

News from the RNZIH Education Trust

2012 Young Horticulturist of the Year



Fig. 1 Young Horticulturist of the Year 2012 Braden Crosby receiving his awards. Left to right: Nathan Flowerday, AGMARDT Associate Board member; Braden Crosby; Richard Bawden, National Manager Fruited Supplies; Colin Lyford, General Manager Domestic Products Turners & Growers.

Young Wairarapa viticulturist Braden Crosby won the Young Horticulturist of the Year, as well as gaining second place in the AGMARDT Market Innovation Award on Thursday evening, 15 November 2012 (Fig. 1). "It was a long two days and a great experience," said the winner of \$11,500 worth of prizes including a \$7500 travel package.

His entry into the AGMARDT Market Innovation Award was a frost windmill blade system that can also be used for electricity generation. The judges noted that the project was delivered with real professionalism. "The project's taken me out of my comfort zone with technical areas and I've had to approach people for help during my research and development," says Braden.



Fig. 2 Andrew Scott receiving his AGMARDT Market Innovation Project prize from Nathan Flowerday, AGMARDT Associate Board member.

Andrew Scott won first place in the AGMARDT Market Innovation Award (Fig. 2) with his project that takes undersized potatoes and processes them into dried potato flake. The judges commented that the project was thoroughly thought through and applauded him for looking at grower profitability. AGMARDT also

encouraged Andrew to apply to them for funding to further advance his project. Board member Nathan Flowerday adds; "The innovation prize isn't just about the \$5000, we're eager to see Andrew's concept brought to market and the next natural step is a feasibility study which could be funded through an AGMARDT Agribusiness Innovation Grant." Nathan Flowerday also offered to personally mentor Andrew.



Fig. 3 YHOTY finalists: Back row left to right: Andrew Rae, Andrew Scott, Karl Noldan. Front row left to right: Braden Crosby, Annika Horgan, Daniel Chong (standing).

Over a two day period the six finalists (Fig. 3), each representing their industry sector, were judged on their knowledge and skills across floristry, nursery production, landscaping, viticulture, amenity horticulture and vegetable production. Their business planning and presentation skills were put to the test through an interview, computer-based activity and presenting a three-minute speech to an audience of more than 200 at the grand final dinner.

Speaking on the night, horticulture industry experts emphasised the importance of smart young people with drive, determination and attitude to take the industry forward and in so doing help to develop New Zealand's place in the world economy.

The competition, managed by the RNZIH Education Trust on behalf of the sponsors, including AGMARDT, Fruited Supplies, and Turners and Growers, is designed to develop the finalists' skills and knowledge and enhance their career opportunities in the horticulture industry.

Final results:

2012 Young Horticulturist of the Year:

- First: Braden Crosby representing NZ Winegrowers. Braden is viticulturist at Borthwick estate in Carterton.
- Second: Andrew Scott representing the combined fruit and vegetable sectors for Horticulture NZ. Andrew is operations manager for Hewsons Farms, Ashburton.
- Third: Karl Noldan representing the amenity sector of NZ Recreation Association. Karl is team leader at Wellington Botanic Gardens.

AGMARDT Market Innovation Project:

- First: Andrew Scott representing the combined fruit and vegetable sectors for Horticulture NZ.
- Second: Braden Crosby representing NZ Winegrowers.
- Third: Andrew Rae representing Landscaping New Zealand. Andrew is a landscaper for Southern Landmax in Queenstown.
- Consolation prizes: Daniel Chong, foreman at Rainbow Trees Ltd, Auckland, representing the Nursery and Garden Industry New Zealand; Annika Horgan of Nectar Florist, Christchurch, representing Floristry NZ Inc.; Karl Noldan representing the amenity sector of NZ Recreation Association.

Fruited Supplies Best Overall

Speech:

- Daniel Chong representing Nursery and Garden Industry New Zealand.

Leadership Award partnered by Fruited Supplies and Ballance

Agri-Nutrients:

- Braden Crosby.

Bayer Best Practice Award:

- Andrew Scott.

Turners and Growers Best Practical Activities Award:

- Braden Crosby.

The RNZIH Education Trust sincerely thanks all sponsors and the many volunteers who contributed to the success of this year's event and assisted in achieving the aim of the Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition – nurturing and developing young people in horticulture.