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Front Cover: Indian Char Bagh Garden, Hamilton Gardens.

From the Editors

This issue begins with a research summary by Paul Pope of Dunedin on comparing the seed ecology of exotic marram grass with native pingao.

Next is the published version of the Banks Memorial Lecture, presented in Tauranga on the 1st October 2005 by Peter Sergel. As Peter explains, public gardens provide places of quiet leisure and recreation and also offer a challenge to the interest and imagination of visitors. He discusses how to meet these needs in the context of the successful development of Hamilton Gardens.

A series of articles on the Dunedin Botanic Garden continues here with an item on the Camellia Collection by Marianne Groothuis.

It is a testament to the late David Given's dedication and commitment that he was able to prepare a draft article on the importance of nationally networked plant collections shortly before his passing. Two of David's colleagues, Eckehard Brockerhoff and Jonathan Palmer went on to complete the article as it appears here.

Among many roles, David Given was a botanist, ecologist, and an internationally renowned conservationist, and his obituary is presented in this issue. David was very prolific, publishing some 10 books and 250 papers on a wide variety of botanical and scientific subjects.

It is also with sadness that we record three other losses. Ron Flook was a landscape architect by profession and up to the time of his death was actively involved in the RNZIH. He was member and past chair of the RNZIH executive committee, and established and managed our Notable Trees New Zealand scheme from Nelson. John Goodwin was Superintendent of Pukekura Park, New Plymouth for 28 years, and had wide ranging interests in horticulture. Noel Lothian was Director of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide for nearly 33 years and a long-term member of the RNZIH. All four were RNZIH Associates of Honour (AHRH).

This issue concludes with a selection of book reviews, compliments of the *Weekend Gardener* magazine.

Murray Dawson and Andrew Maloy

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