

Newsletter



2001
No. 4
December
ISBN 1174-6947

Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

Chairman's Comments

Conference

Sunny Nelson maintained its reputation for much of the time during the NZ Arboricultural Association 'Something for Everyone' conference to which all RNZIH members were invited in late October. And those who attended did indeed find plenty of interest in the wide range of topics presented by well-prepared and stimulating speakers. Thanks to Ron Flook for all the work involved in arranging for Institute members to participate in this conference, and for the two speakers who presented papers specifically for our members. As with all conferences there were matters on the day to deal with and Ron was kept on his toes for the duration.

On the Thursday Lawrie Metcalf gave a talk questioning the current trend in ecosourcing that started people thinking and created some good discussions. The next morning Seagar Mason introduced us to Bio Gro New Zealand, a certification agency for organic production and we learned about recent trends in organic food production. Thanks to both Lawrie and Seagar for such interesting and informative presentations.

Awards

Thursday evening saw the presentation of awards. Associate of Honour of the Institute to David Shillito of Christchurch and the inaugural Garden History Award to Winsome Shepherd of Wellington. Also, Dr John Clemens was presented with the Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Award, a medal to accompany the research grant awarded earlier in the year to enable John to carry out research into the genetic diversity of remaining wild populations of *Clianthus puniceus* (kaka beak) and to compare this with plants in cultivation. Dr Clemens gave a short summary of the interesting results of his research - a full report will be published in a future Institute Journal.

Banks Memorial Lecture

Following the award ceremony Graeme Platt, noted plantsman of Auckland, presented one of the most entertaining and provocative Banks Memorial Lectures for many years. Illustrated with at least 50 native plants laid out in groups, Graeme expounded his theory of the "six stage sequential order of native forest succession." For those who could not attend, Graeme's lecture will be published in our journal next

year. Thanks Graeme for a challenging and stimulating evening.

Awards in Auckland

In November the Auckland branch hosted a lunch at the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens where I was invited to present Associate of Honour Awards to Terry Hatch and Gordon Collier, who couldn't make it to Nelson. It was a memorable occasion, not only because of the guests of honour, but also because of the many long-standing members of the Institute who came to acknowledge their achievements. Terry and Gordon gave short talks, both humorous and informative - a pleasant way to spend a Sunday afternoon in the company of so many knowledgeable plantspeople.

Education

Good news. We received an email from Mark Finleyson, CEO of the NZ Horticultural Industry Training Organisation, stating that at their AGM it was agreed that, from January 2002, any costs involved in sending a representative to their board meetings would be met by the ITO itself. And we were invited to nominate a member to represent the RNZIH. Accordingly we have nominated Michael Ayrton, manager of Cornwall Park in Auckland. Michael has had a long interest and practical involvement in horticultural training and I'm sure this heralds a new era for the Institute's involvement in horticultural training.

Conference 2002

Planning is already underway for next year - Christchurch is the venue, tentatively mid-October. The proposed theme is "Putting Biodiversity Back Into The City" and a mix of papers and field trips is planned. More detail to come as plans fall into place.

Compliments of the season to all members and good luck with all your gardening endeavours in the New Year.

Andrew Maloy
Chairman RNZIH.

Notable Trees NZ.

This spring Nelson has been greeted by a proliferation of NTNZ logos on it's best trees. Nelson City Council has had permission to use the RNZIH logo for their Heritage Trees. Acknowledgements have been included on the plaque. It is very heartening while working around the city to come across hundreds of trees now identified by the very noticeable NTNZ plaque. This must be a plus for the RNZIH who pioneered the whole identification of important trees. Local Authorities are required by law to have Heritage Tree Lists which is a great consequence of the early work of recording begun by the RNZIH under the direction of Winsome Shepherd in 1978. NCC uses STEM to assess their important trees and has 2 separate plaques - one headed 'Heritage Tree' the other 'Landscape Tree'. This has helped the public to appreciate trees for other than heritage importance. 'Landscape Tree' plaques on amenity trees also mark them for protection as the second tier canopies of future importance.

At this time of the year the arboriculture students at the Waikato Polytechnic (now 'Wintec') complete one of their assignments which is to register a Notable Tree. Third year students' (usually around 20) registrations are marked by tutors before submitting to NTNZ for registration. This is helpful and recordings are thorough. A recent submission from a student is for a Cork oak (hgt.22.50m - spread 29.50m.) at Wenderholm Regional Park Waiwera. Other trees in the park were also listed and described together with full documentation.

Nelson - Tasman Regions again lead the registration 'stakes'. Some of the remarkable trees being processed are :

Nelson

O'Beirne Estate 'Hillwood' Whakapuaka

Coastal redwoods	hgt. 54.33m.	girth 7.00m.
	hgt. 48.80m.	girth 7.00m.
	hgt. 42.00m.	girth 7.20m.
	hgt. 41.76m.	girth 7.70m.
	hgt. 41.12m.	girth 5.50m.

Common oaks:

hgt. 36.00m.	spread 29.00m.	girth 6.70m.
hgt. 34.00m.	spread 39.50m.	girth 4.15m.
hgt 34.00m	spread 39.50m	girth 3.80m.

Ash :

hgt. 32.50m.	spread 21.00m.	girth 4.00m.
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Tasman

St Michaels Church Waimea West

Cupressus sempervirens:

hgt. 33.42m.	girth 2.50m.
hgt. 22.70m.	girth 2.20m.
hgt. 19.80m.	girth 2.20m.

The work goes on - public encouragement is pursued. We hope that you will enjoy a happy festive season and appreciate the shade of a tree in the summer months.

Ron Flook National Registrar.

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Newsletter Copy Deadlines

All contributions from members are welcome.

These can be sent to :
News Letter Editors, RNZIH, P.O. Box 12, Lincoln
University, Canterbury.

Deadline Dates :

No. 1	28 February
No. 2	30 June
No. 3	31 August
No. 4	23 November

R.N.Z.I.H. Awards 2001

Award of Associate of Honour of The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (AHRH)

“Awarded to persons who have given distinguished service to horticulture in New Zealand.”

Gordon Sydney Collier

“A well-conceived and well-planted garden is among the highest art forms as well as being among the most satisfying of life’s pleasures. And when I let my mind wander over this long list of gardens seen, one that always rises to the top is Titoki Point. It is a joy to be in and it is a joy to know the man who created it. It’s a garden made from a passion to grow and cultivate and make beautiful.”

These words are by John Pelrine, producer of *The Victory Garden*, a program of American Public Television. Generous praise, but justified praise, for Gordon Collier and his artistic achievement, Titoki Point.

Gordon Collier was born at the family farm about 40 km west of Taihape. From his earliest days he had an interest in plants and in gardens and in his own words, “this gardener was born not made”. Horticulture thus became his preferred career and he attended Massey University College, achieving a Diploma in Horticulture with Distinction. His first job was at Tupare, the garden of Russell and Mary Matthews. Working at Tupare left a great impression on the young Collier – he describes his time there as being “sheer bliss. The garden was wonderful, its construction of the highest standard, and there were many new plants waiting to be discovered.” It was Sir Russell Matthews who also introduced Collier to Pukeiti, then still a very young garden. Collier was soon an enthusiastic worker at Pukeiti, pegging out tracks and helping decide on the positioning of plants. Today, nearly fifty years later, he is still actively involved in supporting Pukeiti.

When his time at Tupare was up, Gordon Collier decided to return to Wakarua, the family farm at Taihape. He was to remain there until 2000, a farmer for some 35 of those years. It is sobering to realise that Gordon Collier was, by profession, a farmer, and that what he achieved in horticulture was in his own time, before and after working hours. His achievements are enough to make any full-time horticulturist envious, indeed and appropriately, green with envy.

Turning a bare hillside into a garden began in 1964. Finance was limiting because money from the farm was adequate only for family needs. There was, however, no shortage of imagination. Over the next 20 years the garden developed. It may not have been a particularly large garden but it excelled in the planning, in the execution of the design and in the maintenance. The basic philosophy in the

development was always to “plant with the site, never against it. If the wrong plants were chosen, they inevitably failed and the process started again. On the other hand, the correct choice led to rapid growth and spaces rapidly filled up.” The result is what has been described as the most important garden in New Zealand and amongst the greatest plantsman’s gardens in the world. All those who have visited Titoki Point will remember their favourite areas such as the American Garden, the Damp Garden, the Water Garden or the Silver Garden. Above all else, they will remember the unerring choice of the right plant for the right place.

The reputation of the garden soon attracted visitors and from 1986 the garden was regularly open to the public. A nursery was established specialising in the unusual and woodland plants that generally were not available elsewhere. Finally, the garden was closed in 2000 and Gordon and his wife, Annette, retired to Taupo.

Creating a great garden is but one of Gordon Collier’s horticultural achievements. He has also been very active as a consultant and as a landscape and garden adviser, sometimes provocative, sometimes direct and definite in his conclusions, but always worth listening to. Perhaps most significant has been his membership of the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust Board for a remarkable 44 years from 1957 to the present, with a term as Chairman in 1998 and 1999. He has made an outstanding contribution to Pukeiti and his extraordinary knowledge of woodland plants and their appropriate placement in the landscape has been of particular value. It is therefore most suitable that this Institute honours him during Pukeiti’s Golden Jubilee year.

He has also been a garden consultant at Government House in Wellington, being responsible for much of the redesign and rejuvenation of the gardens. He likewise has made a valuable contribution to the Auckland Government House Garden Advisory committee. He has taken on many other responsibilities: trustee of Ayrilies, Auckland; Garden Advisor to the Eastwoodhill Trust; member of the Advisory Committee, Cecil and Molly Smith Garden in Newburg, Oregon, USA; New Zealand Vice-President of the International Dendrology Society. He has been a judge at Ellerslie, and he has spoken to many horticultural groups throughout New Zealand and in other parts of the world.

Gordon Collier is also noted for the quality of his writing. He is author of *Gordon Collier’s Titoki Point* and, with Julian Matthews, of *The New Zealander’s Garden*. He was editor of the *Bulletin, New Zealand Section of the International Dendrology Society* from 1982-1991, he was gardens columnist for *Countrywide*, and he still

writes regularly for *New Zealand House and Garden*, where his columns gain much from his expert knowledge of plants and his intuitive sense of design.

The word "excellence" summarises Gordon Collier's contributions to New Zealand horticulture: excellence in garden design, excellence in planting, excellence in advice, excellence in writing. He has rendered distinguished service to horticulture and he is a most worthy Associate of Honour of this Institute.

Terence Charles Hatch

"Grandad went to Africa
on a jet one day
He went to look at flowers and plants
plus things along the way.

One day while out a-looking
he stubbed his toe so hard,
and while he was a-rubbing it
he turned into a bard!

Now when we go to see him
he talks to us in rhyme,
and Granny says it drives her mad,
he does it all the time."

There are few Associates of Honour of this Institute who can be described as poets or even bards. There are perhaps even fewer who are better known to many for their athletic skills. There can be only one who can appear in public or on TV in an eighteenth century smock with convincing matching accent. But today, we honour Terence Charles Hatch for his contributions to horticulture in New Zealand.

Terry, as he is known to all of us, is a Cockney, born in the Borough of Hackney, London. Back in his ancestry are Huguenots, flower growers and plantmen, expelled from France, and he likes to boast that the plant growing gene is deeply embedded in his makeup - clearly a dominant gene! He grew up in London during the war and his first horticultural achievement, mustard cress, grown when he was two or three, was lost, as they say, as a result of enemy action. He also remembers, as a five-year old, being fascinated by the alstroemerias being grown by an aunt. By the time he was eight, he was flowering dodecatheons and was swapping auriculas with relations. Then his attention switched to cacti and his father built him several glasshouses to accommodate the collection.

From the age of eleven, Terry worked after school in several nurseries and then at fifteen was apprenticed to the local parks department. Conditions sound Dickensian. During his first eighteen months there he was regularly expected to wash the terracotta pots, breaking the ice on the surface of the tubs in the morning and then burning old seed trays underneath in an attempt to warm the water. Terry survived and eventually became a 1st Class Certificated Gardener in 1962. His employment with the Dagenham Borough Council was interrupted by his national service with the Royal Air Force in Cyprus. There his spare time was spent in collecting seed of wild cyclamen and tulips. His Certificate of Discharge is still applicable today: "An extremely patient and persistent worker who always maintains a high

standard of workmanship. He is a good sportsman and a popular and pleasant person."

In 1963, Terry and Pam, who had been married for only a month, emigrated to New Zealand. The long sea voyage, without soil or a real plant in sight, was frustrating and, typically, Terry spent his time reading and rereading Laing and Blackwell's *Plants of New Zealand*. The trip from Wellington, where they landed, to Auckland was devastating: the sight of all those dead burnt trees still lying in paddocks. The conservationist was born.

In Auckland, he first worked for Pettit's nursery in Otahuhu raising many thousands of plants. Within a few years he set up on his own, turning the front lawn of their Manurewa home into a nursery, producing rock and alpine plants, perennials, bulbs and groundcovers. It was very much a family business with Pam busy propagating and distributing the plants in the Morris Minor. Space was soon limiting so the nursery shifted to Runciman Road, Pukekohe East. Joy Plants has since become a Mecca for serious Auckland gardeners as it is one of the very few specialist nurseries in the region. The Joy Plants stall at the Eilerslie Flower Show is always one of the most popular, because of the plants of interest, and is a relief that the nursery is to be continued by Terry and Pam's son, Lindsay.

Joy Plants has brought many interesting plants and bulbs to New Zealand. Terry has travelled widely to collect plants and seed, to the United States, the Middle East, Europe, Hawaii, Fiji, Australia and more recently to South Africa, home of the many bulbs for which he has such a passion. Even more remarkable are the many plants that Terry himself has bred. He was awarded the Institute's Plant Raiser's Award in 1992 for, amongst others, Alstroemeria 'Pink Joy', Osteospermum 'Whirligig' and 'Whirly Pink', and Chieranthus 'Joy Gold' and 'Winter Joy'. His "Pink Joy Butterfly" series of alstroemerias includes many of great garden merit, he has a wonderful series of nerines, many of them soft rich colours, and including a tall sparkling white known as "Peace Dove", he is developing most beautiful clivias, and now he is returning to one of his first and greatest loves, Helleborus.

In his youth, Terry was a keen athlete being a notable marathon runner. He had started in England, creating a stir by running in the Essex championships, wearing a black bowler hat with two silver wings attached. He continued running in New Zealand, without such artificial aids, and a newspaper report of 1964 suggested that he would be a decided acquisition to the Manurewa club. In 1968, the *Recorder/Review* of Essex noted that "Terry of the thinning hatch and ready wit, [who] now lives in New Zealand" had achieved a remarkable 9 minutes, 17 seconds for the 3000 metre steeplechase. His training was "just sixteen miles a day, and a bit further on Sundays, one and a half to two hours of hill running."

Today, Terry is more noted for his commitment to conservation. He helped in the program of cat eradication from Little Barrier Island, one of the great success stories of New Zealand conservation, and this led to his love for the offshore islands with their particular flora and fauna. He has been responsible for the revegetation of Great Mercury Island having

raised more than 110,000 mixed natives and 25,000 to 30,000 pohutukawa.

In his "spare" time", Terry has also been involved with industry organisations. He was a foundation member of the New Zealand International Plant Propagators' Society and was instrumental in putting forward the case for New Zealand to be raised to regional status. He was Chairman of the Region in 1981 and 1982, and in 1996 he was presented with the Region's Award of Honour for outstanding contributions and service. He is currently President of the Friends, Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens. Terry has long been an enthusiastic and generous supporter of the gardens and he enjoys making his knowledge available to the public: his lectures and rambles are always well attended. He has also written very extensively with his best-known book probably being *Bulbs for New Zealand Gardeners and Collectors* co-authored with Jack Hobbs. His most recent publication, *Grandad went to Africa*, may be whimsical, but it has a serious message and, typically, the profits will go to a South African trust, the Green Trust, whose aim is a sustainable ecological future for the black communities of the Cape.

The Institute's Award of Associate of Honour is reserved for those who have rendered distinguished service to horticulture. This award to Terry Hatch acknowledges his distinguished service, it acknowledges his expert knowledge of plants, his writings, his plant introductions and plant breeding, his commitment to conservation and, above all, his passion for plants.

David Lewis Shillito

This Institute has been fortunate in that so many people have voluntarily given their time to assist the Institute in meeting its main objective: the promotion of horticulture in New Zealand. The work of the National Executive, the work of the local committees, of the editors of our journal and our newsletters, of our awards committee in identifying notable horticulturists, in the work of the Notable Trees Committee - all these have contributed to the promotion of horticulture. But it would be fair to say that all these efforts would be in vain if the Institute were not on a sound financial footing. In recent years the Institute has had to go through major changes as it became no longer responsible for horticultural qualifications, and then it suffered unexpected financial vicissitudes that should never have happened. At one stage it seemed unlikely that we would be able to meet all our debts, that our future was a matter of months, not years.

That the institute has survived, that it has paid all its creditors and that it is now in a sound financial situation is, of course, largely due to the loyalty of its members, but in many many ways is to the credit of the person we honour today, David Lewis Shillito.

Horticulture is in David Shillito's blood. His grandfather was a nurseryman and both his father and his aunt were enthusiastic gardeners. While still at school, he worked in the alpine plant nursery of

Jenny and Des Riach and because of this, or perhaps despite this, he has retained a love of alpine and rock plants. After leaving school he spent a gap year in Canada living with and working for his aunt who had a four-acre garden. On returning to New Zealand he worked as a gardener at the Christchurch Public Hospital and Marshlands market garden. By the time he entered University he had therefore gained essential practical experience and knew the realities of horticulture. At Lincoln University he took Diplomas in Horticulture and in Horticultural Management. Apart from relatively brief periods overseas and serving as a Horticultural Field Officer with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in Christchurch, he has remained at Lincoln ever since and is now a Lecturer in Horticultural Management and Academic Coordinator for the Diploma in Horticultural Management.

In his own time David Shillito has retained a enthusiasm for horticulture. He and his partner are developing a large garden on the Canterbury Plains with a special interest in rhododendrons and alpine plants. He has been active in the New Zealand Alpine Garden Society with a period as Chairman of the Show Committee and the Show Convenor, developing the Society's show regulations and structure. He has been a member of the Tree Crops Association with a special interest in the development of the Hazelnut Action Group. He has been involved in other societies and has been a frequent speaker on horticultural topics.

For the past twenty years, David Shillito has played a very active role in the affairs of our Institute. He began by being editor of the Bulletin and then for the last 16 years has been a committee member of the Canterbury Branch, including a five-year period as Chairman. In 1990 he was elected a member of the National Executive and it is during this term of office that he has made his most significant contribution to the Institute. Since 1995, he has been responsible for the financial administration of the Institute. This has entailed much more than simply giving financial guidance. It is largely because of his competence, his hard work and his devotion that the Institute survived its financial crisis when it was found to be owing more than \$80,000. The problems surfaced a couple of months after David took office as Chairman of the National Executive and it was he who had to make the financial savings and terminate the employment of staff. It took the next three years to sort out the mess and in reality, because he is based at Lincoln University, he was also responsible for much of the day today administration of the Institute. In addition to this he has also served as editor of the Newsletter and has been a member of three Institute Conference Organising Committees.

His service to the Institute has thus been exceptional and has earned him the gratitude of all members, especially those on the National Executive who are in the best position to judge exactly how much he has contributed. It is probably not exaggerating to say that except for his efforts we would not be holding an Annual General Meeting today. It should not be thought, however, that all his activities were merely reacting to crises - he has also been proactive in

furthering the aims of the Institute. A good example is the application he made to the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust for funding of the publication of the Hebe Checklist. The \$12,000 granted allowed the recent publication of the list, a major contribution to the study of one of New Zealand's most important groups of plants. This has raised the international standing of the Institute.

The award of Associate of Honour is the highest distinction conferred by this Institute. We believe that by his work for the Institute, David Lewis Shillito is a most worthy Associate of Honour.

Garden History Award

“Awarded to an individual or organisation within New Zealand who has made a distinguished contribution to horticultural history and conservation.”

Winsome Shepherd

Mrs Winsome Shepherd is a distinguished Associate of Honour of the Institute. She has long had an interest in the history of horticulture in New Zealand and has an enviable record of publication in this area:

- she has published extensively on the introduction of conifers, particularly *Pinus*

radiata, to New Zealand;

- she has written a very detailed history of the Wellington Botanic Gardens;
- she has very recently published a new book, *Wellington's heritage: plants, gardens and landscape*. This is a history of Wellington's landscape and of private and public gardens from colonial times to the present. It is a detailed study of plantsmen and gardeners of the nineteenth century in the Hutt Valley and Wellington and provides a history of gardens of special interest, particularly the Botanic Gardens and the Wellington Town Belt. It is a very useful complement to her earlier writings.

Mrs Sheperd's publications have been of great interest to all those who have an interest in horticulture and gardening. They are particularly important in explaining to Wellingtonians how their landscape has evolved and been modified. Her publications are much more than of mere parochial interest: they constitute an important contribution to the history of horticulture in New Zealand.

She is a most worthy recipient of the Institute's Award in Garden History.

To all Members

SEASONS GREETINGS

and best wishes for a

HAPPY NEW YEAR

New RNZIH Student Award

THE MEMORIAL PRIZE FUND

PURPOSE:

To assist RNZIH members who are bone fide full or part time horticultural students with the costs of attending seminars, conferences or workshops that are being held within New Zealand.

THE FUND:

The Memorial Prize Fund is made up from a number of previous RNZIH awards. These were: Rita Skellerup Prize
David Tannock Memorial Prize
Dugald McKenzie Prize
Junior Memorial Prize

ELIGIBILITY:

Any financial member of the RNZIH who has been a member for a minimum period of one year and who is a registered full or part time horticultural student at an institution in New Zealand.

CONDITIONS:

- 1 It is expected that the member would make a contribution towards the cost of attending the seminar/conference/workshop to demonstrate their commitment.
- 2 The RNZIH will consider applications for up to 75% of the cost of attending, including travel registration and accommodation.
- 3 Successful applicants must provide evidence of attending by way of receipts or other papers following the event. Failure to comply with this condition the applicant shall be liable to refund all award moneys to the RNZIH.
- 4 The National Executive of the RNZIH reserves the right not to make an award if in its opinion the application is not of sufficient merit, or for any other reason National Executive may decide from time to time.

Applications should be submitted at least **two months** prior to the conference, seminar or workshop:

Full details on applications are available from Head Office.

The lotus is the cleanest plant of all

(Kindly reprinted from the Auckland Branch Newsletter, June 2001)

The lotus, *Nelumbo nucifera*, is one of the most beautiful of all plants and has long been honoured as a symbol of purity, especially by Hindus and Buddhists. Even though the plant grows in what are often the filthiest of filthy ponds, its leaves never seem to get dirty and the flower itself is perfection. How does the plant manage this? Simple. An article by Peter Forbes in the *Guardian Weekly* describes how Wilhelm Barthlott of the University of Bonn found that the lotus leaf is not perfectly smooth, as might be imagined, but is instead highly waxed and corrugated. The leaf is not wetted by a drop of water - there is no flat area for the drop to cling to - and instead the drop of water rolls off the leaf, taking with it any dirt. Such dirt has a greater attraction for the surface tension of the water than it has for the leaf itself. So the leaf is self-cleansing and the effect has become to be known as the Lotus Effect.

This is not just an interesting phenomenon found in plants. There has been extensive development work on possible applications. Already in Germany there are Lotusan, a silicon, self-cleansing exterior coating for houses, and Lotus Effect roof tiles which are also self-cleansing. The ultimate is a self-cleansing car - presumably a Lotus Effect Lotus.

Lotus Effect coatings are bumpy and hydrophobic (water-repellent). Self-cleansing glass as developed by companies such as Pilkington, relies on the converse, a hydrophilic (water-attracting) surface which prevents water droplets from forming. The rain "sheets" on the surface carrying away any dirt. There is also a photocatalytic layer which oxidises organic matter such as bird droppings

Gardens 2001 Congress Update.

The first newsletter, titled 'The Botanic Garden', for Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand has recently been produced. This has developed from the Gardens 2001 Congress of which an article featured in our June newsletter. The following is an excerpt from the article by one of the editors, Frank Howarth, who is the director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney.

"The workshop also stressed that any organisation needed to appeal to reflect the diversity of professionals engaged in the operation of botanic gardens, including horticulture, conservation, education, interpretation, etc. The needs of embryonic specialist groups such as the Curators' Forum ought to be met by any national organisation. We also identified that Australia lacks a single voice that can speak on behalf of all botanic gardens in an international context, such as ANPC (Australian Network for Plant Conservation) does in the area of plant conservation.

Where to from here with Gardens Australasia was placed into the hands of a working group of interested parties and CHABG (Council of Heads of Australian Botanic Gardens). At its meeting in early August, CHABG looked again at where we are going with a national organisation. The meeting took up where the Congress left off and looked hard at some of the

unanswered questions and issues raised at the Congress and elsewhere. One of the things noted was that the name Gardens Australasia was chosen to reflect that the membership would probably include more than just practitioners of botanic gardens and would be inclusive of other public gardens which did not see themselves under the narrower definition of "botanic garden". The reality of attendance at the Congress and interest since then has suggested that it's worth refocussing the name on botanic gardens but inviting any interested party to join. The CHABG meeting also recognised that the reality of the potential catchment for the organisation was Australia and New Zealand, and that it was fairly presumptuous to set ourselves up as able to represent interests outside that group. But noting that any interested botanic gardens outside Australia and New Zealand could join if they wish.

We then took on the most daunting task of all and looked for a name that would reflect botanic gardens and Australia and New Zealand and came up with the name Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand, or BGANZ."

The first edition of the newsletter is only available via the World Wide Web. The full article and the newsletter can be viewed on www.anbg.gov.au/chabg.

Newsletter



Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

Postage Paid
Lincoln University
N.Z. Permit No. 111

2001
No. 4
December

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