

1999 AHRIH Awards

Reproduced below are citations first printed in the Institute Newsletter in 1999 (Issue 4) in support of the award of the Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (AHRIH).

Patricia Stewart

Mrs. Pat Stuart began her horticultural career at the Christchurch City Council Reserves Department nursery in 1944. Her first work was in the propagating section. Her natural interest in plants was intense. She enrolled for the Institute's six-year diploma course and gained the National Diploma in Horticulture with Honours. Having passed her matriculation exam, she also took Botany Stage 1 at the University of Canterbury.

To gain commercial experience for one year, she transferred to Harrison's Nursery in Palmerston North, and returned to the Botanic Gardens in 1947. Besides gaining a sound overall training in general horticulture, especially mastering the skills of propagation, she became an

accomplished floral artist and undertook the floral work for the Christchurch City Council. This involved much of the floral decorations required for the Royal visit in 1954, and subsequent vice-regal visits to the city. She became a member of the Floral Art Society of New Zealand and gained a Teacher's Certificate and a Judging Certificate. Mrs. Stuart is a past president of the Southern Area of the Floral Art Society and a past president of the Eastern-Southland Floral Art Club.

Pat met her husband, Keith, who was an apprentice at the time at the Botanic Gardens. Keith returned to South Otago to manage the family farm at Waipahi. It was at Waipahi that they raised their family of three and



Figure 1 *Helleborus* 'Moonshine'.

together they built up a substantial nursery business.

The nursery business flourished. Rare and noteworthy trees, shrubs, alpines and herbaceous plants, including natives, were collected and propagated. Research became imperative and Mrs. Stuart began to specialise in hellebores. One of the first interesting seedlings to be isolated and to be named by her was *Helleborus niger* 'White Magic'. This clear white cultivar has been sold throughout New Zealand, and substantial export orders have been sent to Europe, the United States and Japan. A multi-sepalled form of 'White Magic' is now being stabilised prior to being introduced onto the market. Her breeding of hybrid hellebores has been carried out over many years. More recently a new outstanding cultivar, 'Moonshine', which is popular



Figure 2. A beautiful streamside planting in Pat and Keith Stuart's Wanaka garden, featuring the bold foliage of *Darmera peltata* (formerly *Peltiphyllum peltatum*). Pat says this plant is extremely cold hardy. Several of the dramatic *Rodgersia* species are also successfully grown.

among florists, has been released to the trade.

With retirement looming early in the 1980s, their son took over the farm and Pat and Keith moved to Wanaka to build their new home and garden. A floral studio evolved and between them they established another production nursery.

Pat and Keith Stuart's love of plants and the desire for a beautiful garden where perfection would be a priority, has seen the Wanaka garden, on an uneven, rough, swampy piece of land become a show place for visitors from throughout the world.

The garden has been featured on National Television, in *New Zealand House and Garden*, *The New Zealand Gardener* and *Commercial Horticulture*, as well as periodically in newspapers.

Over the years Mrs. Stuart has been a guest speaker throughout Southland at all sorts of organisations where gardening is appreciated. She was a guest speaker at the Institute's conference in Dunedin in 1992.

By her complete dedication to horticulture, her willingness to assist and guide others and by the outstanding example she has set with

her leadership in so many aspects of horticulture, the Institute is proud to award her the Associate of Honour.

Pat Stuart reports (in 2003) that the Helleborus 'Moonshine' referred to in the citation recently made an appearance at a German trade show, and that 100,000 plants are being produced for the European market following protection of the Plant Variety Rights in Europe.

John A. Anderson

John Anderson has been farming in South Canterbury since the late 1940s. In his younger days he was a keen deerstalker and he observed the destruction to native bush brought about by this introduced animal. Thus his interest in native plants and conservation began. He has had a largely unheralded influence in New Zealand botany. Together with other botanists he undertook many visits to some of the botanically unexplored regions of Fiordland, which led to the discovery of several new species, including *Celmisia inaccessa* and *Celmisia vespertina*, and in collections of numerous poorly known plants. John's generosity and interest contributed substantially to research papers, and to both herbarium and living collections.

He has accompanied many of New Zealand's notable taxonomists and ecologists into the mountains of the southern South Island. One notable trip was to the Eyre Mountains, which resulted in the collections of several scarcely know alpine species and the rediscovery, after a 50 year gap, of the exceedingly localised species, *Celmisia thompsonii*. He grew in cultivation many of these plants for a number of years.

He also established a large alpine garden at his farm near Albury, trialing many rarely grown alpine species. His ability to grow plants is outstanding. Mr. Anderson's skill in bringing newly discovered species into cultivation has been important to their further study and recognition. He has always been generous with his time and over the years has freely given plants to interested persons to

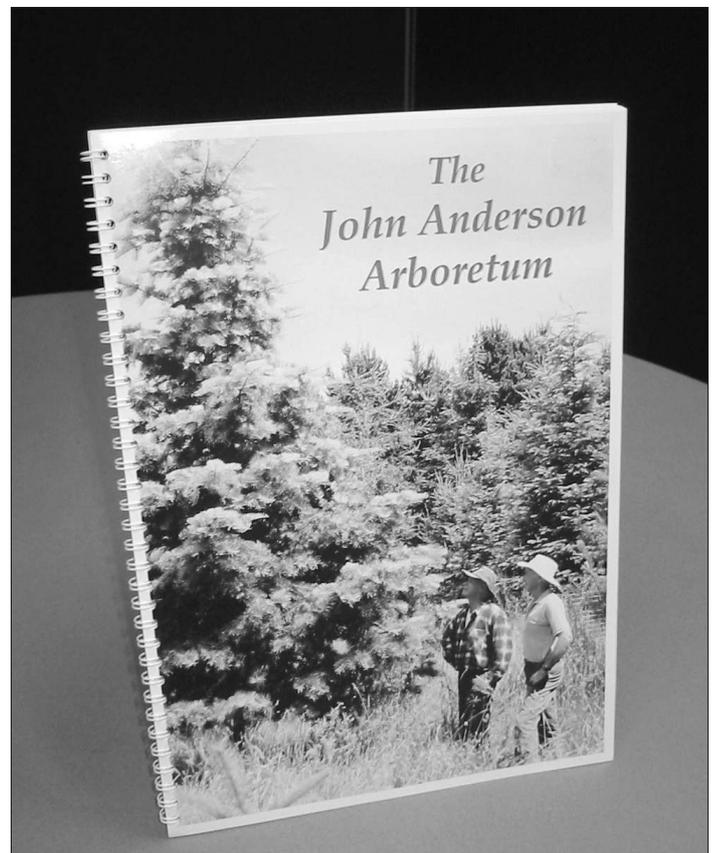


Figure 1. The cover to the *Description and Management Plan of John Anderson Arboretum*, which was kindly provided by Di and Bill Anderson, and which offers a "welcome to a whole new world of conifers". John, in the check shirt, inspects a tree in the collection with a colleague.

promote the distribution of the plants and extend the knowledge of the species.

In relatively recent times his farming activities have led him to the study of shelter trees, and trees for timber

production as well as for conservation purposes. The collecting of seed from throughout the world, particularly of conifers, has been his absorbing interest for more than 20 years. He began his first research plantings on 5 hectares of his land at Deepdale, in 1978. Some four years later, on a 1.2 hectare block at Glendonald, he further extended his research plantings. These two arboreta are close to Albury in South Canterbury.

In September 1998, under the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust Act, the John Anderson Arboretum Trust was set up. The management of the arboreta is now the responsibility of a Board of Trustees. The following is a quote from the management statement of the Trust:

“The John Anderson Arboretum in South Canterbury contains a collection of conifers, some of which are not found elsewhere in the Southern Hemisphere, and includes

a significant number from China. As well as general botanical interest, it should have a significant impact on future species selection for general use. The arboretum is protected in perpetuity by a National Trust open space covenant.”

The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, in acknowledging the great contribution that Mr. John Anderson has made to horticulture in this country, hereby awards him its highest accolade, that is of being made an Associate of Honour of the Institute.

John died in April 2000. The John Anderson Arboretum is at Deepdale and Glendonald, near Albury, South Canterbury, and visitors are welcome.

News

RNZIH Conference 2003

Greening the City: Bringing biodiversity back into the urban environment

This year's conference will be held Wednesday 22nd to Friday 24th October 2003, with an optional workshop (Tuesday 21st) and a field trip (Saturday 25th) planned. The venue is the Chateau on the Park, Christchurch. The Canterbury Branch of the RNZIH will also host the 2003 Banks Memorial Lecture (a free evening lecture open to the public) on a related topic.

The important role of cities as a repository for biodiversity is increasingly recognised within New Zealand and overseas, along with the need to focus on sustainable development, triple bottom-line

accounting, and the function of green environments in maintaining community health and cohesion. In New Zealand, recent reports by the Parliamentary Commission for the Environment and the Ministry of the Environment have drawn attention to these issues. The conference will be based on these and other themes, with an emphasis on practical outcomes. These topics are very timely as the Christchurch City Council puts into place its Biodiversity Strategies.

The conference will be held in the Garden City of Christchurch, where there is much collective expertise on urban biodiversity. Complementing

our local experts will be several world authorities on the greening of cities, landscape architecture, and town planning to act as keynote speakers. These will include Dr Morgan Williams, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Wellington; Professor Chris Bains, one of the UK's leading environmental campaigners, and an award-winning author and broadcaster; and Mason Tan, Landscape Architect and Director of Mace Studio, Singapore.

Final programme and registration costs will be announced in due course on the website {www.rnzih.org.nz}, where registrations can also be made.