

# Newsletter



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*Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)*

## Chairman's Comments

Taranaki in spring is always a unique experience, and for those members who attended our annual conference in November it was indeed memorable, for a variety of reasons. The weather wasn't favourable at times – it even snowed on those brave enough to venture onto the mountain on Sunday, but other experiences more than made up for a few wet clothes. The Banks Memorial lecture presented by Dr Bruce Clarkson was one of the best attended for years, and deservedly so. A stimulating, informative, well-illustrated talk on the distribution of the flora around Mt Taranaki from a practical point of view, with lots of tips resulting from various "garden experiments" Bruce has carried out over the years. Look out for the written version in next year's journal.

On the Saturday we visited several gardens including Glyn Church's Woodleigh Nursery and Garden in Oakura. Author of several plant and garden books, Glyn has a passion for rare plants, obvious by the enthusiasm he showed taking us round his extensive garden. At almost every turn there was a tree, shrub or perennial that most of us knew little about. The rain didn't dampen our enthusiasm and we all left with our botanical education much the better for our visit. Thank you Glyn.

Nearby Ngamamaku garden was the next stop. There the owners have combined both formal and natural styles in a historical setting. This is my third visit here and it's still always worth returning to. An informative bus trip around the coastline followed, complete with excellent commentary from Ken Davey on the history of the area and points of interest. Thank you Ken. Then lunch at Mark and Abbie Jury's Tikorangi garden was memorable for several reasons – the rain had stopped, the food provided by the local CWI was superb, and the company equally so. A couple of hours here passed quickly as we wandered around the extensive garden and nursery, a mecca for those interested in the rare and unusual, and of course plants from Mark and the late Felix's own breeding programmes. Thank you Abbie and Mark.

Pukekura Park was next where we saw the NZ Arboricultural

Association climbing championship in full swing and had a guided tour through the fernery and display houses.

Sunday saw most of us heading towards the mountain to Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust gardens where we were ably guided by curator Graeme Smith. Thank you Graeme, I learned so much more this time.

Jennifer Gleeson, secretary/treasurer of the North Taranaki Branch of the Institute, was responsible for organising most of the garden visits and publicity for the Banks Lecture. Thanks Jennifer, your hard work paid off and is appreciated.

The following is a brief version of my report tabled at the Institute AGM, held on Saturday 16 November:

It's been a year of progress in many areas. The points below outline where we are at with some of the core activities of the Institute.

**Journal** - The new-look journal has been well received. John Clemens has produced an attractive publication with a cost saving on previous issues. The December edition is progressing well, but as usual getting articles written is a challenge. So anything we can do to help will be appreciated by John. I know there are many members out there with gems of wisdom, knowledge and experience that is of interest to the rest of us. Please don't hesitate to offer to write something for the journal. John is always on the lookout for articles of any size, even just a few hundred words. His contact details are in the journal. Thank you John for a job well done.

**Website** – We have a world class website, thanks to Murray Dawson's continuing sterling efforts. It promotes the RNZIH in a thoroughly professional way, provides information on a host of horticultural and related topics and has links to other similarly useful

websites. The number of people accessing our site continues to increase. October 2002 was a record month with 9247 visitors. You can now check out such topics as Weeds of New Zealand, Native Plants, the NZ Plant Collections Register, the National Pest Plant Accord and the RNZIH Notable Trees register online. We owe Murray a vote of thanks.

**Notable Trees** – Another project progressing well thanks to Ron Flook. The Notable Trees Register is now online and work is continuing registering more notable trees. I urge members throughout the country to make use of our register to record notable trees in your district. Thanks to Ron, for your continuing dedication to our trees.

**Horticultural Industry Training Organisation (HITO)** – Michael Ayrton has been representing us there and ensuring the Institute has some input into what's happening on the training front. Thanks Michael for your efforts in this respect.

**RNZIH National Register of Gardens** – Things have moved along quickly in the last few months. Around 20 private and public gardens have committed to becoming founding gardens in order to get the scheme up and running. Within the next few weeks a trust will be set up to run the scheme on behalf of the Institute. Trustees will include garden owners and a representative from RNZIH executive. Thanks to Jayson Kelly and his committed group of helpers the seeds of an idea first sown years ago are now coming into fruition. More details in the New Year.

All the best for a happy festive season,  
Best regards,

**Andrew Maloy**  
Chair RNZIH Executive Committee.

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#### HELP!!

We would like to reinstate the Notice Board section of the Newsletter, but to do that we need information from you. If you have anything that you think may be of interest to the members, whether it be upcoming events or 'hatches, matches and despatches' please send it in to the office here at Lincoln. I am gradually getting to grips with Pagemaker and things can only get better from here on. Best wishes for a happy Christmas.

Linda Sallabanks



## **RNZIH Awards 2002**

### **Fellow (FRIH)**

Awarded to members who have made a significant contribution to horticulture and the Institute.

#### **Murray Ian Dawson - Christchurch**

Murray Dawson has been a member of the RNZIH for many years and during this time he has participated in activities organised by the Canterbury Branch. He has also been the recipient of the DD Baker Award.

With the introduction of the RNZIH Web site Murray saw the potential uses and benefits of this new technology to the Institute. He approached National Executive expressing interest in developing the site and introducing many new features. Prior to taking on this role Murray's experience of web site development was limited so he committed many voluntary hours of work to learning and implementing this technology. Because of his very significant contribution to the development of the web site Murray was appointed Webmaster in 2001 and was also co-opted onto National Executive.

Today this site could be described as one to the major horticultural sites in New Zealand. With an average of 4,000 hits a month it is clearly considered to be a valuable horticultural resource for members and others. The site not only contains extensive RNZIH material but Murray has incorporated many other aspects of horticulture in New Zealand and links to overseas organisations. RNZIH journal articles have been posted which helps re-disseminate this valuable horticultural information. Murray has developed electronic membership forms which are proving to be effective in encouraging new members to join the Institute.

It would be fair to say that the profile that the RNZIH Web site is achieving is a clear reflection of the enormous effort of time and skills that Murray has put into its development. Murray is a worthy recipient of the award of Fellow of the Royal New Zealand Institute of

Horticulture.

### **Associate of Honour (AHRIH)**

#### **Mrs Audrey Eagle - Dunedin**

Audrey was born in Timaru and her parents, originally from England, moved back to England taking their three children with them.

Audrey was educated at primary schools in Wellington, Dunedin, Croydon (London) and Horsham (Sussex). Her secondary education was at Horsham Girls' High School 1936-39, county secondary school Fulham 1940-42 and Banbury School, Oxfordshire 1942-43.

Her tertiary education was at the Government training centre at Slough, near Windsor, where she took an engineering draughting course in 1944. She then attended part time the School of Technology, Oxford 1943-46 and the Dartford County Technical College in 1947 where she gained an Ordinary National Certificate in electrical engineering, with distinction in mathematics. Audrey then attended Banbury School of Art in 1948-49 before returning to New Zealand in 1949.

Audrey's interest in nature commenced as a child, and she recalls her childhood in Wroxton, Oxfordshire 'every spare moment was spent exploring the countryside. Hours were spent in woods, on hillsides and by streams observing plants, birds and other details of the countryside'.

When Audrey returned to New Zealand in 1949 she was employed in the draughting office in the State Hydro Electricity Department in Hamilton, 1949-54. A major shift in Audrey's activities occurred from 1952 where she established herself in the field of botanical illustration and writing. Audrey's primary contributions have been in relation to her work as a botanical artist.

The first series of 'Eagles Trees of New Zealand in Colour' was published in 1975 and includes 228 botanical paintings. The second series was published in 1982 and includes 405

botanical paintings. The illustrations of rare species and distribution make this volume of particular significance to the professional botanist as well as the amateur. The latter series is dedicated to botanist Anthony Peter Druce (1920-1999) a member of the former DSIR Botany Division who helped in taxonomic aspects.

Audrey has published 'Eagles 100 Trees of New Zealand' and 'Eagles 100 Shrubs & Climbers of New Zealand'. She is currently completing her third book of New Zealand trees and shrubs. This will include approximately 120 illustrations and descriptions and will include varieties and forms not previously illustrated, new discoveries since 1983 and the results of recent taxonomic research.

An exhibition of about 50 of Audrey's plant paintings was held in the Waikato Museum of Art (1975) and also Napier and Auckland.

Audrey started her work with New Zealand plants in 1952. Her aim was to illustrate representatives of all genera of native trees and shrubs and Audrey has been much in demand to give talks and lead educational trips into the bush for both children and adults.

Audrey has served on a number of important organisations:

- § National Executive of Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society, 1976-81
- § Member of Nature Conservation Council, 1978-89
- § Member of Loder Cup Committee, 1981-83
- § Foundation member of Royal Forest & Bird Society, 20 years Waikato (2 years Chairperson)
- § Conservation Society – 3 years, North Taranaki and lower Waikato
- § Member of New Zealand Botanical Society
- § Wellington Botanical Society
- § Otago Botanical Society
- § Auckland Botanical Society, 15 years
- § Ornithological Society of New Zealand

- § Miranda Naturalists Trust
- § QEII National Trust

#### Awards

- § Nature Conservation Council Citation, 1976
- § Watties Book of the Year (3<sup>rd</sup> prize), 1976
- § Watties Book of the Year (2<sup>nd</sup> prize), 1983
- § Loder Cup (1985)
- § Distinguished Life Member of the Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society 1998
- § Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (June 2001)

Audrey moved from Ngaruawahia, Waikato to New Plymouth in 1983, and after her husband Harold's death in 1996 she moved to Dunedin.

Audrey Eagle has given outstanding service to botanical art, conservation and horticulture throughout New Zealand and the Institute has great pleasure in awarding her its highest accolade of Associate of Honour.

### **CITATION – 2002 RON FLOOK AWARD**

(As read by Bryan Gould to delegates attending the 2002 Annual Conference Dinner, New Plymouth)

### **RECIPIENT – Walter Fielding- Cotterell**

The 2002 recipient for NZAA's Ron Flook Award – an award which recognises outstanding service to the care of trees and the arboriculture industry at large – is Walter Fielding-Cotterell

Walter trained in England before, in December 1971, emigrating to New Zealand a country where he felt his two passions trees and fishing could be combined- more on this later.



Walter holds the English Royal Forestry Society Woodsman Certificate and the City and Guild of London Certificate in Tree Surgery.

Walter was on the National Executive of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture for ten years, during which time he was an examiner for the arboriculture component of the National Diploma in Horticulture. He has been on the National Executive of the NZAA for eight years, split over two terms.

Walter has organized and run two NZAA National Conferences in Christchurch

In 1974 after spending time working in frontier towns such as Murupara and Twizel Walter was appointed to the position of City Arborist for Christchurch City – this was the first formally advertised arborist position in New Zealand.

Walter's foremost achievement as Christchurch City's Arborist would have to be the stopping of street tree topping as the accepted maintenance practice in the city and the culture change of the public and staff to except what we now take for granted as standard arboricultural practices. This was in no way a small task and Walter still battles against the Lopem, Topem and Chopem mentality today.

Now I would like to read to you some words from one of Walter's oldest friends and colleagues – John Morton, Landscape Architect and fellow lover of trees and fishing

Walter in his quiet way has provided a new era for tree management in all its facets to Christchurch. I have great personal regard for Walter's skills, especially so when he has generously supplied knowledgeable backing to help preserve on behalf of my clientele, evidence for trees under threat from neighbours, in the many court appearances whereby I have been briefed to prepare a defense against removal. The result has been a hundred percent success.

One has only to look at the trees in Christchurch amenity areas, to appreciate that their condition, form and health, can only be attributed to Walter's considerable skills and knowledge and love, applied to their maintenance, and the credit for this

lies positively in Walter's hands.

Some thirty years ago, when I first met him, Walter, then a member of the New Zealand Landscape Association, was an inspiration in helping learn an appreciation for one of the most complex architectural forms on this planet - Trees.

I have it on good authority that much of his tree pruning knowledge and skills at this time, came as a result of his early attempts at fly fishing, whereby he learned his tree climbing ability without safety harnesses, and the ability to remove without destruction of plant form, his many trout flies caught on backcast in riverside trees. I have met and interviewed many of these trees in my academic career, so my knowledge in these matters is not hearsay.

In appreciation for a life dedicated to these wonders of nature - Trees; the Ron Flook award to Walter is well deserved. I am sure this comment is backed by those in the Landscape profession who have helped plan some of the tree plantings that are the Life breath of this City, and have been magnificently managed and maintained by Walter and his department.

**John Morton**  
Landscape Architect

The Executive Committee is grateful to Walter for the outstanding support he has given over the past years.

It is my pleasure to award the 2002 Ronald Flook Award to the— Walter Fielding-Cotterell.

*Bryan Gould*

# New Products and services available through the Horticulture ITO

Over the past 12 months a number of new and revised products and services have become available through the NZ Horticulture ITO. They include:

1. Recognition of prior learning (RPL) which involves awarding a person all or part of a National Certificate in Horticulture qualification on the basis of previous experience and skills. The key features of the RPL programme are available for people who have been working in the horticulture industry in New Zealand for 8 or more years continuously or, if in broken periods 8 years out of 12.
2. Accelerated assessment also involves awarding a person all or part of a National Certificate in Horticulture qualification on the basis of previous experience and skills. However, Accelerated Assessment differs from RPL in that it makes no assumptions as to the ability of the candidate. Essentially it is a fast track way of obtaining a qualification. Because of the experience of the candidate, the candidate may be assessed immediately rather than having to start the training programme from scratch.
3. Cross - crediting involves awarding a person credit towards a National Certificate in Horticulture qualification for partially completed or fully completed 'old - world' qualifications. There is a formal process involved where old - world completed papers have a corresponding match in terms of a unit standard. The ITO Education Manager uses a cross-crediting database that forms the basis for all cross-crediting decisions.
4. Modern Apprenticeships in horticulture were introduced in the Modern Apprenticeships Training Act 2000. The purpose of the Act is to encourage and help young people (aged between 16-21) to take up and complete apprenticeship training. Modern Apprenticeships build on the best of apprenticeship traditions with the big difference being the apprentice is assigned a personal mentor to help the apprentice succeed.
5. Modern Apprenticeships training lead to a National Certificate in Horticulture at Level 4

of the National Qualifications Framework. In addition to skills specific to horticulture, apprentices may learn other skills such as information technology and communication skills. To be eligible for a Modern Apprenticeship a candidate must be 16-21 years old, though provision for older people seeking a career change may be made.

6. National Diploma in Horticulture (Level 6). This qualification has been revised and re-registered so that it is entirely elective. This allows trainees to select unit standards to suit their own enterprise and career development. Subsidised funding is available through the ITO for trainees in this programme. Trainees select units available through Otago Polytechnic (Cromwell) and study extramurally.
7. National Certificate in Horticulture (Arboriculture). This qualification was registered by the NZ Qualifications Authority in August 2001. The off - job programme is available through the Waikato and Otago Polytechnics, both of whom are leaders in the field of arboriculture. Trainees can specialise in a number of options including ground worker, basic climber, advanced climber, consultant climber and utility worker.

Further details on any of the above services are available through your nearest HITO Regional Manager:

Auckland : Andrew Hatfield Ph.(09) 233 4130

Hamilton : Grace Ginnane Ph. (07) 843 0486

Central : Rod Hickman Ph. (06) 870 6256

Wellington /  
Marlborough : Eric Churton Ph. (04) 904 0802

Southern : Anne Marie Monaghan Ph. (03) 348 1511

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## The Margaret Watling Scholarship

The purpose of this scholarship is to assist people to undertake further study or obtain practical experience in amenity horticulture, ornamental horticulture, nursery management or any other closely allied field. The conditions for this scholarship were reviewed at the end of 2001 and some changes were introduced. The main one was that the scholarship may be held at a teaching or training institute, preferably in the United Kingdom, but also at such Institutes in the United States, Canada, Australia, or New Zealand.

Another change was to increase the age of applicants; those under the age of 35 are eligible to apply. The value of the award is up to \$5,000.

Applicants must have studied or are studying for an approved qualification at the RNZIH or at Lincoln University, or at an equivalent horticultural training organisation. Applicants must have resided in the South Island for at least two years prior to the award.

Applications close on 31 March 2003 with:

The Scholarship Manager  
P O Box 94  
Lincoln University  
Canterbury

Full details of this scholarship and the application form are available from the Scholarship Manager.

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

**We would like to take this  
opportunity to wish all our  
members a happy and peaceful  
Christmas and a prosperous  
New Year**



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