

FIRST JOINT NEW ZEALAND-GERMAN SYMPOSIUM ON PLANT CELL WALLS

It has been our pleasure to organise and host the First Joint New Zealand-German Symposium on Plant Cell Walls, which was held at Scion in Rotorua during 22–24 June 2005. Although considerable advances have been made on the structure, formation, and function of both primary and secondary cell walls, we still do not understand the nature of the relationships between these cell walls, primarily because of a lack of communication between researchers working on the cell wall types. Through this symposium our intention has been to promote an exchange of information, and possible research collaboration between groups of researchers.

The primary funding for this symposium came from New Zealand's International Science and Technology Linkages Funds, administered by the Royal Society of New Zealand. Scion and HortResearch made valuable supplementary contributions. Our sincere appreciation and grateful thanks go to these organisations, as well as to those individuals who assisted us in various organisational matters.

The proceedings, published in this issue of the New Zealand Journal of Forestry Science, contain papers presented by invited scientists on various aspects of primary and secondary cell walls of vascular plants. We thank these participants for their outstanding contributions, which were submitted to the Journal to go through a rigorous peer review. We express our sincere appreciation to the reviewers for their time and valued input. The symposium was open also for non-delegates to attend; we thank them for their active participation in discussions during presentations and in the special discussion session held at the end of all presentations, and hope that they benefited as much as the delegates.

The Second German-New Zealand Cell Wall Symposium will be held in Hamburg, Germany, during October 2006 under the able leadership of Dr Uwe Schmitt, and we look forward to the opportunity of engaging in another round of exciting presentations and stimulating discussions.

Ralf Möller and Adya Singh