



Vance Hooper (left), from Waitara, and Terry Hatch, from Auckland, get up close and personal with a golden kauri at Hollard Gardens yesterday. Photo: MARK DWYER

## Plant people get together to talk propagation

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TARANAKI'S gardens have been given a big green thumbs up.

The New Zealand chapter of the International Plant Propagators' Society is holding its annual three-day conference in the region.

Local organiser Ken Davey said it had taken 12 months to arrange the conference with 165 people, from Invercargill to Kerikeri, taking part.

Mr Davey said those at the

conference, to conclude tomorrow, were specialists in all aspects of gardening.

"These people are the ones behind the majority of the plants sold in garden centres around New Zealand."

Terry Hatch, of Joy Plants in Auckland, was a founding member of the society.

Mr Hatch says he has loved plants all of his life. "I just can't stop propagating things. I'm always learning and taking on knowledge," he said.

Mr Davey who is originally from

London, England, worked in Pukekura Park's nursery and fernery for 26 years.

"When you come from a concrete and brick jungle you appreciate greenery. So many Kiwis don't realise what a gardeners' paradise New Zealand is," he said.

During the three days those taking part have attended seminars, been on field trips and exchanged information and ideas about growing plants.

"The society's motto is seek and share. It is all in the science of plant

propagation," he said.

It was the first time the conference had been held in Taranaki since the 1970s.

Yesterday the group visited Hollard Gardens.

Anna Johnstone, Auckland, said the gardens were fantastic.

"This is a lovely place. I'm enjoying what I've seen," Mrs Johnstone said.

It was great the group was so willing to share its knowledge, information and mentor the greener ones in the group, she said.

A 28-YEAR-OLD Otorohanga man died when his car collided with a truck in heavy fog near the town yesterday morning.

### Woman faces charges

A FEILDING woman faces charges of assault on a child and impersonating a police officer after allegedly trying to get a young girl into her car on Thursday afternoon. Senior Sergeant Nigel Allen said members of the public intervened when they saw a 42-year-old woman trying to lure the eight-year-old into her car in the town about 3.30pm. Police were called and located the woman a short distance from the scene. She had allegedly told members of the public that she was a police officer.

### Arrest for robbery

ARMED police arrested a man shortly after a Hastings bank was robbed yesterday. Senior Sergeant Greg Brown, of Hastings, said the armed man entered the Stortford Lodge branch of the National Bank about 3.40pm. Police had recovered a handgun, a sawn-off shotgun and the stolen money.

### Former minister dies

FORMER Tourism Minister Harry Lapwood (91) died in Rotorua on Thursday. A World War II veteran, Mr Lapwood was elected MP for Rotorua in 1960 and served for 18 years before retiring. He was Minister of Tourism, and the Minister in charge of publicity and the Government Printing Office in the Muldoon government from 1975 to 1978. He was awarded the New Zealand 1990 Commemoration Medal in recognition of his contribution to New Zealand life.

### Crash pilot unhurt

THE pilot of a microlight aircraft escaped with minor injuries after crash-landing at Tauranga Airport yesterday.

### Internet home survey

TWO-THIRDS of New Zealand homes have access to the Internet, a Statistics New Zealand survey shows. Results from a poll on technology use in households show just over half use broadband, while the rest use the slower dial-up service for the Internet.

### Keno results

DRAW No 4802: 2, 10, 12, 19, 22, 23, 25, 28, 29, 34, 38, 41, 49, 51, 54, 58, 66, 70, 78, 79.

DRAW No 4803: 1, 2, 3, 5, 12, 18, 28, 30, 31, 41, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 55, 59, 66, 72, 80.