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#### Front Cover

Pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) flowers, Orokawa Bay,  
New Zealand. Image: Neil Fitzgerald ([www.neilfitzgeraldphoto.co.nz](http://www.neilfitzgeraldphoto.co.nz)).

## From the Editors

This issue presents a selection of papers based on the 2006 "Plants as Infrastructure" conference – more to come in our next issue. The conference was held in Auckland at Unitec, Mt Albert. Unitec, Auckland local government, the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects and the RNZIH came together to showcase several green infrastructure projects, and focus on matching theory with innovative best practice. Topics included water, weeds, trees, planning, design and management.

The RNZIH have awarded Neville Haydon an Associate of Honour, and his citation is reproduced here. Neville is a most worthy recipient for his camellia breeding work amongst many other achievements. He has also served as the Honorary Treasurer of both the RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust and the RNZIH Education Trust.

We record the passing of Peter Skellerup in May 2006, who was one of the vice-patrons of the RNZIH, and also a respected businessman, long serving Councillor and former Deputy Mayor of Christchurch. The RNZIH administer a Plant Conservation Scholarship named after him, and in this way he will continue to be remembered by the Institute in promoting and assisting the conservation of New Zealand's indigenous and exotic plant resources.

Melanie Kinsey visits Lawrie Metcalf of Nelson who has recently published a new book on hebes. His book and another on hebes, authored by Michael Bayly and Alison Kellow, are reviewed for us by Tony Hayter of the Hebe Society (UK).

We also present the second part of the best book reviews of 2005 courtesy of *Weekend Gardener* magazine.

Concluding this issue is the book launch for Audrey Eagle's new collection of her magnificent paintings of New Zealand's trees and shrubs.

Murray Dawson and Andrew Maloy

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