



## ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

### Newsletter

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## President's Comments

Throughout the 19th and 20th Centuries botany and horticulture were closely linked. New plants were being introduced to cultivation as Western countries sought to establish colonial empires in other parts of the world.

Botanists worked to name and establish taxonomic relationships for these new plants, while horticulturists tried to learn how best to grow them in climates wildly different to those of their natural habitats. For some botanic gardens this relationship still exists, however, in general, there has been separation between the two disciplines and certainly a progressive dumbing down for horticulture.

During approximately the first three quarters of last century, recreational horticulture was a major cultural activity in the Western World. Many homeowners and enthusiastic amateurs were quite knowledgeable and new introductions by major nursery and seed companies were eagerly anticipated. Equally, local municipalities took great pride in their parks maintaining substantial nursery facilities and knowledgeable staff.

The increase in car ownership, the advents of television and more recently the Internet and smartphones have changed the way we live and use our leisure time. The development of supermarkets has changed the way we shop for groceries. Similarly, the supermarket model has spread to horticulture, where instead of garden shops often linked intimately with a production nursery, we have Garden Centres.

In Garden Centres, like supermarkets, impulse buying is paramount and many items need now to be in full bloom at point of sale. Gone are the

days when customers bought young plants and gained the satisfaction of growing these to maturity. Sadly in most cases a plant purchased at its peak can only go backwards. Few customers seem to go to a Garden Centre with a shopping list; rather they appear to buy things that catch their eye.

Other changes are less obvious. There are very few horticulturists left in the major seed marketing companies, most businesses having been bought by corporations based on other industries or investment. People with extensive horticultural knowledge have been replaced by marketing people with little or no plant knowledge.

Latin names are considered to be too hard and even when used are frequently approximations or plain erroneous. Even cultivar names are often nothing more than ephemeral trading names. In parallel with the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature there is the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants. This seeks to ensure that a genotype is given just one name that has not been used previously for a plant in the same genus.

Unhappily, commercial pressures and the fact that Plant Variety Rights, Plant Breeders' Rights and Plant Patents, depending on the country, have legal precedence over the code.

A practice has developed where breeders gain intellectual property rights using, a most often, unpronounceable denomination name. This, under the code and legally, becomes the cultivar name. It has to be printed on any labels at point of sale. However, the plant is promoted under a

trading name with the denomination name in small type. This practise allows the same plant to be sold under different names in different countries. Indeed sometimes even in the same country.

While some of us may lament what we see as a lowering of standards, it is important to recognise that the only thing that is constant is change itself. As my zoology teacher at secondary school used to say, “learn to adapt to changes, or like the dinosaurs, you will become extinct”. But that was before the current paradigm concerning the catastrophic extinction of the dinosaurs.

**Keith Hammett**  
**President, RNZIH**

## New Executive Member

In the June 2016 issue of this newsletter, we sought volunteers for co-opting onto the RNZIH executive.



Alan Jolliffe FRIH

**Alan Jolliffe FRIH** of Christchurch kindly stepped up to again help the RNZIH.

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## Resignation

Since last Newsletter, **Leanne Killalea**, who was the new BGANZ-NZ (Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand) representative for the RNZIH, resigned from the Wellington Botanic Garden to follow other pursuits.

David Sole has advised us that they will nominate another person to fill the role of BGANZ-NZ representative.

We still have space if anyone else is interested in contributing to our executive, or for a voluntary role in helping with our office administration.

Alan Jolliffe has been a past Executive Member of the RNZIH, and our National Chairman for 12 years (1983–1995).

As a horticulturist and Parks and Recreation Manager, Conservation Manager, Heritage Property Manager and adviser, Alan has managed a range of Botanic Gardens, Parks, Recreation, and Heritage Places for more than 28 years.

Within Tertiary Education, for more than 18 years he has been a Principal Lecturer (teaching Recreation, Tourism, Marketing, Leisure, Research Methods, Management) and held Senior Management roles (Acting Dean, Associate Dean) in commerce, tourism, and innovation as well as Administration Services Manager in Civil and Natural Resources Engineering and as College Operations Manager in the College of Engineering.

Alan is interested in future trends and ideas that will enable people to enjoy living in a world which looks after all its resources.

## Congratulations

As mentioned in our June 2016 newsletter, **Toni Sylvester** of Northland received the 2016 RNZIH Award in Garden History for her work on conservation and recording of heritage roses.

Toni was unable to attend the RNZIH awards ceremony in Christchurch (held 13th April 2016). However, on 11th December 2016 the medal was presented to her by Chris Webb on behalf of the RNZIH President and Executive.

As reported by Chris, the Heritage Roses Northland Branch Christmas function was relaxed and attended by Toni's extended family. Toni and her family were proud of the award that she received.

Congratulations to **Val Bieleski** who has been elected Patron of the New Zealand Camellia Society, a position previously filled by Neville Hayden.



Toni Sylvester wearing her Garden History Award medal.

Congratulations also to three recipients for their services to horticulture recognised in the New Year Honours 2017 list:

**Mr Terence (Terry) Charles Hatch**, of Auckland received an ONZM for services to horticulture. His citation reads:

“Mr Terry Hatch is a horticulturist and conservationist. Mr Hatch is highly esteemed in New Zealand for his almost 50 years of dedication to the breeding of rare New Zealand plants, island reforestation, and the promotion of horticulture through his writing and speaking engagements. He won a Supreme Award for Horticultural Excellence at the Ellerslie Flower

Show. He has been an active member of the Friends of the Auckland Regional Botanic Gardens for more than 20 years, was President from 2001 to 2003, and became a life member in 2007. He was a founding member of the International Plant Propagators' Society, New Zealand Region, becoming President in 2007 and serving as International President of the Society. He raised more than 150,000 plants for the revegetation of Mercury Island. His nursery, Joy Plants, near Auckland, has been highly regarded among horticulturists for more than 30 years. Mr Hatch is a specialist in growing bulbs in New Zealand and co-authored *Bulbs for New Zealand Gardeners and Collectors* (1994), which is still regarded as the definitive text in this field."

An article on Terry, recognising his achievements, is online at <http://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/88348901/pukekohes-terence-hatch-honoured-for-lifetime-of-service-to-horticulture>

**Dr Siu Kai Haslam**, of Levin received the Queen's Service Medal for services to the Chinese community and horticulture.

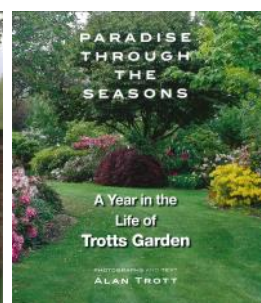
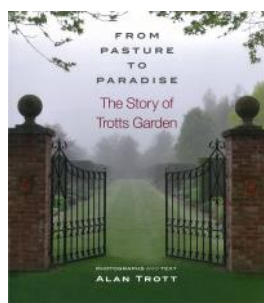
"Dr Siu Kai Haslam has been involved with the New Zealand Chinese Association Horowhenua Kapiti Branch since 1991 as Treasurer for six years and as the organisation's representative to English Partners (Kapiti Horowhenua English as a Second Language) from 2008 to 2012.

Dr Haslam is a Life Member of the Tararua Growers Association, having been a committee member since 1982. She has spent thousands of voluntary hours translating documents from English for the Chinese community throughout New Zealand, which included the Employment Contract Act 1991 and the Growsafe Manual for the horticulture industry in 1999, recognised by Standards New Zealand as the first Chinese Manual in Australasia. More recently she translated the New Zealand Vegetable Levy Referendum in 2012. She has been a Chinese language interpreter for the Ministry of Justice and the New Zealand Police. She is involved with the Horowhenua Friendship Force, the Chinese Growers Youth Club, and has been the inaugural Treasurer of the Horowhenua Kapiti Chinese Sports and Cultural Association. Dr Haslam was a key member of the team which fundraised for the Chinese Garden in Te Takere Horowhenua Culture and Community Centre."

**Mr Alan George Trott**, of Ashburton received the Queen's Service Medal for services to horticulture.

"Mr Alan Trott is a dedicated gardener who, over the course of 35 years, has transformed a four hectare block of bare pasture into Trott's Garden, a nationally acclaimed, award-winning garden.

The garden earned a prestigious Garden of International Significance, awarded by the New Zealand Gardens Trust in 2015. Mr Trott was an active member of local and national bodies including as President of the New Zealand Rhododendron Association, Chairman of the Ashburton Art Gallery and the Ashburton iSite visitors centre committee. He gives tours of his garden to groups, has contributed many articles to publications, including radio and appearances on television. Mr Trott has published two books on horticulture."



Both of Alan's books were reviewed in the June 2016 RNZIH journal (*The New Zealand Garden Journal*, Vol. 19, No. 1, pp. 29–32).



## RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust

**'Growing Momentum'**  
**6–9th April 2017**



### **Don't miss the 2017 Annual NZ Gardens Trust Conference**

The Conference returns to Auckland after 10 years and an exciting programme awaits you.

The Spencer on Byron Hotel has been booked for registration, accommodation and the Saturday evening delegate dinner.

Delegates have been offered an accommodation discount – book now to avoid disappointment as rooms are subject to availability. You must quote NZGARDTRUST when making your booking. The phone number is 09 9166111 or email [reservations@spencerbyron.co.nz](mailto:reservations@spencerbyron.co.nz). A double room is \$205 plus GST and includes complimentary breakfast for 1 person. Takapuna beach is a 3 min walk away and the Hotel has a pool, tennis court and gymnasium.

Alternative accommodation providers are a 5–6 min walk away from the Hotel and include: Anzac Court Motel, Emerald Inn, and Parklane Motor Inn.

On **Thursday 6th April** we will be picnicking at Alan Gibbs Sculpture Park, his 400 ha private property is on the Kaipara Harbour.

This is a world class venue so please don't miss this opportunity of joining us to view this unique property. The park is home to a series of site specific art works commissioned from some of the world's most significant artists. It is home to a collection of permanent outdoor sculptures on a scale rarely seen. Go online and check for yourselves at [www.gibbsfarm.org.nz](http://www.gibbsfarm.org.nz).

We will be visiting other Trust gardens in the area.

On **Friday 7th April** we start the day with a visit to Peter and Jocelyn Coyle's garden **Totara Waters Subtropical Garden** and then visit the Coatesville area gardens. Our picnic lunch that day will be enjoyed at **Mincher**.

On **Saturday 8th April** we visit **Government House, Highwic, Auckland Domain Wintergardens** and base ourselves at **Eden Garden** for refreshments and lectures. We close the day at **Ayrlies** before returning to the Hotel for dinner.



On **Sunday 9th April** our open forum and presentations will be followed by a visit to **Cornwall Park** with the conference closing at the **Auckland Botanic Gardens**. There will be transport provided from there to take delegates to the airport.

That's a snapshot of what is planned for 'Growing Momentum'.

We have a wonderful line up of speakers and further details of the conference will be available at <http://www.gardens.org.nz/nzgt-conference/>

We look forward to welcoming you to Auckland 6th–9th April 2017. Have you marked your diaries?

**Penny Zino**

## **RNZIH Education Trust**

### **Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition**

The Education Trust manages the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition on behalf of the sponsors and the horticultural industry.

The purpose of the Trust is to assist and promote, in any way possible, horticultural training and education in New Zealand, including promoting and providing scholarships and prize schemes for young people in horticulture.

The Young Horticulturist of the Year competition aims to offer a national competition that nurtures and develops future leaders in the horticultural industry through the sector competitions, and to promote horticulture as a career opportunity and to lift the profile of the horticulture industry as an exciting and rewarding occupation.

The vision of the competition is to identify and develop the next generation of leaders in the horticultural industry, and to foster and encourage the development of leadership capabilities in these people to meet the challenges of the future.



### **NZ Grower Andrew Hutchinson is New Zealand's Young Horticulturist of the Year 2016**

The winner of New Zealand's overall 'Young Horticulturist of the Year' 2016 is **Andrew Hutchinson**, who is based in Pukekohe.

Winner of the Young Grower of the Year, representing Horticulture New Zealand and now the new Young Horticulturist of the Year 2016, Andrew Hutchinson competed with five other finalists, all under the age of 30, in the grand final competition held November 9th and 10th at the Auckland Botanic Gardens in Manurewa and at Grand Millennium Hotel, Auckland.

The final evening awards dinner concluded the 2016 competition, which assessed a contestant's abilities across multiple skills that reflect the diversity of disciplines demanded by a modern career in horticulture, including innovative product design, market research, public speaking, interviews with judges and a day of practical assignments.

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture Education Trust Chairperson, Elle Anderson, said this year's competition featured five competitors who demonstrated great critical thinking skills and the ability to think on their feet.

"Their desire and drive was evident in their thinking, particularly the interest they showed in their specific sector. Their hunger for knowledge was one of the reasons each contestant entered the competition."



Max Spence (Fruitful Supplies), Lynn Johnson (T&G), Andrew Hutchinson (Young Horticulturist of the Year 2016), Bruce Beaton (T&G), and Malcolm Nitschke (AGMARDT).

“The aim of the Young Horticulturist competition is to develop the future, industry wide, leaders of the horticultural industry, celebrate the success of these young leaders and to come together as an industry for cross-section pollination, learning and co-operation – the competition shows we’re in a healthy space,” Ms Anderson said.

Finalists compete for a prize pool valued at more than \$40,000.00.

### 1st Place

In taking home the ‘Young Horticulturist of the Year’ title, **Andrew Hutchinson** receives \$7,500 of ‘study’ travel and accommodation to a horticultural destination of his choice from T&G, \$1,000 worth of ICL Specialty Fertiliser products, a \$750 Swanndri voucher and a \$100 NZ Horticultural magazine subscription for one year.

### 2nd Place

Auckland based (originally Christchurch) and representing Amenity Horticulture supported by the New Zealand Recreation Association, **Jeanette Barker**, takes home a \$5,500 Massey University study scholarship, \$750 worth of ICL Specialty Fertiliser products, a \$500 Swanndri voucher and a \$100 NZ Horticultural magazine subscription for one year.

### 3rd Place

Auckland based third place winner **Paul Southan**, representing Landscaping New Zealand, earns a \$1,000 cash prize, \$500 worth of ICL Specialty Fertiliser products, a \$250 Swanndri voucher and a \$100 NZ Horticultural magazine subscription for one year.

## The AGMARDT Market Innovation Project Winner

This challenge is designed to stretch contestants' abilities to come up with future thinking that adds value to the industry.

**Jeanette Barker** – from Auckland representing the Amenity Horticulture sector – won the Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust (AGMARDT) Market Innovation Project prize of \$5,000 for her app that assists people with selecting the right plant for the right place.



Andrew Hutchinson, Cameron Price, Daniel Howard, Jeanette Barker, and Paul Southan, 2016 YHOTY contestants.

Jeanette says, "Have you ever had a spot in your garden but not sure what to plant? Well you are not alone; many people lack the knowledge or experience to make confident plant choices. The aim of my project is to help people select the right plant for the right place and connect them with local retailers. By helping people make plant selections it will ensure the long term health and aesthetics of our green spaces. This app will provide an easy to use interface to reduce research time, provide trusted information and act as a marketing media for nurseries."

**Andrew Hutchinson** took second place in the AGMARDT Market Innovation Project winning \$2,500 for his project Leaselink which aims to link land owners with land users. Andrew says, "Leaselink is designed to make it simple for land owners to connect with potential lessees. The proposed website allows users to build profiles which have ratings and references from past lease contracts. Land owners are able to list multiple areas of land for lease under their profile. Leaselink provides two main functions to help both parties involved in land leasing reach an agreement. The land classification system allows easy screening for lessees in search of suitable properties. The user profile system allows land owners to screen potential lessees to find the right person for their land."

**Daniel Howard** took third place in the AGMARDT Market Innovation Project winning \$1,500 for his nursery management project. Daniel says, "My project is a nursery management system targeted at the nursery and garden industry of New Zealand. This innovation is a working project and has been developed in-house at Moores Valley Nurseries over the past three years and is a continual work in progress. Some time ago we found there was no system in New Zealand or overseas that suited our nursery situation and could fulfil all our requirements and demands. So we embarked on designing our own management system which has the ability to track production of nursery crops from propagation through to a saleable product whether that is a small 2 litre grade or a large tree being grown for many years. The system also generates production lists for targeted production planning, crop management which includes integrated pest management programs, customer orders and account management. My project is to further investigate and analyse the potential benefits that the system could bring to other nurseries and how the system would be sold and distributed."

A consolation prize of \$500 is awarded to other contestants who complete his or her project.

Of his AGMARDT project Cameron Price says, "My project consists of a residential vineyard training facility (RVTF) based on the agricultural training concepts of Taratahi, Smedley and Jeff Farm. The purpose of the project is to forecast the feasibility of an RVTF in the Hawkes Bay region. This is specifically centred on offering a practical method to learning, guaranteeing students the benefit of a hands-on approach, seasonal experience and overall involvement in the day-to-day operations of



a working vineyard. This type of facility is something that our industry should consider to foster awareness of our sector and offer individuals a unique learning experience in an informal setting.”

Paul Southan’s AGMARDT project on Sustainable Water through Irrigation Management (SWIM), addresses significant water loss through residential irrigation systems. SWIM will provide a positive solution to sustainably reduce household water consumption by holding more water within

soils and increasing the uptake of this water by plants. The primary aim of SWIM is to reduce potable water consumption in residential irrigation. Other benefits include: achieving a more sustainable solution that benefits the end consumer through reduced water costs; providing a beneficial impact for the water provider through visible reductions in water consumption; and the ability to make an environmentally sustainable product. These aims are set to achieve a financial profit to business and potential investors.



Andrew Hutchinson’s award winning speech.

Further awards presented on the night and made possible by the generosity of industry sponsors include:

**The T&G Best Practical Activities Award:** presented to Andrew Hutchinson (Pukekohe, originally from Tauranga), representing Horticulture New Zealand. This award of a \$3,500 travel scholarship goes to the finalist who receives the best overall score for practical activities in the Grand Final.

**The Fruitfed Supplies Leadership Award:** presented to Andrew Hutchinson. This award of a \$2,500 scholarship towards a Leadership or Outward Bound course goes to the finalist who demonstrates outstanding promise and leadership during the competition.

**The Bayer Best Practice Award:** presented to Cameron Price (Hastings, representing NZ Winegrowers). This award of a \$2,500 scholarship goes to the finalist who receives the highest score in a range of activities during the Grand Final with a focus on crop management practices and sustainability.

**Primary ITO Career Development Award:** presented to Andrew Hutchinson. This award of a \$3,000 scholarship is to assist with further study or to attend a conference, and the winner is adopted as a Primary ITO ambassador to promote training and career pathways in horticulture.

**The Countdown Best Speech Award:** presented to Andrew Hutchinson. This award of \$500 goes to the finalist who achieves the highest score for their speech at the final dinner.

**Andrew’s winning speech will be published in the December 2016 RNZIH journal  
(The New Zealand Garden Journal, Vol. 19, No. 2).**

The Young Horticulturist of the Year competition is made possible through the generous support of Young Horticulturist of the Year 2016 competition partners AGMARDT, T&G and Fruitfed Supplies.

Young Horticulturist of the Year Supporters are Bayer CropScience, Massey University, Primary ITO, Countdown, *NZ Gardener* Magazine and Trillian Trust.

To check out the full list of supporters or for more information about how to enter for 2017, visit [www.younghort.co.nz](http://www.younghort.co.nz) for more information.

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**2017 IPPS New Zealand Region Conference:**

**18–21 May 2017**

The 2017 Annual Conference of the International Plant Propagators' Society NZ Region will be held in Pukekohe from 18th to 21st May 2017.

The venue is the Pukekohe Park Raceway hence the theme 'Need for Speed'.



Accommodation will be in short supply so people need to book sooner rather than later when the information comes out.

There will be a one day pre-tour to local nurseries and a post-tour to Kerikeri and up to Cape Reinga, back down the East Coast. This will be Sunday through to Thursday. The provisional itinerary for the post-tour is:

- **Sunday 22nd:** Travel Pukekohe to Kerikeri
- **Monday 23rd:** Visits to nurseries around Kerikeri
- **Tuesday 24th:** Travel to North Cape and visiting sites special to Northland
- **Wednesday 25th:** More visits and a couple of gardens
- **Thursday 26th:** Travel back to Auckland in time for late flights out.

There may be an opportunity to have an optional day trip to an island to see a revegetation project and maybe a fish.

Lindsay Hatch would like an indication of interest for anyone wanting to do the post tour so he can try and keep the cost down with accommodation and transport.

More information will be provided in coming months (<http://ipps.org.nz>).

If anyone wishes to present a paper, contact Lindsey Hatch: [hatch.clan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hatch.clan@xtra.co.nz)

## Early notice of RNZIH Annual General Meeting

**The RNZIH are teaming up with the IPPS to share their conference in 2017 — where we will hold the RNZIH AGM, Awards ceremony and Banks Memorial Lecture.**

The AGM will be held in the south Auckland region, sometime between the 20th and 22nd May 2017. Date, time, venue and agenda will be confirmed in the March 2017 RNZIH Newsletter.

### **RNZIH Award Presentations and Banks Memorial Lecture:**

**Venue:** Pukekohe Park Events Centre, during the evening of the IPPS dinner

**Date:** Saturday 21st May 2017

**Time:** tba

## Memberships, Newsletter and Journal

2017 memberships are now due. Thanks to all of you who have already paid. About 18% still receive hard copy invoices by post and it would be appreciated if those members who now have email addresses let us know so we can update our records to save postage costs!

This newsletter is sent via email to those who have disclosed their addresses and is also promptly lodged online at [www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/news.html](http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/news.html).

Our journal continues to be printed and distributed as hard-copy to all of our members. We rely on contributions from authors – please contact our editor if you have an article to share for future editions, or know of some interesting work by others that we can publish.

## New Zealand Plant Collection Register: December 2016 update

During 2016, Murray Dawson publicised the Plant Collections Register project by presenting two talks. The first was given at the Nursery and Garden Industry New Zealand (NGINZ) annual conference (entitled Future<sup>3</sup>) at Rydges Hotel in Wellington on 28th July 2016. Chief Executive Dr John Liddle organised the session 'Plants: What's here, What's not, and How do we know? – HSNO, PBI & NZOR' to inform industry and regulator discussions on improving knowledge of and how to handle issues around the 'plant stock' of New Zealand. Kathryn Hurr of the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) and Clark Ehlers of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) provided complementary talks from their organisations perspectives. At their AGM, the NGINZ agreed to reform to become the New Zealand Plant Producers Incorporated (NZPPI), to present a new model for a producer-led industry body.

The second speaking engagement was 3rd November 2016 at the BGANZ-NZ seminar, hosted by the Auckland Botanic Gardens. Another speaker, Bec Stanley told us that the Auckland Botanic Gardens had recently inherited an extensive *Aloe* collection of 390 species from Nelson gardener Geoff Etherington. As a result, they submitted to the EPA a large species list covering taxa not previously listed on the Plant Biosecurity Index. This shows a willingness by EPA to incorporate new names where records are well verified. It was also interesting to hear of commercial database systems used by botanic gardens to manage their plant stock. BG-BASE ([www.bg-base.com](http://www.bg-base.com)) has long been the standard in New Zealand, but IrisBG ([www.irisbg.com](http://www.irisbg.com)) is a modern system gaining ground internationally.

### **Plant Names Module**

In past years, much effort has gone into digitising plant names from New Zealand nursery catalogues and the horticultural literature. The importance of making these names available is paramount. Landcare Research and the EPA are supporting some of Murray's time to process these names in a format that meets the EPA's needs. This should help expand the list of species known to be present in New Zealand which will be a win-win for both regulators and horticulturists. The RNZIH have also engaged Yvonne Baker's (nee Etherington) help. Yvonne is well qualified for this work as she was the former Botanical Records Officer for the Auckland Botanical Gardens.

### **Living Plant Collection Records**

A reminder that a working list of living plant collections (from arboreta, botanic gardens and private collections) is available at [www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/plantcollections.html](http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/plantcollections.html).

This webpage usefully summarises some of the New Zealand plant collections and links out to detailed plant observations using the NatureWatch NZ / iNaturalist platform.

Please contact Murray if you can help with documenting any other major collections.

**Murray Dawson**  
**New Zealand Plant Collection Register Project**  
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