From the Editors

In our first article, Leslie Haines and Chris Ferkins review ecosourcing practices – using material of local provenance for restoration plantings. This article is based on work completed by Leslie in 2005 for the Auckland Branch of the RNZIH. The Auckland Branch was contracted to undertake an audit of the nurseries participating in ecosourcing Waitakere City Council’s native plants.

Sue Scheele presents an article on ethnobotany – the study of plants used by traditional cultures. This article is based on her Banks Memorial Lecture at the New Zealand Gardens Trust conference “Maintaining the Magic” in Auckland on 5 May 2006.

In the next two articles, Derrick Rooney, one of our long-standing contributors, describes his new discoveries amongst the foxgloves and hebes.

As gardeners and horticulturists, we all need to identify plants at some time. Help is at hand with new computer-based identification keys. These are explained by Murray Dawson and Kerry Ford who unveil two projects to produce interactive keys in New Zealand that will be freely available on the Internet.

We record the passing of Sydney “Charlie” Challenger, a pioneer in landscape architecture and Graham Harris, an eminent ethnobotanist. They will be missed by many, and both have over the years provided interesting articles for the RNZIH journal.

A new book on ethnobotany, advertised in our last issue, is reviewed here by Sue Scheele. This is followed by the memoirs of our Vice Patron, Ralph Ballinger, in a book review by Judith Gillies, and then our regular book reviews courtesy of Weekend Gardener magazine.

In this editorial, we must also congratulate Audrey Eagle for winning the non-fiction category of the 2007 Montana NZ Book Awards for her outstanding Eagle’s Complete Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand. Audrey is an associate member of the RNZIH and we published the book launch speech in a previous issue (Dec 2006, Vol. 9, No. 2, p. 32).

Murray Dawson and Andrew Maloy

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Addendum and errata

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Front Cover
Kōwhai (Sophora tetrapetra). Image courtesy Jack Hobbs.