

Hi all

How the weeks and months fly! Well Christmas is VERY close.

I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Since the last newsletter we have had a meeting where we sorted out the positions for the new Executive. We also planned what we wanted to achieve during our term. We have a pretty short term as the next AGM is going to be in winter. We agreed there are quite a few procedural tweaks we need to make to the Membership and Complaints systems as these have become more complicated.

We also discussed filling the vacant positions on the committee so I am very pleased to inform you that Lyndell Shannon has been voted onto the Executive. We had a couple of positions to fill after the last AGM so a big thanks to Lyndell for accepting the nomination. I am sure Lyndell will be a great asset to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee has a couple of major programmes on the go –

- *Our display at The Ellerslie International Flower Show 9 – 13 March, Christchurch.*

Nicky will give you more details on this.

I would like to thank the members and sponsors who have already put their hands up to help out. It would be great if more would get involved so that it is not the same people always putting their hands up.

- *The appointment of a paid Executive Officer*

The Executive has spent some time working out what we think this role should entail. The job description and applications will be out in the New Year. This is a very important step forward for the organisation so we want to make sure it is right and the organisation gets what it needs.

- *The Conference*

David Muir and his organising committee are putting together what will be a great conference I am sure. It would be great to see a good turnout! Diary the date now - 22-24 July, Northland.

As for my portfolios (the ones I haven't been able to give away yet!) –

- *Complaints – We have two complaints on the books at the moment. I am glad to say the member is resolving one. The other is more complicated and has taken a lot of time to sort through.*
- *Training – The Horticulture Industry Training Organisation continues to grow with more trainees coming on board all the time. The number of landscape trainees is finally starting to edge up again. We are in the process of a Board restructure, which will move from a representative to a Governance Board structure. We are putting in place an Industry Partnership Group to ensure that the needs of the industry are being met.*

That's all for now, once again have a safe and happy Christmas.

Regards

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