



Volume 24, Number 1
June 2021

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<http://printonline.massey.ac.nz>

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ISSN 1173-7425 (Print)
ISSN 1179-9153 (Online)

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Front Cover

Tagetes patula 'Durango Flame', a French marigold cultivar grown at Wellington Botanic Garden. Photo: Clare Shearman.

From the Editors

We must begin by apologising for mislabelling our December 2020 issue as Volume 24 when in fact it was Volume 23. Our PDFs for that issue will be corrected when they are uploaded to our website.

Since 2015 we have included informative trials of various plant groups conducted by Auckland Botanic Gardens. In this issue we welcome a new contribution – from Wellington Botanic Garden which has trialled a range of diverse bedding plants.

Next is a well-researched article from Dr Ross Ferguson, who uncovers the earliest illustrations published of New Zealand plants. Dr Ferguson has a long and distinguished association with the RNZIH, and later in this issue we highlight his 2021 Garden History Award.

The RNZIH 2021 Banks Memorial Lecture, award presentations, and AGM were held alongside the New Zealand Gardens Trust (NZGT) conference in Christchurch, April 16–18th.

Re-joining the NZGT for a conference was overdue as it had been five years since the wider RNZIH had partnered with them. On the first evening, Prof Emerita Paula Jameson delivered the Banks Memorial Lecture, providing interesting insights on the controversial topic of genetic engineering. Her lecture is published here as an article. Since presenting this prestigious lecture, Prof Jameson became an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday honours for 2021.

The Banks Lecture was followed by the 2020–21 RNZIH award presentations, and full-length citations for our 2021 recipients are published here. Those who could not make it to the Christchurch ceremony in April were presented their awards at an Auckland branch meeting held on June 23rd. Congratulations to all for having their achievements acknowledged.

Murray Dawson and Andrew Maloy

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