they were all grass) much larger than ours and a real pleasure to walk on. They were literally like a very thick spongy carpet. It was a pity the autumn colours were not evident, but then I would not have seen the cities and gardens as gay as they were.

To really appreciate all I saw, a visit to the U.K. and Canada is the answer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Article "Retaining Trees and Gardens in Wellington City"

The article appearing in your July 1975 Newsletter brings out some interesting points concerning preserving mature trees. It is in the interests of all, including the property developer, to preserve mature trees. A large tree will increase the value of a section considerably.

However, it should always be kept in mind that local bodies, or other authorities, must use balance in permitting what trees should be left and what should be removed. The following points indicate when trees could be removed, but if present trends continue, property owners may not be able to remove them.

1. When trees overcrowd one another, preventing mature specimen trees to develop into their full potential.
2. When trees are diseased or dying – a danger to people and buildings because of falling limbs etc.
3. Where a large undesirable tree is better replaced by a more desirable one. (The property owner should have the right to replace trees.)
4. Where a tree is obviously too large for the situation it is in the property owner should be able to cut back or replace it with a smaller one.

It is difficult to force people to keep trees if they do not want them. Education on the value of trees is very important here, so that people willingly want to protect them. The suggestion of changing the zoning to provide rate relief to property owners of clumps of bush is an excellent suggestion.

The only real solution in preserving the indiscriminate destruction of trees in new developments is for local bodies to set reasonable guide-lines for developers, in order that they may work around trees where possible. This places on the local body a need to adopt a reasonable control on how a developer preserves or plants more trees in his development.

Signed B.E. Porteous – Nurseryman for Parkdale Developments Ltd.

A Wellington City Council Town Planner comments in reply: There is a pressing need for clear guidelines for developers to encourage them to develop in sympathy with land and vegetation. But it is still very difficult to guide a developer before he approaches Council and often trees are removed before plans are put forward.

The Town Planning Department have produced a pamphlet as a guide to developers on techniques for tree preservation, and it is available on application.

ANNUAL DOMINION CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given of the holding of the Annual General Meeting and Dominion Conference in Wellington on April 30 to May 2, 1976.

Official opening (followed by informal programme) at 8 p.m. Friday, 30th April.

Business Session at 9 a.m. and Banks Lecture at 8 p.m. on Saturday 1st May.

Bus outing on Sunday, 2nd May.

Members are invited to be present. Full details of the place and business of the meeting will be supplied in due course.

K.J. Lemmon – Secretary

In connection with the forthcoming Annual General Meeting, members and District Councils are hereby informed of their rights, under the new Rules which operate from 1st January 1976. Members are encouraged to exercise these rights in the overall interests of the Institute and to endeavour to attend to make the Meeting really successful from all points of view.

Rule 3(a) re conferment of the title "Associate of Honour": Nominations may be submitted by the National Executive, District Councils or by an elected Associate of Honour. The total number of Associates of Honour is restricted to 60 and the maximum number of elections in any one year is three. [Nominations must be submitted not later than 28 February 1976]

Rule 3(c) re Honorary membership: Any member may suggest to the National Executive persons considered to be suitable for the honour, but such may be elected only at the Annual General Meeting. [Nominations must be submitted not later than 28 February 1976.]

Rule 5(b) re National Executive: For the first Executive to be elected at the 1976 AGM, members may submit nominations, and election will be carried out by postal vote by members in advance of the AGM.

Note: Nominations are not restricted to any one class of members, but nominees of course must be members. A brief citation on each nominee is required

For 1976 all nominations must be lodged with the Secretary, not later than 28th February, duly proposed and seconded by existing members and accepted in writing by the nominees. Nominations with voting papers will be circulated to all members, by 29th March, to cast their votes which in turn must be in the hands of the Secretary not later than 18th April. Eleven members are to be elected.

Rule 9(d) All notices of business for consideration at the AGM must be sent to the Secretary not later than 15th February.

Rule 12 – Alterations to the Rules may only be carried out at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting of members. [Note: The new rules are not yet in a form for wide distribution to members, but genuine enquiries about them will be answered readily in the meantime.

K.J. Lemmon – Secretary

CONSERVATION REQUEST

Dr J.S. Sheppard, Water & Soil Division, M.O.W. P.O.Box 89, Lincoln College, requests information on where samples of the following species could be found in New Zealand:

Genista	lydia crispa rugosa serrulata	Cornus	alterniflora racemosa rugosa controversa
Betula	nana pumila	Viburnum	acerifolia alnifolia

Any information which readers may have would be gratefully acknowledged by Dr Sheppard. Water & Soil Division is attempting to build up examples of vegetation which can be used for protective purposes in their work in New Zealand. They wish to propagate and observe the species named as potentially useful in conservation work,

'SHOULD TREES HAVING STANDING?' by Christopher D. Stone Book Review – J.G. Short

The sub-title of this book suggests perhaps its real interest to us – 'Toward Legal Rights for Natural Objects' – and will I hope encourage those to read this document who may otherwise find the concept of Natural Objects having standing before the law a too revolutionary proposal.

It raises questions and suggests answers that should help those of us who have had to spend hours of work preparing cases for the preserving of trees and groups of trees. In some ways it helps us by pointing out why in some cases we must fail in our endeavours to have certain natural objects preserved. It is as Aldo Leopold has said in a quote included in the foreword of this book –

"There is as yet no ethic dealing with man's relation to land and to animals and plants which grow upon it. Land, like Odysseus' slave girls, is still property. The land – relation is still strictly economic, entailing privileges but not obligation."

Professor Christopher D. Stone, a teacher of law, has laid the philosophical foundations for an approach to the idea of legal rights for natural objects. For all of us concerned with conservation, nature and environmental protection, it is a very important book. The essay originally appeared in the Southern California Law Review and is based on a theory that Professor Stone has been developing with his students. He discovered in a case before the American courts an opportunity to demonstrate that the giving of legal rights to natural objects would make a real operational difference.

The case arose out of the U.S. Forest Service granting a permit to Walt Disney Enterprises Inc., to 'develop' Mineral King Valley, a wilderness area in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains, by the construction of a \$35 million complex of motels, restaurants and recreational facilities. Professor Stone discusses this case, and part 2 of the book consists of Opinions of the US Supreme Court, in which are quoted the dissenting opinions regarding the development which supported Professor Stone's thesis. The Sierra Club's case for the protection of this wilderness area was narrowly lost in a majority decision of the Court.

The book discusses the legal operational aspects of giving rights in substance to natural objects and in this way seeks to overcome the inadequacies of the present situation where such objects are usually represented by a plaintiff – he who wants the tree removed – and a defendant who wishes for some reason to have the tree protected. In such cases the Judge usually comes to a decision that is a fair balance between the rights of the two protagonists, and the tree itself does not appear to have been considered. Instead of a decision between plaintiff and defendant the proposal is that a judgment should seek for a balance amongst all three – plaintiff, defendant and the natural object that is the source of the case.

For those who find the concept of rights before the law, for natural objects, a too revolutionary step, the book discusses also the concept of 'Guardianship'. The reviewer is advised by a teacher of Law at the university that this is a much more immediately achievable aim and is a concept that would give opportunity for a third party to be heard and so to fully represent the natural object before a court of law.

I hope the book will be read by all those who are interested in our trees and natural objects and who wish to see these preserved wherever possible.

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