

Award of Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (AHRIH)

Awarded to people who have rendered distinguished service to horticulture in New Zealand. Two AHRIH awards were made in 2004.

Kerry Carman

Kerry Carman maintains a prominent place in New Zealand's gardening, literature, and art scenes. Her creativity is boundless and her enthusiasm for nature infectious. She started gardening as a child in her mother's and grandmother's gardens and even then she was captivated by miniatures (an interest that was reflected later in life) creating gardens of tiny succulents and cacti in old sardine tins and making little moss gardens. Her Masterton garden, Wylde Green, is a haven in which these childhood passions linger. "I love all plants from the tallest tree to the smallest flower" Kerry is quoted as saying.

After a fall in her Carterton classroom over twenty five years ago she was unable to continue her teaching career. During her lengthy hospital stay a friend sent her a white rugosa rose which inspired her to start sketching, the first steps in a new career as a garden essayist and botanical artist. Eight years later she

published her first book *Portrait of a Garden*, which, to her surprise, won the A. W. Reed Memorial Book Award, ran to two editions, and became a classic. Its whimsical nature studies elevated her in the minds of her New Zealand readers to the timeless status enjoyed by Beatrix Potter.

Kerry has subsequently written and illustrated three more books and has achieved the distinction of election as a founder member of the Society of Botanical Artists (London), a society limited to members earning their living by their work. Kerry grows hundreds of small bulbs in pots and when they flower she takes them inside to paint. She records them in her garden diary with notes, pencil sketches and delicately observed watercolours, a custom she has kept up for many years. Her enthusiasm for snowdrops, primroses, narcissus, cyclamen species, miniature irises, and auriculas is infinite. From this well of

patient observation, Kerry wrote and illustrated her significant and wide ranging weekly column in *The Listener*, reflecting her grasp of nature and botany and her love of music, cooking, history, philosophy, and the classics. She is prodigious with the pen and considers a 4000-word essay commissioned by the prestigious English garden journal, *Hortus*, a memorable achievement.

Kerry Carman has a strong commitment to horticulture and through her writings, sketches and paintings has shared her love of plants and gardening with the community, and, in so doing has inspired an appreciation and love of plants in others. She is a most worthy Associate of Honour of this Institute.

Kerry Carman's nomination for this award was submitted by Gordon Collier AHRIH. This citation was adapted by Andrew Maloy from an article written by Gordon Collier and published in *NZ Home & Garden*.

Susan Davison

The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture gains from having members who come from different backgrounds and with different experiences. Our membership extends from those who are professional horticulturists depending on horticulture for a living to those who are enthusiastic and very knowledgeable amateurs. Such amateurs may not depend financially on their horticultural skills but horticulture still plays a tremendously important part in their lives. Such people have a real love of plants and by their voluntary services contribute significantly to this institute and to the advancement of horticulture.

Mrs Susan Davison is one such amateur who has given distinguished service to horticulture over many years and she has worked as a volunteer with both enthusiasm and determination to promote and foster horticulture in New Zealand.

Mrs Davison (née Susan McBeth) was raised on farms in the Manawatu and the Bay of Plenty and then attended Auckland University College where she graduated with a BSc in Zoology. After graduation, she then joined Plant Diseases Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research at Mt Albert where she worked as a mycological technician and scientist for ten years with Miss J.M. Dingley AHRIH. Amongst her duties was the culture of pathogenic fungi, particularly the organism that was eventually identified as being the cause of facial eczema. Miss Dingley was a staunch member of the Institute and she encouraged Mrs Davison to join. She has now been a member for more than 40 years and has a long record of contributions to the Institute. She has served on the Auckland Branch

committee almost continuously for more than 30 years and has participated fully in its many activities including the holding of examinations for students. She is still a member of the Auckland Branch Committee and is currently Treasurer. Her involvement in the administration of the Institute was acknowledged by her election as Fellow in 1978.

The Auckland Branch of the Institute has always been an active branch and it was through her association with some of the leading horticulturists of Auckland that Mrs Davison first became associated with the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens. She represented the Institute at the ceremonial "turning of the first sod" that marked the long overdue start to the formation of a botanic garden that Auckland deserved and could be proud of. She soon became the Institute's nominee on the Botanical Gardens Technical Advisory Committee and served from 1978-1981. In 1983 she became a Foundation Member of the Friends, Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens. She was persuaded to join the Management Committee of the Friends in 1989 and since then has retained an active involvement with the Gardens. She assisted with the organisation of the Sales Tables and for the catering of the first perennial walks. She took over responsibility for the Visitor Centre Roster in 1992 and for the Library Roster in 1993, a responsibility she still holds today. Organisation of such rosters requires much work and patience, but the outcome is a very significant contribution to the administration and the effectiveness of the Gardens. Others may help but it is Mrs Davison who has ensured that the Library and the reception desk are always staffed. She has also willingly taken

on many other tasks such as helping in the library on the computer indexing of journals. Mrs Davison is currently a trustee of the Friends, Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens. Her detailed knowledge of the Gardens and of corporate history, and her commonsense all combine to make her contributions as a trustee both relevant and valued. In 1995, Mrs Davison was made an Honorary Life Member of the Friends in recognition of her work for the Gardens.

Mrs Davison is a leader who leads by example, not from in front, and as a leader she also ensures that things are done, often by herself. She works very hard and has done much to promote the Botanic Gardens in Auckland. She is always prepared to assist and to take on new tasks and recently she typically agreed to act as Minutes Secretary, New Zealand Gardens Trust. In addition, she serves as a volunteer at the Eden Garden.

Mrs Davison's husband is the well-known horticultural scientist, Dr R.M. Davison, currently Chairman of the Auckland branch. Together they have done much to ensure that Auckland remains an active branch of the Institute.

Mrs Davison has a strong commitment to horticulture and she has ensured that this commitment is shared by others in the community. She has rendered distinguished service to horticulture, especially by her many contributions to the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens. She is a most worthy Associate of Honour of this Institute.

This nomination was submitted by the late Mrs Jean Veal AHRIH.