

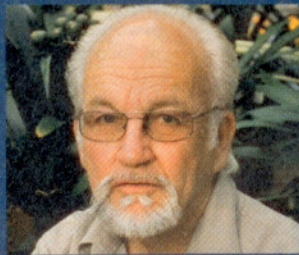
# THE NEW ZEALAND Farmers Weekly

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## INSIDE



## GROWING PROBLEM

There are things in our gardens that shouldn't be there, says plant man Dr Keith Hammett.

• Find out more, page 4.



## MEETINGS



## Zespri takeover among grenades thrown at BOP kiwifruit meeting

Satara kiwifruit co-operative chairman Andrew Fenton stirred up an already feisty company meeting in Tauranga last week by suggesting post harvest operators put aside their interests, merge as one large grower entity and take over Zespri.

The only response to the idea was a lone curse.

Fenton, who had come under fire at the meeting from a city-based investment group calling for his dismissal, said the Zespri idea was purely his own opinion, but could come to fruition "when the time is right."

Zespri's orchard gate return (OGR) per tray was down to \$3.13 for 2007. Fenton said he always expected

that company's annual meeting to be "a very interesting affair" this year.

"We have all this sacred ground in this industry that is never challenged, I want to see if we get any interest from anyone else on this."

Taupo kiwifruit orchardist and former Olympic gold medal winning coxswain Simon Dickie (pictured left) put his oar in too, questioning the wisdom of the company continuing to roll over leases when losses in the orchard division had amounted to \$8.7 million over the six years.

• More about this intriguing meeting, page 9.

# Beyond winter lies prospect of plenty