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Front Cover: Nelson's Trafalgar Street, a shopping precinct street much admired by locals and visitors alike. Reproduced with thanks, courtesy of the Nelson Mail.

From the Editor

In this issue of the Garden Journal we have a range of articles from the origins of the New Zealand flora, through the challenge of incorporating native biodiversity in city parks and gardens, to creating green precincts in some of the busier parts of our cities.

Biodiversity in cities was the key theme from the highly successful 2003 Annual Conference, for which Murray Dawson provides a retrospective. Our picture on Page 10 reflects the feeling of many, although not of all people, that we should be redressing the balance between native plants and those introduced from overseas in our parks and gardens. Your garden could look like this one in Christchurch. Colin Meurk gives us his views on the subject in the 2003 Banks Memorial Lecture.

Alan Stewart brings us information on how to distinguish one native blue grass from a similar species introduced from Europe, highlighting the way in which our flora is related to those of other countries, yet distinct.

As promised last time, we have the latest perspective of the origins and continuing evolution of the New Zealand flora. Associate Professor Peter Lockhart leads the New Zealand Plant Species Radiation Group, an interdisciplinary team of New Zealand and overseas scientists, working in this dynamic field. It might come as a surprise to learn that, in general, the native flora is not of ancient lineage. It is not a living museum as much as a melting pot of speciation.

Using native or introduced plants and other landscape elements, precincts within our cities are havens for rest, peace and enjoyment. Ron Flook offers us his perspective on these special urban environments seen on our cover.

Thank you to contributors who have devoted their time in order to write their articles. Please remember that I would be happy to read through any written material you think might be appropriate for the New Zealand Garden Journal. A set of instructions for authors has been included (pg 24).

John Clemens

Contents

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|---|
| 2 | RNZIH Conference 2003: a retrospective
Murray Dawson | 17 | Streets as potential precincts: a personal view
Ron Flook |
| 3 | THE 2003 BANKS MEMORIAL LECTURE
Cities are cultural and ecological keys to biodiversity futures
Colin Meurk | 20 | RNZIH 2003 Awards |
| 11 | Identifying <i>Festuca coxii</i>, a native blue-green grass
Alan Stewart | 22 | Obituaries
Geoff Baylis and Donn Estcourt |
| 12 | The Flora of New Zealand: work in progress
Peter Lockhart for the New Zealand Plant Species Radiation Group | | |

ERRATUM

In the article Sister Cities Gardens in Christchurch: a millennium project [New Zealand Garden Journal 6(1), p.6], *Wisteria sinensis* should have read *Wisteria floribunda*.