

2013 Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture Awards

Plant Raisers' Award

Ian Thomas Baldick



Ian Baldick wearing his Plant Raisers' Medal.

One of the main aims of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture is to recognise and promote all aspects of quality in New Zealand horticulture. Thus the Institute's Plant Raisers' Award recognises those in New Zealand who have raised a cultivar, or cultivars, considered to be sufficiently meritorious. The Award for 2013 goes to Ian Baldick of Runciman, Auckland, for his breeding of *Magnolia* cultivars.

New Zealand has become respected around the world for the spectacular *Magnolia* cultivars bred in this country and *Magnolia* breeders have previously been recognised by the Institute's Plant Raisers' Award. We now recognise the efforts of another *Magnolia* breeder, Ian Baldick, who is an enthusiastic plantsman with a passion for magnolias, particularly those of the *M. campbellii* type. He is an amateur breeder with limited resources but has nearly 40 years of experience, and has produced a number of outstanding cultivars which have been released to nurseries both in New Zealand and overseas.

Two of his best cultivars are nominated for the 2013 award. Both are notable for the intensity of the colour of their flowers:



Magnolia 'Purple Sensation'.



Magnolia 'Red As'.

Magnolia 'Purple Sensation' was selected from a cross between *M. campbellii* var. *mollicomata* 'Lanarth' and *M. liliiflora* 'Nigra'. This has the classic "cup-and-saucer" flowers typical of *M. campbellii* but in a glorious, glowing purple. The tree is compact and flowers from an early age, a great advantage for gardeners accustomed to wait for many years for Asiatic magnolias to flower. The flowers are similar in elegance, size, colour and intensity to those of *M. 'Lanarth'*, but *M. 'Purple Sensation'* is more robust and easier to grow. M. Robinson in *The Plantsman* (2005, No. 4, pp. 16–20) described this as "the best new hybrid in New Zealand".

Magnolia 'Red As' was selected from a cross between *M. 'Pickard's Ruby'* and *M. 'Vulcan'*. This is a smaller growing but floriferous magnolia of upright compact habit. The flowers are chalice-shaped and the tepals are a rich, deep but bright, claret red, both inside and out. This was also described by M. Robinson in the same article in *The Plantsman* as "likely to be one of the outstanding [magnolia] hybrids of all time." It is sometimes incorrectly known as *M. 'Red as Red'*.

Both magnolias are excellent garden plants and their growth and flowering justify the praise they have received.

Citation prepared by Ross Ferguson

Other magnolias raised by Ian Baldick, with the parentage in brackets:

Magnolia 'Alysha' (*M. 'J C Williams'* × *M. 'Vulcan'*)
M. 'Amber' (*M. 'Yellow Bird'* × *M. xbrooklynensis*)
M. 'Ben's Red' (*M. 'Pegasus'* × *M. 'Vulcan'*)
M. 'Big Val' (*M. 'Caerhays Belle'* hybrid)
M. 'Bronwyne' (*M. liliiflora* 'Nigra' × *M. campbellii* var. *mollicomata* 'Lanarth')
M. campbellii 'Mount Pirongia'
M. campbellii × *M. 'San Jose'*
M. 'Cherry Ripe' (*M. 'Caerhays Belle'* × *M. x soulangeana* 'Alba')
M. 'Connor' (*M. 'Pegasus'* hybrid)
M. 'Cressy Garland' (*M. 'Pegasus'* hybrid)
M. 'Deborah' (*M. 'First Flush'* × *M. campbellii*)
M. 'Double Trouble' (*M. 'Apollo'* × *M. 'Vulcan'*)
M. 'Gill Day' (*M. 'Pegasus'* hybrid)
M. 'Grant David' (*M. 'Apollo'* × *M. 'Vulcan'*)
M. 'Hollywell' (*M. sprengeri* 'Diva' hybrid)
M. 'Ian's Cerise' (*M. 'Pegasus'* hybrid)
M. 'Ian's Giant Red' (*M. 'J C Williams'* × *M. 'Vulcan'*)
M. 'Ian's Red' (*M. 'Vulcan'* × *M. x soulangeana* 'Burgundy')
M. 'Joy Bells' (*M. 'Yellow Bird'* × *M. xbrooklynensis*)
M. 'Kieran' (*M. 'J C Williams'* × *M. 'Vulcan'*)
M. 'Little Darling' (*M. 'Elizabeth'* hybrid)
M. 'Livingstone' (*M. sprengeri* 'Diva' × *M. 'Vulcan'*)
M. 'Pink Sensation' (a *M. 'Pegasus'* hybrid previously known as *M. 'Ian's Giant Pink'*)
M. 'Pretty Pink' (*M. 'Pegasus'* hybrid)
M. 'Purple Cracker' (*M. sprengeri* 'Burncoose' × *M. 'Vulcan'*)
M. 'Royal Alma' (*M. sprengeri* 'Burncoose' × *M. 'Vulcan'*)
M. 'Ruth' (*M. campbellii* 'Lanarth' × *M. liliiflora*)
M. 'Shirley's Perfume' (*M. 'Pegasus'* hybrid)
M. 'Southern Red' (*M. 'Pegasus'* × *M. 'Vulcan'*)
M. 'Strawberry Fields' (*M. 'Pegasus'* × *M. 'Vulcan'*)
M. 'Sweetheart' (*M. sprengeri* 'Diva' × *M. sargentiana* var. *robusta*)
M. 'Tyler James'
M. 'Ula' (*M. 'Caerhays Belle'* × *M. x soulangeana* 'Alba').

Award of Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (AHRH)

Neiel Winston Drain



Neiel Drain started his career in horticulture as an apprentice with the Christchurch Parks and Reserves Department. After completing his apprenticeship, he held a number of positions within the department until he left to set up his own landscape consulting and construction business. In 1967 he re-joined the Parks and Reserves Department as Landscape Architect within the Christchurch City Council.

Neiel completed his National Diploma in Horticulture (Honours) winning the J. A. Campbell prize. His thesis was on ground covers for roads and traffic islands and other public areas. It was subsequently published in parts over several issues of the RNZIH Journal. He later went on to become a senior examiner for the oral and practical examinations of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

In 1968 Neiel was appointed Assistant Director, followed by Deputy Director and finally Director of Parks and

Recreation in Christchurch. After the local government amalgamations in 1989 in Christchurch, he took up the position of Parks Consultant within the new larger city to advise on parks policy and major projects that were occurring across the city. He retired from the Christchurch City Council in 1997.

Notable achievements during his tenure were the Commonwealth Games Stadium at Queen Elizabeth II Park in 1974, development of landscaped parks and spaces within the City and an increase in the role of Recreation Services within parks. He was heavily involved in developing many of the planning documents on open spaces for the Christchurch City Council. His particular passion was to see integration of landscape design into all open spaces, including ensuring appropriate tree and associated plantings continued.

In 1997 he coordinated and presented the Christchurch City's submissions for the International Federation of Parks and Recreation Association "Nations in Bloom" award held in Madrid Spain. This presentation saw Christchurch awarded the title "Best Garden City in the World". For several years Neiel was the New Zealand Commissioner for the International Federation of Parks and Recreation Administration, and is still a member. He also became a Fellow and Honorary Life Member of the NZ Recreation Association.

Neiel was President of the Canterbury Horticultural Society from 1992 to 1995 and awarded an Honorary Life

Membership in 1996. He served for many years as Treasurer, and was elected Vice Patron of the Society in 2008. He retired from the Board in 2012.

He has chaired numerous committees, including the Christchurch Street and Garden Awards and the Native Garden Awards Committee and is currently helping to set up the first Edible Gardens Awards in Christchurch.

He initiated and coordinated the formation of the Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Society.

He was an Associate Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Management, Canterbury Branch.

He regularly gives talks on horticulture and public open spaces to many groups around the City.

In 2002 he was awarded the Queens Service Medal for Public Services.

Today Neiel continues to take an active interest in not only horticulture but also the environment and the concepts of sustainability within the city.

This lifetime of contributions in horticulture, extending well past his workplace 'retirement', demonstrate that Neiel Drain is a most worthy recipient of the Associate of Honour of the RNZIH.

Citation prepared by Jeremy Hawker and Alan Jolliffe