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Front Cover: Azaleas in full flower at Larnach Castle during spring.
Image courtesy Margaret and Sophie Barker.

From the Editors

In this issue, we present a range of articles arising from the New Zealand Gardens Trust Conference "Going for Gold." This was the second conference organised by the New Zealand Gardens Trust, a trust formed by the RNZIH in 2004 to promote the best in New Zealand gardens and horticulture. "Going for Gold" met this aim well, by focussing on promoting and marketing gardens to create a quality visitor experience. A wide range of issues were covered, including how to deal with the media, tourism hints, marketing tips, and insights into creative design and presentation techniques for your garden. This interesting and informative conference was held at the spectacular Larnach Castle, on the Otago Peninsula near Dunedin. The castle owner, Margaret Barker, and the marketing manager, Sophie Barker, presented talks that are included in this issue.

It is with great sadness that we record the passing of John Taylor on 26th July 2005. John was Vice-patron and immediate Past President of the RNZIH, where his first official involvement began in 1951. John served in a variety of roles including Chair of the national executive committee for six years, President for 12 years, and 25 years on the examining board for oral and practical examinations. He will be long remembered for his down-to-earth approach, impeccable manners and sense of humour, and will be sadly missed by his many colleagues, friends and family. In this issue, Neiel Drain provides us with a fitting tribute of his life.

Lastly, we present the second part of the best book reviews of 2004 compliments of the *Weekend Gardener* magazine.

Murray Dawson and Andrew Maloy

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