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**Front Cover**

*Hemerocallis* 'Little Grapette'.  
Photo: Jack Hobbs.

## From the Editors

The Auckland Botanic Gardens plant trials provide a valuable service to gardeners, by growing a wide range of species and cultivars within a genus, and assessing them to find the hardiest and most disease resistant selections best suited for local growing conditions. Among other plant groups, they have trialled camellias, hydrangeas, roses, *Deutzia* and *Penstemon*. In this issue, Emma Bodley and her colleagues report on their recent *Hemerocallis* rust trials.

Contributor Dr Rod Bielecki makes a return in this issue by providing a fascinating account of the red water fern, *Azolla*.

Next, Murray Dawson and his collaborators cover their leading work on the development of a smartphone and tablet app for identifying New Zealand native orchids. Portable devices are powerful tools and the use of productivity and identification apps such as this are likely to increase in the future.

On 1st October 2015, the prestigious Tāne Mahuta Public Lecture was delivered by well-known author Philip Simpson, as part of the NZARB Annual Conference in Nelson. His lecture, on the native treelands of New Zealand, is published here as a comprehensive article.

We congratulate the 2015 Young Horticulturist of the Year winners, including overall winner Caleb Dennis from Hawke's Bay. Wellington based third place winner Karl Noldan, representing the New Zealand Recreation Association sector, received several prizes, including the Countdown Best Speech Award. Karl's winning speech is reproduced here, followed by his travel report to Melbourne in Sept–Oct 2015.

**Murray Dawson and Andrew Maloy**

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