



ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

Newsletter

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Editor's Comments

As 2018 draws to a close it's time to reflect on the year that was.

I am thankful to be part of an active National Executive with a great mix of knowledge, age, and gender. A lot of work is done for the Institute behind the scenes.

Our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/RNZIH/) has proven to be a successful tool to engage with our members and a wider audience of all ages and backgrounds.

Newer web technology such as Facebook highlights the fact that our main website (www.rnzih.org.nz), although still a comprehensive resource, is looking dated. It was, after all, designed by me in the year 2000 and is now in need of a refresh. We hope to undertake this task during 2019.

I have made a concerted effort to edit and distribute our newsletters and journals in a timely manner. It is a challenging task as the role is largely voluntary and outside of my day job. The December 2018 journal has been completed, is back from the printers, and will be posted out to all members during January 2019.

Sadly, we lost several prominent horticulturists, friends and colleagues in 2018, including Bill Sykes (Christchurch), Jolyon Manning (Alexandra), Dick Endt (Auckland), and Bob Berry (Gisborne). It's important to remember their lives and achievements, and we have full obituaries for them published in our December 2018 journal.

Early career horticulturists are our future and the RNZIH Education Trust are outstanding in managing the Young Horticulturist Competition. A comprehensive report of the competition is included in this newsletter. The RNZIH sponsored the speech competition this year and our President Dr Keith Hammett attended the evening ceremonies.



Congratulations to overall 2018 Young Horticulturist winner Annabel Bulk, and to all six finalists (Devin Westley, Danni van der Heijden, Morgan Hampton, Kae Combridge, Annabel Bulk and Gracce Stewart).

Over the past two years, the RNZIH have partnered with the International Plant Propagators' Society New Zealand (IPPS-NZ) conferences, which have proven to be successful and enjoyable events for both of our organisations. The RNZIH Executive sees these partnerships as a very useful way to break down silos between groups with similar interests. We bring to these events the Banks Memorial Lecture, which is free and open to the general public.

For our 2019 AGM and Banks Memorial Lecture, the RNZIH Executive are looking to reconnect with the New Zealand Gardens Trust at their conference in Central Otago/Queenstown 11–14th April 2019. We will provide further details to you as they are confirmed.

Murray Dawson
Editor, RNZIH

RNZIH Awards: Seeking nominations for 2019



1. Associate of Honour (AHRH): "Persons who have rendered distinguished service to horticulture."
2. Fellow (FRIH): "Members who have made a significant contribution to horticulture by their activities or interest in or service to horticulture."
3. Plant Raisers' Award: "Any nominated individual or organisation who has raised in New Zealand a cultivar considered to be sufficiently meritorious."
4. Garden History Award (Award in Horticultural History and Conservation): "Any nominated individual or organisation within New Zealand making distinguished contributions to horticultural history and conservation."

Thanks to Alan Jolliffe and Keith Hammett, we are creating a working list of potential candidates for RNZIH and national awards, which we will use for 2019 and future years.

Please contact our office (office@rnzih.org.nz) if you know of an outstanding horticulturist who may be a worthy recipient for one of these awards. Do not approach the person being nominated.

Congratulations

New Year Honours 2019

Congratulations to all those receiving 2019 New Year Honours in a wide range of services. Here we highlight three recipients recognised in the fields of horticulture and conservation.

PTO

New members

We warmly welcome our new members, including:

Anne Trott	TARANAKI
Arthur Buckland-Pinnock	WAIUKU
Barry Hancox	LYTTELTON
Martin Keay	AUCKLAND

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New members from the NZ Gardens Trust:

Anacabri (Gordon Collier, Taupo), Hamilton Gardens (Hamilton City Council – re-joined), Rainbow Falls Tea House (Fay Cooper, Northland), Stoneycrop (Brian & Helen Coker, Canterbury), Tauhara (Lorna Henry, Taupo), The Rock-Hoppers Garden (Gordon & Rosie Speedy, Northland).

Congratulations to **Diane (Di) Jean Lucas ONZM**, of Christchurch, for services to conservation.

Ms Di Lucas has been an advocate for conservation for many years in a voluntary and professional capacity. Ms Lucas has served as the Chair of the Nature Heritage Fund, a technical advisory committee to the Minister of Conservation, since its inception in 1990. She has played a key role in directing the development of the Fund's land protection strategies and overall strategic direction, and has set a standard throughout New Zealand for the protection of nature on private land. During her tenure, the Fund has achieved permanent protection of more than 340,000 hectares of land with highly significant conservation values. She was a member of Ngā Whenua Rāhui from 1990 to 2000, a fund that assists with protection of indigenous ecosystems on Māori-owned land. From 1990 to 1993 she served as a member of the New Zealand Conservation Authority. She was appointed in 1990 as a member of the Ministerial Committee to prepare the New Zealand Forest Policy and was previously appointed to the New Zealand Environmental Council from 1982 to 1988. She has been heavily involved in land and water protection issues including in the South Island high country. Ms Lucas has held a number of positions with the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects including President and a Fellow of the Institute since 1987.



Di Lucas, an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit.
Photo: www.facebook.com/di.lucas.50.

Congratulations to **Valerie (Val) Ann Burrell MNZM**, of Te Puke, for services to the community and horticulture.

Mrs Val Burrell has contributed to community organisations within Te Puke and at regional and national levels since 1977. Mrs Burrell has been active with the New Zealand Women's Institute for 57 years and was Te Puke/Paengaroa President for 12 years, amongst other roles. She has been Regional President of the Tauranga Federation for four years and served on the National Executive from 2013 to 2017. She has been involved with the National Dahlia Society of New Zealand for 33 years and has been Northern Secretary, National Secretary / Treasurer, and Privacy Officer. She has been National Treasurer since 2010 and over the years has assisted with producing the Society's magazine and various fundraising efforts. Her 40 year involvement with the Floral Art Society of New Zealand has included holding the positions of regional and local Treasurer. Mrs Burrell was a member of the Te Puke War Memorial Hall Committee for 10 years.



Val Burrell, 81, a Member of the NZ Order of Merit. Photo: Andrew Warner / *Bay of Plenty Times*.

Congratulations also to **Douglas George Hutchinson QSM**, of Hawera, for services to conservation and the community.

Mr Douglas Hutchinson has been the driving force of the Nowells Lake Development project begun in 2004. Nowells Lake was an underdeveloped lake on the outskirts of Hawera on land owned by Fonterra. Mr Hutchinson has promoted this environmental project, obtained support and financial backing from Fonterra, and coordinated community group activity. Over the past 14 years close to 20,000 trees have been planted and a walkway and seating have been constructed. The project now falls under the Nowells Lake Walkway Charitable Trust, of which he has been inaugural Secretary/Treasurer. He was a mentor for the Big Brother Big Sister organisation from 2009 to 2016.

Through this he became involved with Hawera Christian School and volunteered to become caretaker for three years, freeing up the caretakers wages for school activities. He has involved the school in tree propagation and planting for the Nowells Lake project. He was a foundation member and is currently Secretary/Treasurer of the Ethel Gray Charitable Trust of New Zealand, formed to promote immunisation particularly against polio. He helped publish a collection of stories from Taranaki polio sufferers. Mr Hutchinson is currently Deputy Chairman of Trinity Home and Hospital in Hawera and was involved with the Hawera Rotary Club from 1990 until 2011, holding several leadership positions.



Doug Hutchinson, who has been awarded the Queens Service Medal, standing beside his wife, Nyla. Photo: Stuff / *Taranaki Daily News*.

NZ Flower and Garden Show 2018

The New Zealand Flower and Garden Show was held at West Auckland's Trust Arena, 28th November to 2nd December 2018.

Congratulations to all on such a successful show. There were more than 200 horticultural and floral exhibits on display.

Show visitors were given the chance to vote for their favourite garden over the first three days of the Show.



The supreme winner was **Jules Moore** for her Zen Garden which took out the People's Choice Award, a Gold Medal, and the overall Best in Show Award.

According to the NZ Flower and Garden Show website, Jules spent more than a year planning and creating the display (<https://nzflowergardenshow.co.nz/jules-moore-wins-peoples-choice-at-nz-flower-and-garden-show/>). It featured a century old maple tree, natural blue stone paths, board walks and a tower with ancient temple bells. Jules aimed to calm the senses through the juxtaposition of sound and visual beauty, and to instill a moment of tranquility for visitors who were able to walk through the garden.



Jules Moore in her award-winning Zen Garden. Photo: www.facebook.com/nzflowergardenshow.

Jules Moore (JM Landscapes), Kate Hillier (show Director), RNZIH executive member Penny Cliffin (Convener of Judges), and other participants were interviewed about the show on TV One on 27th November 2018.

Recognition for internationally acclaimed sweet pea breeding

Congratulations to RNZIH President **Keith Hammett** and executive member and colleague **Dharini Marinkovich** for well-deserved recognition of their work in breeding sweet peas.



Dr Keith Hammett among his sweet peas.
Photo: Stuff / *New Zealand Gardener*.



Some of the new colours now available in sweet peas.
Photo: Stuff / *New Zealand Gardener*.

Jack Hobbs wrote a very interesting article for *NZ Gardener*, likely spurred on by one of Keith's sweet peas being chosen to represent the centenary of the Chelsea Flower Show in 2013. The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) named it 'Chelsea Centenary', a naming that represents one of the greatest horticultural honours bestowed on a Kiwi.

Jack Hobbs's article provides a fascinating account of Keith and Dharini's world leading breeding work, and is available online (at www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/homed/garden/108093816/the-rock-star-of-the-plant-breeding-world-is-a-kiwi-who-is-sweet-on-sweet-peas). Keith was also interviewed about his sweet pea breeding programme by Linda Hallinan on Radio Live, 30th June 2018.

Kiwibank Local Hero 2018

Congratulations to **Graham Dyer** who is recognised as a Kiwibank Local Hero 2018 medal recipient for the Bay of Plenty region.

Sandra Simpson documents for the *NZ Gardener* (online at www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/homed/garden/108048772/collecting-kauri-trees-and-related-agathis-species-from-around-the-world) that Omanawa farmer-turned-orchardist Graham Dyer has collected and grown kauri trees and related *Agathis* species from around the world, and gifted material to plant collections in New Zealand.



Mavis and Graham Dyer.
Photo: Mark Smith Photography.

The Kiwibank Local Hero award recognises those whose selflessness and determination has made a difference in the community. It provides a special opportunity to all New Zealanders, who have witnessed or experienced the contributions made by medal recipients, to say thank you, we appreciate what you are doing to make our communities better.

New Zealand Rose Society Award 2018

Congratulations to Tauranga rose breeder and nurseryman **Rob Somerfield** who in November 2018 received the NZ Rose Society Award "for services to the rose in NZ".

In 1996, Rob and his wife Linda established a nursery, Glenavon Roses, near Tauranga. Rob's roses are grown widely around the country and are known for their health, freedom of flowering and range of colours. Rob has high standards with his roses and will not release anything he doesn't have total confidence in its performance.

There has been much success for Rob at both the Palmerston North and Hamilton rose trials with numerous awards gained at both. Rob has also served as an industry representative on the Trial Grounds Committee since 2008.

In 2017, Rob was presented with the Plant Raisers' Medal from the RNZIH for four of his rose selections.



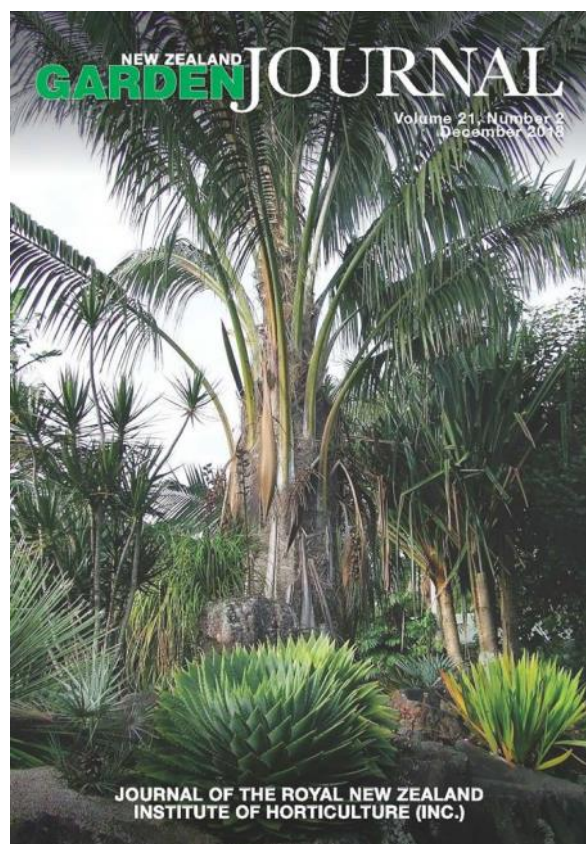
Rob Somerfield holding his NZ Rose Society Award.
Photo: Hayden Foulds.

Rob's full award citation will be published in the 2019 New Zealand Rose Annual.

NZ Garden Journal: December 2018 issue

Our December 2018 edition of the RNZIH *New Zealand Garden Journal* has been printed. It will be posted to our subscribed members early in the New Year. Here is a preview of this issue:

- **Auckland Botanic Gardens edible bean trial, 2017–2018.**
Emma Bodley and Jack Hobbs present the results of their Auckland bean trials.
- **Rediscovery of the tetraploid mānuka cultivar *Leptospermum scoparium* ‘Keatleyi’.**
Ross Bicknell and his colleagues untangle a nursery production error and identify correct material of a noteworthy mānuka cultivar.
- **Profile of a horticulturist: Charles Trevethick (1854–1928), sweet pea grower.** Juliet Trevethick uncovers the horticultural achievements of her great-great-grandfather Charles Trevethick, a notable sweet pea grower and breeder of his era.
- **Obituaries**
 - ◇ George Fuller FRIH, MBE
 - ◇ William (Bill) Sykes AHRIH, ONZM, FMLS
 - ◇ Jolyon Manning
 - ◇ Diederik (Dick) Endt
 - ◇ Robert (Bob) Berry AHRIH.



Front cover of journal: The 'dry garden' at Land-sendt's subtropical garden. Photo courtesy Annemarie Endt-Ferwerda.

Membership Subscriptions for 2019

It's that time of year again! Our Treasurer, Chris Webb, will soon be sending out subscriptions for 2019. Please let us know if you have changed your contact details (postal and email addresses) since last time so that our journal, newsletter and subscriptions reach you.

Although our journal in particular is expensive to produce, we have decided not to increase our subscription rates for 2019. We aim to update our website which is nearly 20 years old and to progress other projects. If you do wish to make a donation towards these goals, there is provision for this on the forthcoming invoices.

Many thanks for your continued support – without you, there would be no Institute.

RNZIH New Zealand Gardens Trust

NZGT Conference 2019: 'Autumn Splendour'
Central Otago/Queenstown
11–14th April 2019





Jolendale Park, Alexandra. Photo courtesy of Enny Manning and www.jolendale.com.

The organising committee are proud to have the opportunity to showcase their region, with its vast uncompromising beauty, undulating golden hills, blue open skies and bright autumnal colours.

We are pleased to report our progress for the NZGT conference to be held 11th – 14th April 2019. For those who are arriving by plane to Queenstown there will be a bus leaving for Pisa Mooring hotel in Cromwell at 4pm on Wednesday 10th April and Thursday 11th April, if you arrive outside that time please find your own way to Pisa Moorings.

We will be travelling through Alexandra, the Maniototo, St Bathans, and Wanaka before reaching Queenstown. We will be visiting Trust gardens, and also have been fortunate to include a wide variety of excellent gardens not usually available to the general public.

All of the gardens feature Central Otago landscapes and plants which thrive in our area.

To fortify ourselves before travelling over the Crown Range, we will be stopping in the old gold mining town of Cardrona and experience and taste a little dram or two, at the Cardrona Distillery.

We have some exciting speakers coming which will be both informative and entertaining.

Accommodation, registration form and other details are at www.gardens.org.nz/news-and-events/

Like previous years, this conference is open to all NZGT and RNZIH members.

**Summarised from the NZ Garden Trust Newsletter December 2018
(www.gardens.org.nz), edited by Penny Zino**

RNZIH Education Trust

2018 Young Horticulturist Competition



2018 Young Horticulturist finalists. From left, Devin Westley, Danni van der Heijden, Morgan Hampton, Kae Combridge, Annabel Bulk, and Gracce Stewart.



The winner of New Zealand's overall Young Horticulturist Competition for 2018 is Annabel Bulk, assistant viticulturist at Felton Road Wines in Bannockburn, Central Otago. Earlier in the year Annabel was winner of the NZ Wine Young Viticulturist of the Year competition.

On November 7 and 8, Annabel competed with five other finalists, all under the age of 30, from

different sectors of the horticulture industry in the grand final of the Young Horticulturist Competition. The first day was the Grand Final Practical Components Day held at the Pukekohe Indian Association Centre, followed the next day by a series of indoor business-focused challenges at the Pullman Hotel, Auckland City, including presentation of competitors AGMARDT projects, a computer-based project and, in the evening, individual short speeches to a large audience at the Awards Dinner.

The competition assesses contestants' abilities across multiple skills reflecting the diversity of disciplines demanded by a modern career in horticulture, including innovative product design, market research, public speaking, interviews with judges and a series of wide-ranging practical and knowledge-based activities and challenges.

Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture Education Trust Chairperson, Elle Anderson, said the strength and diversity of New Zealand's horticulture industry was apparent in the strong showing from all the finalists this year.

"It doesn't matter if you love landscaping, fruit and vegetable production, viticulture or working with flowers. It doesn't matter if you want to be out helping customers in a nursery, out in the open maintaining a public park or inside a laboratory – horticulture has a place for you."

"Once again I am simply blown away by the calibre of tomorrow's leaders we've seen on display during this competition. The future of our industry is in very good hands," Anderson said.

This year the finalists competed for an increased prize pool of more than \$55,000.

1st Place Annabel Bulk

In taking home the 'Young Horticulturist 2018' title, Annabel receives a \$7,500 Fruitfed Supplies travel and accommodation package to a horticultural destination of her choice, a \$1,500 Riversun Nursery scholarship, \$1,000 worth of ICL Specialty Fertiliser products, a \$100 NZ horticultural magazine subscription for one year and a selection of Aorangi Merchant pruning tools.



2018 Young Horticulturist winner Annabel Bulk.

2nd Place Devin Westley

Devin is retail and site consultant at Southern Woods Nursery in Christchurch and earlier in the year won the New Zealand Plant Producers Inc. 2018 Young Achiever competition. Devin won a \$5,500 Massey University study scholarship, \$750 worth of ICL Specialty Fertiliser products and a \$100 NZ horticultural magazine subscription for one year.

3rd Place Danni van der Heijden

Danni is a technical representative at AVOCO in Bay of Plenty and she won a \$1,000 cash prize, \$500 worth of ICL Specialty Fertiliser products and a \$100 NZ horticultural magazine subscription for one year.

In addition to the prizes taken out by the top three there are several other awards for specific challenges and projects within the competition.

The AGMARDT Market Innovation Project Winner: Danni van der Heijden

The aim of the Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust (AGMARDT) project is for competitors to identify, analyse and report on a market innovation opportunity that they have identified in the horticulture industry. This challenge is designed to stretch contestants' abilities to innovate, develop sound business models and add value to the industry. See later in this article for details of individual competitors' projects. Danni won the AGMARDT Market Innovation Project prize for her satellite imagery concept to improve the accuracy of crop estimation in the avocado industry and was rewarded with a \$5,000 cash prize.

Second place runner up Annabel Bulk won \$2,500 and third placed Gracce Stewart earned \$1,500.

The other contestants each received a prize of \$500 for their completed projects.

The Bayer Best Practice Award Winner: Devin Westley

This award goes to the competitor who receives the highest score in a range of

activities during the Grand Final with a focus on Best Practice. Devin received a \$2,500 scholarship grant.

The T&G Practical Components Award Winner: Devin Westley



Devin Westley receiving the T&G Practical Components Award from Andrew Keaney, T&G Managing Director NZ Produce.

This award goes to the competitor who receives the best overall score for practical activities in the Grand Final. Devin received a \$3,500 travel scholarship.

The Fruitfed Supplies Leadership Award Winner: Annabel Bulk

This award goes to the competitor who demonstrates outstanding promise and leadership qualities during the competition. Annabel received a \$2,500 scholarship towards a Leadership or Outward Bound course.

Horticulture Charitable Trust Community Engagement Award Winner: Annabel Bulk

This award goes to the competitor who receives the highest score for community involvement, and earned Annabel \$1,500.

**Primary ITO Career Development Award
Winner: Kae Combridge**



Kae Combridge receiving the Primary ITO Career Development Award from Kate Longman, PITO National Group Manager.

Kae is a landscaper at Luitjen Landscaping in Auckland. As winner of this award, he received a \$3,000 scholarship to assist with further study or to attend a conference and is adopted as a Primary ITO ambassador, to promote training and career pathways in horticulture.

Countdown Participant Award

All competitors received a certificate and \$500 from Countdown, in recognition of their efforts and commitment during the competition.

RNZIH Best Speech Award: Devin Westley

The speech topic this year was, *Year 2030 – Join us we need your skills*. Devin received a cash prize of \$500 from the RNZIH for achieving the highest score for his speech on the night.

Thank you to our community of supporters!

The Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture Education Trust would like to sincerely thank the following companies for their support:

Young Horticulturist Competition Partners:
AGMARDT, T&G, Fruitfed Supplies, Countdown.

Young Horticulturist Competition Supporters:
Bayer CropScience, Horticulture Trust, Riversun Nursery, ICL Speciality Fertilisers, Primary ITO, Trillian Trust, The New Zealand Institute of

Agricultural & Horticultural Science (NZIAHS).

Young Horticulturist Competition Affiliated

Supporters: ANZ, Hill Laboratories, Iron Road, Manukau Institute of Technology, Massey University, Norwood Industries, NZ Gourmet, NZ Wine, Nga Rakau Nurseries, Safeworx. AIM (Amenities and Infrastructure Maintenance Services), Ayrles Garden and Wetland.

Friends to the Young Horticulturist

Competition: Auckland Botanic Gardens, Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand – NZ, Cornwall Park Trust, Lyndale Liners, Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture.

And a huge thank you to all those who volunteered as judges, helpers and runners during the competition and those who worked hard in the background making sure things went according to plan.

The competition is managed by the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture Education Trust.



Annabel Bulk, winner of the AGMARDT Innovation Project, with Malcolm Nitschke General Manager of AGMARDT.

The AGMARDT Market Innovation Projects

AGMARDT is the Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust and according to its general manager, Malcolm Nitschke, while good ideas are important, the real test is in the execution. "The AGMARDT award is based on the contestant's ability to identify, analyse and report on a market innovation opportunity," he said. AGMARDT is a significant supporter of the competition as it reflects the diversity of the horticultural industry and is the only place where, for example, a landscaping finalist gets to compete with a viticulturist on a level playing field.

Advanced technology and awareness of sustainability were key features again this year in the projects. Contestants presented projects on a variety of ideas including a tool for easier joining of irrigation fittings and ways to reduce plastic use in nurseries.

Anabel Bulk – NZ Wine Young Viticulturist of the Year 2018

Annabel's project was based on the practical problem of replacing joiners in irrigation pipes in the vineyard. She says some joiners are difficult and time consuming to replace by hand so she designed a tool which reduces the effort needed to push a joiner into the pipe. Benefits to be gained from this tool include, little training required, savings in time, less physical effort, reduced risk damage to components, and it allows the easy installation of more cost effective joiners.

Danni van der Heijden – Horticulture NZ Young Grower of the Year 2018

Danni says, "Avocado crop estimation is generally regarded worldwide as being very difficult to get right." As a result, exporters do not have a clear idea of the volume of fruit that will be available for export, making it difficult to take advantage of higher prices towards the end of the season and so maximise the best returns for growers.

Using satellite data, specifically Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), Danni has developed a system to more accurately estimate avocado crop production in

New Zealand orchards which in future could also be used for similar purposes in other horticultural sectors.

Devin Westley – NZ Plant Producers Inc. 2108 Young Achiever

Devin says, "Today, we use plastic – a material designed to last forever – for products designed to last for minutes." His project was, "...designed around this modern viewpoint, offering a completely plastic-free packaging solution." Devin worked through the design of a plant packaging system that eliminated plastic, replacing it with recyclable or compostable materials, yet still dealt effectively with the challenges of packing and freighting a live product that needs to be moist to survive.

Gracce Stewart – Florist NZ Inc. Apprentice Florist of the Year

Gracce's project described a novel idea to help reduce the amount of plastic used in wrapping flowers by "...using News Print printed with growers or florists name, logos, stories, advertisements, flower care information or any other information they request." She described how this would be a cheaper wrap than the existing plastic for flowers, from a sustainable renewable resource and be recyclable or biodegradable after use.

Kae Combridge – Registered Master Landscapers NZ Young Landscaper of the Year 2018

Kae opened his presentation with, "Plastics production has increased twentyfold since 1964 yet just 5% of plastics are recycled effectively, while 40% ends up in landfills and a third in fragile ecosystems such as the world's oceans." His project was to "...create New Zealand made biodegradable pots for both retail and commercial sectors ... as an alternative to plastic." He assessed raw materials that could be used to make these pots, the standards that biodegradable pots would need comply with to be acceptable to nursery growers, the size of the potential market, costs of production and what it would take for the nursery industry to move from the current plastic pot use to biodegradable ones.

Morgan Hampton – NZ Recreation Association Young Amenity Horticulturist of the Year 2018

Morgan owns and operates Bluestone Gardeners and Nursery in Dunedin. His project examined the potential to create a mobile phone app which he says "...is to connect users with horticultural parks, gardens and nurseries ... to promote horticulture and encourage the user to explore the available facilities across New Zealand." His project described target markets, costings and a mock-up of the app.

Hayley Govorko

**Event Manager for the 2018 Young
Horticulturist Competition**

Email: event.manager@youthhort.co.nz

2018 Young Horticulturist winning speech

Devin Westley was winner of the RNZIH Best Speech Award for this speech presented at the grand final of the 2018 Young Horticulturist competition held 7–8 November at the Pukekohe Indian Association Centre and Pullman Hotel, Auckland.

The speech topic this year was, *Year 2030 – Join us we need your skills*. Devin received a cash prize of \$500 from the RNZIH for achieving the highest score for his speech on the night.

The year is 2030 and I'm pushing on 40. Picture me another 10 kgs here, a bit of salt and pepper, rocking that silver fox look. All of you, my lovely audience, are High School students watching me as a hologram on your smart devices.

I need you all to channel your inner youth as I talk to you about the merits and the opportunities that horticulture offers as a career path.

Horticulture needs smart people.

There have been massive changes in the industry since I first joined as a young man almost two decades ago.



Devin Westley delivering his winning speech.

Photo: www.facebook.com/YoungHortNZ.

Looking back, things now seem pretty primitive. A lot of work was done with raw manpower. Stock was counted and monitored by eye. Things were still written down with pen and paper. Many plants were potted by hand.

In the past decade there have been huge advances in technology.

On top of this the rising minimum wage has made the access to mass labour completely unaffordable.

Horticulture has had to adapt and integrate new technologies, presenting a whole plethora of challenges for a new wave of thinkers like you to solve.

I need you to invent a smart irrigation system that waters plants exactly when they need it, with near 100% water efficiency.

I need you to design a drone that can fly over my crops, scan for stock death, pests and diseases, and alert my systems to outbreaks.

I need you to write the software that takes this drone data and integrates the best cultural care, Integrated Pest Management or sprays into my crop management program.

I need you to design an autonomous robot that can pick and pack complex orders for customer dispatch.



Devin Westley receiving his Best Speech Award from Dr Keith Hammett. Photo: www.facebook.com/YoungHortNZ.

I need you to develop an AI control system to direct my mechanised workers to absolute efficiency, to control my irrigation system, saving water, and to implement my pest controls with as few chemicals as possible.

This is just a drop in the pool of problems we have yet to solve.

Our industry needs people committed to understanding and developing such technologies.

Horticulture is no longer just a manual labouring job.

We need skills.

We need engineers to service and develop our machinery.

We need scientists to help prevent pest and disease outbreaks, to develop new controls and breed the next generations of crops.

We need skilled business leaders to run the complex systems around live products.

We need innovators, lateral thinkers, people to challenge the current system, to ask the hard questions and seek the answers.

We need young horticulturists; we need you to be the future of our industry.

Devin Westley

BGANZ-NZ



BGANZ (Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand Inc.) NZ have been involved in a wide range of activities during the year. Here is a summary:

BGANZ professional development workshops BGANZ-NZ held two professional development workshops in 2018:

- 'Buildings, Artworks, Landscapes and Trees: Managing our Historic and Significant Assets', hosted by Queens Park, Invercargill, 10–11th May 2018
- Spring Seminar: 'Generating income and securing sponsorship for our gardens', hosted by Hamilton Gardens, 28th September 2018.

BGANZ Congress 2019: 'Plants from the past: plants for the future'

Planning is well underway for Wellington to host the 9th BGANZ congress from Sunday 20th to Wednesday 23rd October 2019 at Te Papa. See <https://www.confer.nz/bganz2019/> for further details.

Cook's Sesquicentenary 2019

Planning is also underway by some gardens to commemorate/highlight the significance of the botanical work of Banks and Solander as part of the 250th anniversary of Cook's arrival in Aotearoa-New Zealand.

Daniel Solander was a Swedish naturalist employed by Joseph Banks during Captain James Cook's first voyage to New Zealand (1768 to 1771). Many of our botanic gardens recently received visits by the Swedish



Captain James Cook.

Ambassador Par Ahlberger (who is based in Canberra) who wants to ensure New Zealand's connection with Sweden is promoted as part of the sesquicentenary.

Memorandum of Understanding

A MOU was signed with the National Arboretum Canberra and Wellington Botanic Garden, emphasising sharing knowledge and staff development.

Agapanthus fertility trials



Agapanthus trials at Auckland Botanic Gardens. Photo: ABG.

Agapanthus fertility and performance trials are underway in five botanic gardens (Auckland, New Plymouth, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin). These Botanic Gardens are participating in national agapanthus fertility

trials, initiated by Auckland Botanic Gardens, and in collaboration with the nursery industry, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, and others in the Agapanthus Working Group. The primary aim of these nationwide trials is to quantify the percent seed set among cultivars suspected as having low fertility, in order to confirm a list of true 'eco-friendly' cultivars.

Myrtle rust monitoring

Many of us now have gardens surrounded by myrtle rust, and if it is not in our garden already, it is very near and likely to arrive any day. One role public gardens can play is to document how garden plants (both native and exotic) are affected by myrtle rust. Karin van der Walt is part of the national myrtle rust monitoring group on behalf of botanic gardens.

Department of Conservation collaborations

BGANZ-NZ are still working through the development of the *ex situ* collections agreement with DOC for threatened native plant species, and also an *ex situ* plant conservation strategy.

Biosecurity 2025

BGANZ-NZ represented botanic gardens on the Biosecurity 2025 strategy workshops and are liaising with B3 (Better Border Biosecurity).

Young Horticulturist Competition

BGANZ-NZ continues to sponsor this competition.

Comings and goings

Welcome to Wolfgang Bopp: Wolfgang has taken up the new position of Director of Botanic Gardens and Garden Parks, Christchurch. Born in Germany, Dr Bopp studied at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in the United Kingdom before doing a six month



stint with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge. He then worked as assistant curator at the Ness Botanic Gardens, near Liverpool, before taking on the role as the first Curator at the National Botanic Gardens of Wales.



Wolfgang Bopp is the new Director of the Botanic Gardens. Photo: Christchurch City Council.

Farewell to Chris Connolly: Chris has resigned as Pukekura and Brooklyn Zoo Manager in New Plymouth.

Clare Shearman
BGANZ representative

The Christchurch City Council has approved the lease of this building, formerly used for many years as a tea kiosk/café, to the Canterbury Horticultural Society Inc. With the great support from the Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens the CHS will be able to occupy the building from March 2019.

The Vision is 'Connecting the community and the Botanic Gardens'. This will be achieved by developing a Calendar of Events throughout the year of seminars, education and training, floral design, displays, plant sales, office space, and society meetings. In conjunction with the Botanic Gardens staff there will be opportunities to work together and help promote their outreach programmes. There will be some interactive gardening and horticultural activities when the building is not booked.

This is great news for members and the public and we will be encouraging NGO's, Councils, Government Departments, commercial horticultural organisations, professional groups and suppliers to take advantage of this opportunity to promote gardening and horticulture to a wide audience.

Tea Kiosk **Christchurch Botanic Gardens**

Alan Jolliffe, President
Canterbury Horticultural Society



The Canterbury Horticultural Society will move into the Christchurch Botanic Gardens Tea Kiosk. Photo: Christchurch City Council.

NZ Arb Ronald Flook Award 2018

25th presentation of the NZ Arb Ronald Flook Award



Rob Graham being congratulated for receiving the Ronald Flook Award at the NZ Arb Annual Conference in Dunedin, 8–10th November 2018.

Winner: Robert Graham

2018 is the 25th year that the NZ Arb Ronald Flook Award has been presented. Each year the successful nominee receives the loan of the Ron Flook trophy and a cheque for \$500.

NZ Arb has named this award in honour of Nelson-based landscape architect Ron Flook for his tireless contribution to arboriculture in New Zealand through the former Notable Trees Scheme and as a firm supporter of this association since its inception in Hamilton in 1989. He will be known by many of you for his hand in the development of STEM, the Standard Tree Evaluation Method, now the most widely used and respected heritage tree assessment method in NZ. The award also recognises the high standard of his professional work and the way he used trees as significant features in his landscape designs.

This year the NZ Arb community is pleased to present the Ronald Flook Award, recognising high standards of practice in arboriculture and broader endeavours involving tree management in New Zealand – and specifically on this occasion within the field of arboricultural education – to Robert Graham of Hamilton and Wintec.

Rob has been part of the arboriculture industry since the mid-1980s, working in the UK and New Zealand. During his career he has worked in a variety of roles and this award recognises his contribution and dedication to the mentoring and training of arborists in New Zealand for the past two decades.

Rob trained as an arborist in the UK, where he attended Merrist Wood in 1987 and gained a Tree Surgery for Craftsmen certificate before returning to New Zealand and working for Wellington City Council. I am personally able to look around me and see his legacy of tree planting, management and amenity tree care still evident across that city.

Rob moved to Auckland in 1993 and started work as a project manager for Treescape where over the next three years he was involved in the formation of Arborlab, which at the time was a consultancy wing of the company.

In 1996 Rob began his tenure at Wintec working with Martin Herbert where they developed New Zealand's first full-time arboricultural training programme. In his role as the arboriculture programme coordinator he has been influential in ensuring that modern climbing techniques and tree care practices have been taught to more than 500 students who have passed through Wintec since he started there 22 years ago. Many of his former students are among us and we owe Rob a debt of gratitude for providing them with a solid foundation on which to set up their professional careers.

Skill shortages and maintaining professionalism are two of the key issues facing our industry today and Rob has dedicated himself to education and training. Diligent and committed educators like Rob are key to training the next generation of arborists and his commitment over the last 20 years has contributed in a significant way to securing the future of our industry.

His former students have gone on to be many things including world tree climbing champions, successful managers, tree climbers,

consultants, business owners and one maybe even to earn a doctorate, which is a credit to his wide breadth of skill and knowledge passed on to so many arborists over the years.

Citation prepared by Will Melville



Close-up of the Ronald Flook Award.

NZ Plant Collection Register: December 2018 update

Although it has been some time since we reported at length on the plant collection register project (www.rnzih.org.nz/Newsletter/Newsletter_December_2016.pdf), solid progress has been made behind the scenes.

In March 2017, Murray Dawson and Yvonne Baker completed for the EPA (New Zealand Environmental Protection Authority) two

extensive spreadsheets. The first was a list of >37,800 native and exotic plant names (species, cultivars, hybrids, etc.) captured from the New Zealand horticultural literature. From all of these names, we resolved as many as we could to create a list of validated plant names.

The second spreadsheet was a summary that provided a “clean” list of >7,200 accepted species names. Among other resources, we used the Taxonomic Name Resolution Service (TNRS; <http://tnrs.iplantcollaborative.org>) which provides a useful utility for batch correcting and standardising plant names.

This is time-consuming and specialised work, but undertaken with the aim of establishing presence in New Zealand of “new” species that have been potentially overlooked from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI’s) Plants Biosecurity Index (PBI; <https://www1.maf.govt.nz/cgi-bin/bioindex/bioindex.pl/>).

The EPA and Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research (MWLR) funded Murray’s work time and the RNZIH supported Yvonne.

Since then, Yvonne has been busy following a similar approach by scrutinising lists of plant collections held throughout New Zealand, also with particular emphasis on validating plant names and finding species that may have been present in New Zealand for many decades, but not listed on the PBI. So far, Yvonne has examined names derived from Auckland Botanic Gardens, Hamilton Gardens, McLaren Falls Park, and Pukeiti plant collection records.

Leading up to an August 2018 submission deadline, Murray was heavily involved through MWLR preparing a Sustainable Farming Fund (SFF) application to further this cultivated plant names work. The project summary of the application read:

“This project provides a co-ordinated and biosystematic approach to making accurate cultivated plant information readily accessible to industry,

horticulturists, regulators, and other key parties. This work will help resolve major knowledge gaps and address nationally significant economic, biosecurity, environmental and social issues. These pre- and post-border problems are well-recognised by the commercial plant production sector, plant breeders, researchers, plant experts, and regulators.”

“Benefits will include faster and more informed plant importation and regulatory decisions, improved access to new germplasm for plant production and breeding, and more effective management of biosecurity, pest plants, biocontrol, and living collections.”

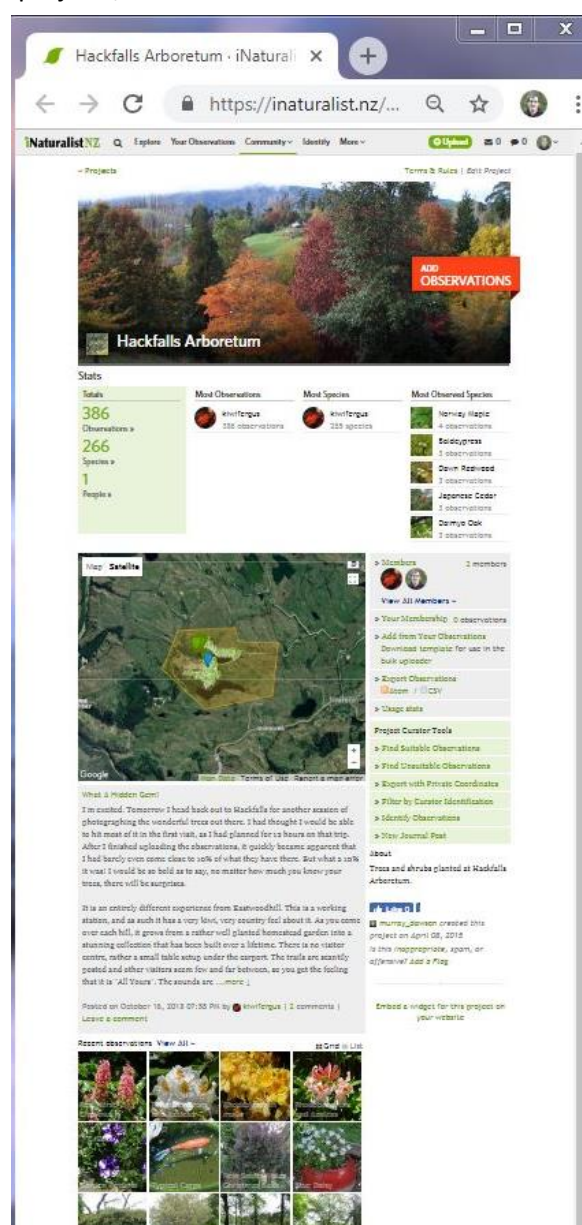
“We will achieve this by capturing and validating new names, establishing species presence in New Zealand (through an EPA Section 26) and by delivering these names through the New Zealand Organisms Register (NZOR).”

This application had the potential to significantly progress our initiatives, by more closely involving NZOR and the regulatory/government sectors (EPA, MPI, MWLR and the Allan Herbarium, and the New Zealand Intellectual Property Office Plant Variety Rights). The application also generated a groundswell of support from the horticultural industry, including the:

- Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture Inc. (RNZIH)
- Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand – NZ Region (BGANZ–NZ)
- International Dendrology Society – NZ chapter (IDS–NZ)
- International Plant Propagators’ Society – NZ Region (IPPS–NZ)
- New Zealand Plant Producers Incorporated (NZPPI)
- Orchid Council of New Zealand Inc. (OCNZ).

Alas, we were very disappointed to learn just before the 2018 Christmas break that the MWLR led application was unsuccessful. The RNZIH and other groups will carry on as best we can with more limited resources. In 2019 we intend to create an online forum from which to share information – watch this space.

On a positive note, in October 2018 the RNZIH supported Gisborne-based iNaturalist Mark Tutty to record the trees and shrubs planted at Hackfalls Arboretum. Mark did an outstanding job and added more than 380 plant collection records to the project at <https://inaturalist.nz/projects/hackfalls-arboretum>.



Hackfalls Arboretum project page at <https://inaturalist.nz/projects/hackfalls-arboretum>

In another recent development, Murray used a relatively new feature in the iNaturalist platform to create an umbrella project that usefully groups cultivated New Zealand plant collection projects together at <https://inaturalist.nz/projects/new-zealand-plant-collections>. This feature was not available when he produced the living plant collections page on the RNZIH website at www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/plantcollections.html.

Murray Dawson and Yvonne Baker
NZ Plant Collection Register Project
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