

## **Wadestown-Wilton Horticultural Society**

### **President's Report 2013 – 2014**

Wadestown Wilton Horticultural Society's 95th year was another successful year for the society. The monthly meetings were varied and interesting and were well supported by our members. The annual trip, this time to Waikanae, was also well supported and enjoyed by all. Our thanks go to Mary Stevens and Gwynne Bright for their organisation that made the day run so smoothly.

The three annual shows were, as always, well supported with a very high quality of entries in all categories. Following the recommendation of the 2013 judge for the Children's Art section, this section was split into two sections – Junior Art and Senior Art. The Gordon Dalley Tray, previously awarded for Children's Art, was awarded to the winner of the Senior Children's Art and a new trophy, the "WWHS Trophy for Junior Art" was awarded to the winner of the Junior Art section. This made judging considerably easier and also fairer to the younger children.

A new website has been set up by Peter Milne. This is easy to navigate, attractive and contains a lot of interesting material regarding the WWHS. Many thanks to Peter for the time that he spends on our website.

Now in its 96th year and one of the oldest horticultural societies in New Zealand, we need to continue looking toward the future... Our number of members has remained stable over the last few years, our finances are healthy and our programme is successful, however we need to be aware that as a group we are not getting any younger, in fact we are all becoming a little older each year... We now need to look at how we can attract new and younger members so that our society can move into its second century as a strong group. This will need to be a focus for our committee over the next few years. It was suggested to me that we could develop ties with local schools – this seems to me to be worth pursuing as it would definitely put WWHS into the local public eye and be very likely to get new members... If anybody has any ideas at all of how to attract new members, then please pass them on to me or any of the committee members.

Finally, I would like to thank our members for their support of all our activities and also all of the committee members for their time, efforts and support of the WWHS. Special mentions should go to Gail Andrews, our secretary and Colleen Pilgrim, our treasurer, both of whom spend a huge amount of time in the background, keeping the "wheels" of the WWHS turning.

Graeme Schofield  
President  
4 May 2014