



Volume 6, Number 1
June 2003

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Typesetting and Production

The Printery, Massey University

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ISSN 1173-7425

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Front Cover: A happy arrangement of variously shaped *Lagenaria siceraria* gourds grown by Jenny Quilliam at Otaki courtesy of a photograph supplied by Mike Burtenshaw.

From the Editor

In this issue of the NZ Garden Journal we have a comprehensive article on the bottle gourd from Mike Burtenshaw, who brings us botanical, research and cultivation details of this important crop plant. This issue contains a wide variety of other contributions selected from the material supplied by our members and the wider readership.

When articles are forthcoming (and I already have a small bank of pieces for the next issue), it is a lot of fun discovering what horticulturists are busy doing. I am also learning about what members have done in the past, such as the tremendous contributions of the late George Rainey and Dame Ella Campbell celebrated in this issue.

I really appreciate the time and effort that contributors devote to making their expertise and insights available to readers. As you read this, you might be thinking that you would like to write for the NZ Garden Journal. If this is the case, please let me know by using the contact details on this page. I can help assemble material, but I need you to extract the notes from your desk drawer or other archive, or to record fresh thoughts on a topic you think the readers should know about.

I will hold the latest perspective of the origins and continuing evolution of the New Zealand flora for the next issue of the NZ Garden Journal. Its content should go well with other articles I am preparing for you for next time.

John Clemens

Contents

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|-----------|--|
| 2 | Dame Ella Campbell and George Rainey | 17 | The RNZIH Plant Raiser's Award
Sue Davison |
| 4 | The Sister Cities Gardens in Christchurch, a Millenium project
John O. Taylor | 20 | News
Veitch Memorial Medal awarded to Alan Jellyman
RNZIH establishes the New Zealand Gardens Trust
Dr David Given Curator of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens |
| 8 | Precincts: Churches and historic buildings
Ron Flook | 23 | Last Word
Derrick Rooney |
| 10 | The first horticultural plant propagated from seed in New Zealand: <i>Lagenaria siceraria</i>
Mike Burtenshaw | | |