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Front Cover
Plate of four early New Zealand nursery catalogues (Matthews, Nairn & Sons, Nimmo & Blair), from the 1800s up to 1907.

From the Editors

The “New Zealand Institute of Horticulture” was established 100 years ago, when it became incorporated on 18th July 1923. The Institute was then granted a Royal Charter in 1939, at which time we gained our current name.

To celebrate our centenary, this special issue focusses on horticultural history in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Kate Jordan starts us off with an article exploring the use of plant containers, and the transition to plastic by the nursery trade beginning in the 1950s. Nowadays, we take for granted the universal adoption of plastic containers by the industry.

In association with the NZ Gardens Trust conference in Wellington, garden historian and researcher Dr James Beattie presented the RNZIH Banks Memorial Lecture on 30th March 2023. His lecture is presented here as an article. Following his lecture, James was presented with the RNZIH Garden History medal for the award he received in 2022.

Curatorial and collections researcher Isabella Kerby is using the comprehensive nursery catalogue collection held at the Lincoln University library as the basis of producing a series of profiles on early New Zealand nurserymen and seedsmen. Here, she provides an interesting and informative sample of her profiles, covering early Canterbury nurseries and their founders.

Our December issue of this journal will continue the theme of horticultural history.

This issue concludes with remembrances of Dr Brian Molloy, an Associate of Honour and highly respected conservationist based in Christchurch.

Murray Dawson and Andrew Maloy

Contents

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>2 Plant containers in the 1950s and 1960s in New Zealand
Kate Jordan investigates the use of plant containers in nurseries and garden centres of New Zealand, including the transition from clay pots to plastic containers.</p> <p>5 The 2023 Banks Memorial Lecture: An Empire of Plants?
Chinese plants, Asian/European trade, and Aotearoa New Zealand, 1790s–1880s
Associate Professor James Beattie examines some of the manner in which imperial connections between China, India, Britain, Australia and New Zealand reveal lesser-known histories of plant introductions from Asia – and particularly China – into New Zealand.</p> | <p>15 The ‘Seeds of Industry’, Part One: Prospering the nursery and seed trade in early Canterbury
Isabella Kerby presents four informative profiles on early Canterbury nurserymen and seedsmen.</p> <p>16 William Wilson (1819–1897), pioneer nurseryman of Christchurch</p> <p>19 C. E. Gibbons (1855–1931), seedsman and nurseryman of Napier and Christchurch</p> <p>22 Nairn and Sons, seedsmen and florists of Christchurch</p> <p>27 Charles H. Moir (1871–1944): the “Godfather of Glad-dom”, gladioli specialist of Christchurch</p> <p>30 Obituary
Brian Molloy ONZM, CRSNZ, AHRIH</p> |
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