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Principal Editor
Murray Dawson

Associate Editor
Andrew Maloy

Contributors

Emma Bodley
Jack Hobbs
Terry Hatch
Hayden Foulds
Ruth Henderson
Ross Ferguson

Jeffery Jones
Alan Jolliffe
Keith Hammett
David Moyle
David Tauranga
Murray Dawson

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Editorial Address

Murray Dawson
c/o Landcare Research
PO Box 69040, Lincoln 7640, New Zealand
Ph: (03) 321 9645 Fax: (03) 325 2418
Email: dawsonm@rnzih.org.nz

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For Membership information please write to:
Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture,
PO Box 85012, Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand
Email: office@rnzih.org.nz Website: www.rnzih.org.nz

Front Cover

Pleurophyllum criniferum, a member of the daisy family endemic to the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand.
Photo: Terry Hatch.

From the Editors

This issue begins with a new garden trial from Emma Bodley and her team at the Auckland Botanic Gardens, to determine the best cultivars to grow of the native rengarenga or New Zealand rock lily (*Arthropodium*).

Emma then reports on her travels visiting five major botanic gardens in the USA, to investigate how they undertake cultivar plant trials and their systems for recording and managing plant collections.

Recording our notable and heritage trees is invaluable for their conservation. Alan Jolliffe documents what is likely to be the oldest fruit tree in New Zealand – a pear tree (*Pyrus communis*) said to have been planted nearly 200 years ago in the Bay of Islands.

Over recent years, the RNZIH have partnered with our trusts and other organisations for annual conferences. This allows different organisations with common interests to come together, and helps assure a well-attended AGM. This year, the RNZIH joined the International Plant Propagators' Society New Zealand Region (IPPS-NZ) in their 'Need for Speed' conference, held 18–21st May 2017 in Pukekohe.

After the RNZIH AGM and awards ceremony (on 18 May 2017), Terry Hatch launched the conference by delivering the 2017 Banks Memorial Lecture. Terry recounted his adventures to the Subantarctic Islands, which is published here as a fully illustrated article. It is worth noting that in the 2017 New Year Honours, Terry Hatch received an ONZM for services to horticulture.

Congratulations to our worthy RNZIH awardees for 2017. Rob Somerfield of Glenavon Roses, Te Puna, received the Plant Raisers' Award for his outstanding breeding work in roses to improve their health, perfume and novelty.

Alan Trott of Trotts Garden near Ashburton, Canterbury, received the award of Fellow of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (FRIH), for designing and creating his garden of international significance, and for his outstanding knowledge respected by the horticultural community. Two of his books on Trotts Garden were reviewed in a previous issue (2016, Vol. 19, No. 1). Congratulations also to Alan for receiving the Queen's Service Medal for services to horticulture in the 2017 New Year Honours list.

John Paynter of Hastings received our highest award, the Award of Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (AHRH), for his major contributions to the New Zealand pipfruit, kiwifruit and stonefruit industries.

Their citations, read at the RNZIH AGM, are published here.

At our AGM, we remembered those who had passed away over the last year. Here we record the lives of three of these respected horticulturists. Ellaby Martin was a Hamilton plantsman, first President of the IPPS-NZ region, an RNZIH member since 1957 and a Fellow (FRIH) since 1998. Roly Earp was a pioneering kiwifruit grower from Te Puna, a previous Chairman of the New Zealand Kiwifruit Authority, a member of the RNZIH and an Associate (AHRH) since 1992. Ron Davison was a retired horticultural scientist at the DSIR, Mt Albert, in Auckland. Ron was a Foundation Member of the Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens, an RNZIH member since 1961, a Fellow (FRIH) since 1986, and the editor of our journal for 10 years.

We conclude this issue with two books reviewed by Murray Dawson. The first is by Sir Miles Warren, who co-created the outstanding garden of Ohinetahi in Governors Bay – like Trott's Garden, another outstanding Canterbury garden.

The second book reviewed is by the outstanding author and botanist Philip Simpson of Nelson. His current book comprehensively studies tōtara. Philip Simpson has written previous accounts on *Metrosideros* and *Cordyline* and all are excellent.

Murray Dawson and Andrew Maloy

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