



Volume 15, Number 2
December 2012

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The Printery, Massey University <http://printonline.massey.ac.nz>.
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ISSN 1173-7425 (Print)
ISSN 1179-9153 (Online)

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Front Cover

Lathyrus 'Blue Shift', a sweet pea hybrid raised and photographed by Keith Hammett.

From the Editors

The boab or bottle tree (*Adansonia*) must surely be one of the world's most unusual trees. Pamela McGeorge takes a look at this oddity in Australia.

Carnivorous plants are also botanical curiosities and Rod Bielecki revisits sundews, pitcher plants and other insectivorous plants that he encountered in Borneo.

Next, Linda Sallabanks and Murray Dawson profile renowned private ornamental plant breeder and Associate of Honour Dr Keith Hammett. This profile is based on transcribing Kathryn Ryan's fascinating interview with Keith on Radio New Zealand in April 2012.

Plantsman Derrick Rooney is a long-time contributor to our journal and here he writes about his interests in Michaelmas daisies.

In previous issues (Vol. 12, No. 2, December 2009; Vol. 13, No. 1, June 2010), Murray presented in-depth articles on the New Zealand tea-tree, *Leptospermum scoparium*. This issue, he investigates Australian species and cultivars of the genus.

The following articles focus on the activities of the RNZIH Education Trust who promote horticultural training and education at the regional and national levels. They organise the Young Horticulturist of the Year (YHOTY) competition and the winners for 2012 are announced here. We congratulate all the participants, including overall winner Braden Crosby, and Daniel Chong for delivering the winning speech. Two previous YHOTY place-getters, Rangi Green (2011) and Dave Harris (2010), report on their overseas travel experiences made possible through their awards.

We record the sudden passing of David Pufflett, one of the founding members of the RNZIH Education Trust, an active participant in the YHOTY competition, and in horticultural training from the mid-1970s. David was for many years head of the School of Horticulture at Manukau Institute of Technology.

We finish this issue with a bumper collection of book reviews.

As we have mentioned in the past, our journal is expensive to produce, especially the full colour editions of recent years. We again thank the TFBIS (Terrestrial and Freshwater Biodiversity Information System) programme for assistance towards the printing of the *Agapanthus* article in last issue (Vol. 15, No. 1, June 2012) and the Australian *Leptospermum* article in this issue. For both issues, the Canterbury Branch of the RNZIH made a generous donation towards costs. We also thank Craig Potton Publishing for their contribution.

Murray Dawson and Andrew Maloy

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