



Volume 7, Number 1
June 2004

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Typesetting and Production

The Printery, Massey University

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ISSN 1173-7425

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Front Cover: Magnificent anthuriums, which can now be found gracing supermarkets as well as florists' shops. These wonderful plants, in the genus *Anthurium*, have recently been the focus of research on flower colour carried out by Vern Collette. The cultivar names are (top row from the left) 'Lido', 'Acropolis', 'Atlanta', and 'Panther'; (bottom row from the left) 'Altar', 'Montana' (an *A. amnicola* hybrid), 'Butterfly', and 'Meadow'; (centre) *A. amnicola*.

From the Editor

Anthuriums are everywhere at the moment, and it would appear from the article by Dr Vern Collette that New Zealand's obsession for these flowers has also been afflicting other parts of the world where floriculture is also an important business. And rightly so! However, it was to understand the fundamentals of flower colour development that Dr Collette settled on this plant genus. The research he describes in this issue could help breeders to produce new flower colours.

In a way, plant improvement is also the subject of the article on Leyland cypress by Derrick Rooney. Many readers probably thought they knew all about this important plant. However, some might be surprised with the story Derrick now tells, as he brings us up to date with the history of the plant's improvement, its names and recent revisions.

Two articles appear in this issue that relate to the place of design when planting to increase native biodiversity. The first of these appeared in April 2004 in Landscape, the journal of the Landscape Institute (UK), and is reproduced here with thanks. The authors, landscape architects Nigel Dunnnett and James Hitchmough, support the "centre-stage" taken by biodiversity, although they suggest that the benefits of nature to urban dwellers can be overstated. In the second of these articles, New Zealander Philip Smith provides a thoughtful consideration of how national identity can be expressed in our constructed landscapes. These articles extend some of the ideas introduced by Colin Meurk in the 2003 Banks Memorial Lecture, which appeared in the last issue of the NZ Garden Journal.

Thank you once again to contributors to the NZ Garden Journal. Please remember that I would be happy to read through any written material you might like to submit, or to discuss your ideas for articles. A set of instructions for authors has been included.

John Clemens

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