

# News

## Veitch Memorial Medal awarded to Alan Jellyman, AHRIH

Alan Jellyman has been awarded the [Royal Horticultural Society] Veitch Memorial Medal for his services to horticulture, in particular for his contribution to public parks in New Zealand. Alan has always been driven by a fascination for plants and nature and is associated with Pukekura Park in New Plymouth, New Zealand. He has devoted his 38-year career in public parks to building quality plant collections as the foundation of amenity horticulture requirements of his community. These actions have enabled him to enhance Pukekura and other city parks with plantings for their continued development.

Alan Jellyman began an apprenticeship in 1957 at the world-renowned Duncan and Davies Nursery following a fortuitous meeting with Sir Victor Davies while he was working in a plant shop. In 1962 he gained his National Diploma in Horticulture, winning the Cockayne Memorial Gold Medal for top graduating student. In that same year he joined the staff of New Plymouth City Council in New Zealand as Assistant Curator at Pukekura Park, but he then moved through the ranks to become Deputy Director of Parks in 1966, having completed a study visit of British Parks funded by a British Council bursary. In 1977 he became Director of Parks and Recreation for New Plymouth. In this role his remit expanded to encompass many leisure facilities, and he went on to become the Community Services Manager in 1989. His abilities led to the improvement of many public facilities: the parks estate, urban landscapes, cemetery beautification, swimming pools and public libraries, art gallery and museum. He served on the National Executive of the New Zealand Institute of Parks for 17 years and was Chairman from 1987 until

1992. He is an Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture and has served as a horticultural and technical advisor to the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust, Eastwoodhill Arboretum and Hackfalls Arboretum. Alan has served the Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust since 1962 in a number of governance roles and is currently Board Chairman. He is a Life Member of the Trust. He is also an active member of the New Zealand chapter of the International Dendrology Society.

He recently retired after an outstanding career in public parks, but continues to be a strong advocate for ongoing development and training of staff and managers of gardens open to the public. He is currently assisting with the development of a national gardens database for New Zealand to build the profile of public and private gardens as visitor destinations. He is also working on a project to build a strong management platform for the future development of three nationally important regional gardens: Pukeiti, Tupare and Hollard Gardens. He plans to revisit Nepal, which he toured with the International Dendrology Society in 1984. This experience greatly stimulated his continuing passion to observe and collect plant material from natural habitats.

Reproduced from the RHS Awards to Distinguished Horticulturists 2002 to be presented at the Annual General Meeting on 25 June 2003.



Alan Jellyman