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Front Cover: *Pittosporum kirkii*. Courtesy Philip Smith.

From the Editor

People attending the New Zealand Gardens Trust inaugural seminar at Pukeiti in April would have been stimulated by the many speakers who covered topics from business organisation and management to thinking like a garden visitor. Three of the talks given at this meeting are reproduced in this issue of the NZ Garden Journal, including one by Gordon Collier covering the very important work carried out by Gordon and Beverley McConnell in assessing gardens for the New Zealand Gardens Trust. The other articles, by Jack Hobbs and Jim Monahan, help us to see what the overseas visitor might want to find in our show gardens.

Overseas visitors pay to visit our best gardens, gardens that have benefited from decades of active plant introduction, local breeding and horticulture. It is fitting then that we also have the 2004 Banks Memorial Lecture delivered by Peter Cave at the Hamilton meeting of the Institute held in late October, in which he exhorts us to take action to overcome the difficulties facing the would-be introducer of new plant material.

We also have another stimulating article by Philip Smith, this time on plants of the genus *Pittosporum*, which I promise not to regard as a boring lot in future. David Puflett brings us up to date on the reintroduction of the RNZIH Oral and Practical Examinations. In addition, we have a nomination for a Plant Raiser's Award, and two citations for Awards of Honour.

It has been a busy and successful year for the RNZIH. Well done all the people who have worked behind the scenes, on the stage, and in the field and nursery to maintain the standing of the Institute and the enjoyment of its members.

John Clemens

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