

Newsletter



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Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.)

Chairman's Comments

Summer is now behind us, short as it was. Yet it seems no time at all since our successful 'Happening in Hamilton' last October. The Banks Memorial Lecture, "New Zealand Needs New Plants", in which Peter Cave candidly argued the case for freeing up restrictions on plant material imports, sent ripples through the horticulture industry. In February it was reprinted in *Commercial Horticulture*, the nursery industry magazine, to be read and discussed by a wider audience and it has also been reproduced in at least one specialist plant society journal. By inviting recognised experts, such as Peter, to raise issues affecting the future of our country's horticultural industries the RNZIH is fulfilling some of its constitutional objectives which include encouraging, fostering and improving every branch of horticulture.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome two new members on to the National Executive. Mick Reece curator/manager of Dunedin Botanic Gardens and David Sole curator/manager of Wellington Botanic Gardens join us following the results of the ballot last year. Both have a wealth of experience in their field and we look forward to their active involvement in institute affairs. And thanks to Graeme Mander and David Moyle, the outgoing members, for their invaluable contribution; Graeme over a remarkable 40 years and David for extensive efforts in many areas, particularly his contribution to the 2003 Christchurch conference.

RNZIH Conference 2005

Organisational difficulties, including timing clashes have caused the proposed October Auckland conference, "More Plants in our Cities? – what role will plants play in cities of the future?", to be postponed until early next year. We'll keep you informed of progress but in the meantime any member wishing to contribute in time, effort or sponsorship to help this timely project reach its potential should contact me or Penny Cliffin (pcliffin@unitec.ac.nz).

The Auckland Branch committee are investigating holding a one or two day visit in the Tauranga area in October which would include the institute AGM and most likely a Banks Memorial Lecture. We'll keep you informed of progress.

RNZIH Education Trust

The 2004 financial report shows the trust is in a healthy state and a contract for provision of services to HITO for the 2005 year has been signed. David Pufflett continues as National Training Manager, this year much of his time taken up in accreditation and moderation of training providers, organising oral and practical exams and researching training needs of certain groups, as well as the Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition.

Elenka Nikoloff has been employed on a contractual basis to assist in organising the Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition for 2005 and comes with a wealth of experience having worked with leading horticultural companies and Ellerslie Flower Show.

Promotional Brochure

We've been aware for some time now of the need for an updated brochure explaining what RNZIH is about, what we do and the benefits of membership. This has been a work in progress for several months but the aim is to have a new brochure printed and available by the middle of the year.

Newsletter and Journal

Remember this is your organisation – if you wish to provide material for inclusion in either the newsletter or *New Zealand Garden Journal* don't hesitate to contact Linda at our Lincoln University office.

Best regards

Andrew Maloy
Chair RNZIH Executive Committee.

Breakdown of Current Membership

Associates of Honour	45
Associate Members	19
Honorary Members	3
Life Members	6
Joint Members	4
Individual Members	198
Corporate Members	30
Gardens Trust members	57
Education Trust student members	14
Student members	1

New Year Honours

Congratulations to Mrs Susan Davison, AHRIH (NZ), who was awarded the Queen's Service Medal for Community Services in the recent New Year Honours. Mrs Davison has been a strong supporter of the Institute and of the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens for many years and was last year made an Associate of Honour of the Institute.

Another well-known Auckland horticulturist, Mr Robert Langholm, was also awarded the Queen's Service Medal for his work with bonsai and in supporting the Heroic Gardens annual fundraising.

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RNZIH Awards and Honours

The RNZIH runs a comprehensive system of awards and honours for both members and non-members. There is one major scholarship awarded annually, worth several thousand dollars. For detailed information on these please write to the RNZIH, P O Box 12, Lincoln University, Canterbury. The awards are briefly as follows:

Associate of Honour (AHRIH)

Awarded to persons who have given distinguished service to horticulture in New Zealand. Only 60 people can hold the award at one time.

Fellow (FRIH)

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

Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Scholarship

A scholarship granted for research, field work, publication, propagation and/or cultivation of plants and any other activity likely to promote and assist the conservation of New Zealand's indigenous and exotic plant genetic resources. Up to \$5,000 is available each year.

Sir Victor Davies Award

Awarded annually to a young person who has demonstrated an outstanding plant knowledge. The recipient receives a certificate plus monetary prize.

Plant Raisers' Award

Awarded to an individual or organisation who has raised in New Zealand a cultivar(s) of outstanding merit.

Ronald Flook Award

Awarded by the New Zealand Arborticultural Association to a person who has contributed to the advancement of arboriculture in New Zealand.

Closing dates: All nominations will close on 31 March 2005

“Going for Gold”

Achieving Gold Standards
Garden - Operations - Promotion

Create a Quality Visitor Experience

New Zealand Gardens Trust
Seminar

Guest Speakers include:

Jack Hobbs
Trish Waugh
Gordon Collier

*Learn the secrets of our success at the
Chelsea Flower Show*

6, 7, 8 May 2005
Larnach Castle, Dunedin

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