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Front Cover

Kniphofia 'Percy's Pride' (red-hot poker), a top performer in garden trials held at Auckland Botanic Gardens. Photo: Jack Hobbs.

From the Editors

Garden trials, to determine the best and most disease resistant cultivars, provide a valuable service to gardeners and horticulturists. In a previous issue of this journal (2015, Vol. 18, No. 2), Emma Bodley and her colleagues reported on their daylily (*Hemerocallis*) trials at the Auckland Botanic Gardens. Here they report on their recent red-hot poker (*Kniphofia*) trials.

The following three articles have a weeds theme. The definition of a weed – as a plant growing where it's not wanted – alludes to there being different perceptions and values. Derrick Rooney suggests that we should change the way we think about those weeds that provide havens for beneficial insects.

New Zealand is a multicultural society with people living here from around the globe. As a result of these diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds, many species, especially native flora and fauna, may be unfamiliar but can be found not only in their natural environments, but in suburban areas and recreational places, such as parks, reserves and playgrounds.

With increased urbanisation and disconnection from the natural world, children should be encouraged to gain an understanding of our native and naturalised flora, to foster environmental awareness for their futures. Murray Dawson and Hugh Gourlay outline a 'Citizen Science' outreach project they led at Landcare Research in 2016, teaching students how to identify, collect and record weeds in three areas of New Zealand.

Chilean mayten (*Maytenus boaria*) is an attractive tree that has been cultivated in New Zealand for more than 130 years. Murray explains why this tree has gone rogue to become a major environmental threat.

Congratulations to Andrew Hutchinson who is New Zealand's overall 'Young Horticulturist of the Year' for 2016. Andrew also delivered the winning speech which is published here.

It is with sadness that we record the passing of two horticulturists. Diane Arthur was part of the husband and wife team who created Touchwood Books, and Peter Arthur provides a fitting tribute to his wife. Dr Rod Bieleski had a distinguished research career and among many contributions was a long-standing member of the RNZIH and an Associate of Honour (AHRH). Keith Hammett presents an obituary for Rod.

Murray Dawson and Andrew Maloy

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