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**Front Cover**

*Gladiolus × brenchleyensis*.  
Photo: Colin Jamieson.

## From the Editors

Correct identification and recording of cultivated plants is essential for their long-term preservation at world-wide and local scales. A perfect example of this is the recognition by Colin Jamieson of a *Gladiolus* hybrid in New Zealand that is virtually extinct in Great Britain. Colin records his discovery and has supplied propagation material back to England for conserving this rarity.

The 'Up the Garden Path Conference', a combined conference of the RNZIH, New Zealand Gardens Trust, New Zealand Recreation Association (NZRA), and Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ), was a great success. At this conference (held 2–4 March 2015) our Patron, Bev McConnell, launched the New Zealand Plant Collections Register Project, and Murray Dawson described its development. This project aims to document the diversity of cultivated plants in New Zealand. Nurseryman Malcolm Woolmore followed with a related talk, on the declining diversity of plants within the nursery trade. Both talks are published here as articles.

Also at the conference we were honoured to have Sir Alan Mark deliver the 2015 Banks Memorial Lecture. Sir Alan spoke of his remarkable lifetime as an advocate for nature conservation. His lecture is published here as a comprehensive article.

Congratulations to our RNZIH awardees for 2015. Kate Telford of Clifton Homestead Nursery, south of Balclutha, received the Plant Raisers' Award for her breeding work in *Helleborus*. Elenka Nikoloff received the award of Fellow of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (FRIH) for her outstanding work with the RNZIH Education Trust and for organising the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition – which has now been held for more than 10 years. Their citations, read at the RNZIH AGM (held in Auckland, 18 July 2015) are published here.

Sadly, Ralph Ballinger OBE, AHRIH, and Vice Patron of the RNZIH, passed away on 21 February 2015, in his 100th year. Here we present an obituary of his remarkable life in horticulture.

**Murray Dawson and Andrew Maloy**

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