



ROYAL NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF HORTICULTURE

Newsletter

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Editor's Comments

As the year draws to a close, so too does the three-year 'Taking Stock' project managed by the RNZIH. This work has helped resolve a major lack of knowledge and poor documentation of what cultivated exotic plant species are present in New Zealand. The success of this project is thanks to collaborations with many plant experts and organisations. A summary of achievements is presented later in this newsletter.

The RNZIH NZ Education Trust should be congratulated for holding another successful Young Horticulturist Competition – now in their 17th year. The grand finals were held 8–9th November 2022, with Regan Judd (Karamu Orchard Manager for T&G Global in the Hawke's Bay) emerging as overall winner. Well done Regan and congratulations to all seven finalists.

In this newsletter we also congratulate several horticulturists, botanists, and ecologists, to recognise their varied accomplishments in recent months.

2023 marks the 100-year anniversary of the RNZIH, which, needless to say, is a major milestone. Several activities are planned to mark this centenary.

As reported in our previous newsletter, we are digitising our historic journals, bulletins, newsletters, and other publications as a centenary project. This work is proceeding thanks to a Lottery Environment and Heritage grant, and in 2023 this horticultural legacy will be freely available to all via our website.

The RNZIH are partnering with the NZ Gardens Trust for their 2023 annual conference, called



100
Years
1923–2023

'Intimate Landscapes'. This conference will be held in Wellington, 30th March to 2nd April. The RNZIH Banks Memorial Lecture will be delivered by garden historian and researcher Dr James Beattie on the first day of the conference.

The Auckland Branch of the RNZIH are planning several commemorative activities on the weekend of 29–30th July. Saturday will be based at the Auckland Domain, with a tree planting, talks, and tour of the Wintergardens planned. Sunday will be at the Auckland Botanic Gardens, where there will be several activities, including our AGM. More details to come in our next newsletter – please mark your diaries now.

It's unusual to separate our Banks Lecture from our AGM, and in different cities and dates. We will also be dividing our awards presentations between these two venues, due in part to COVID-19 disruptions over the past few years. However, having a choice of venues and activities should make it easier for us to attend at least one event, and to be able to meet again in person.

Hope to see you there and best wishes for 2023.

Murray Dawson
Editor, RNZIH

2023 RNZIH award nominations

Please contact our office (office@rnzih.org.nz) promptly if you know of an outstanding horticulturist who may be a worthy recipient for one of our awards.

Do not approach the person being nominated. More details of the RNZIH awards are at www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/awards.html.

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(s) considered to be sufficiently meritorious."
4. **Horticultural Communicator Award:** "Granted to any nominated individual within New Zealand making outstanding contributions to horticultural communication."
5. **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."

New members

We warmly welcome our new members:

Diana Whimp	WHANGAREI
Celia Ruane	MATAKANA
Jason Greiving	AUCKLAND
Mulianah Jusuf	AUCKLAND
Min Turnwald	HAMILTON
David and Judi Grey	GISBORNE
Kiyel Candy-Boland	NORSEWOOD
Jake Linklater	CHRISTCHURCH
Ronald Douglas	DARFIELD
Greg Naish	OAMARU
Dylan Norfield	WAITATI

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**New Zealand
Gardens Trust
Conference
'Intimate Landscapes'**



**Wellington and the
Wairarapa
30 March – 2 April 2023**

The organising committee are delighted to announce the details of their 2023 conference, which focuses on the diverse landscapes of the Wellington region.

Acclaimed Auckland-based landscape designer **Andy Hamilton** will deliver the keynote speech at the conference dinner.

The NZGT are collaborating with the RNZIH in offering the Banks Lecture, to be presented by **Dr James Beattie**, on the Thursday evening. Award presentations will follow the lecture.

The programme, registration form and accommodation details are at:
www.gardens.org.nz/userfiles/file/Combined%20conference%20info%2C%20reg%20and%20accomm.pdf.

**2023 Banks Memorial Lecture
(a free public lecture):**

**An Empire of Plants?:
Chinese plants, Asian/
European trade, and
Aotearoa New Zealand,
1790s–1880s**



By Associate Professor James Beattie

Venue: Begonia House (greenhouse),
Wellington Botanic Garden.

Date: Thursday, 30th March 2023.

Time: 5.30–6.30 pm.

*"Our King at Kew & the Emperor of China
at Jehol solace themselves under the
shade of the same trees & admire the
elegance of many of the same flowers in
their respective gardens."*



Abstract

Both the British Empire and the Chinese Empire were as much empires of plants as they were empires of conquest. For Joseph Banks, plant-hunting and empire-making were closely interlinked objectives which he eagerly promoted. In light of Banks' activities and the statement above about the availability of Chinese plants in Britain, this talk examines some of the manner in which imperial connections between China, India, Britain, Australia and New Zealand reveal lesser known histories of plant introductions from Asia – and particularly China – into New Zealand from the 1830s. I will focus on two groups of people who introduced Asian plants into New Zealand: the first, typified by former East India Company trader Thomas McDonnell, who settled in the Hokianga in 1830, and – the second group – comprising Cantonese migrants and gardeners, such as Dunedin flower-lover Wong Koo, who came to New Zealand from the mid-1860s.

James Beattie's Biography

James Beattie is a garden, environmental and world historian whose works focus on the Asia-Pacific region, mostly over the last two hundred years. His many books and articles explore cross-cultural exchanges occasioned by British imperialism and globalisation, especially through gardens and plant exchanges. James grew up in the Wairarapa and Yorkshire, and studied history at the University of Otago, where he gained a BA Hons (first class) and a PhD.

James is currently working on several garden-history-related projects, related to Chinese migration, garden-making, health and botanical exchange. He feels privileged to work in the area of garden history, not least because of the

many wonderful people he has met and with whom he has collaborated, as well as the magnificent gardens he has visited.

In 2022, he received the RNZIH Garden History Award (Award in Horticultural History and Conservation).

RNZIH Annual General Meeting (early notice)

Date/time: Sunday 30th July 2023, 11.00 am.

Venue: Friends Room, Auckland Botanic Gardens, Manurewa.

AGM Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies / In Memoriam
3. Minutes of the 2022 AGM
4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2022 AGM, including ratification of a revised Constitution
5. Presidents' Annual Report
6. Statement of Accounts for 2022, Budget for 2023 and confirmation of Auditor
7. Branch report (Auckland)
8. Trust reports
9. Publications and website report
10. Election of Officers
11. General Business.

The AGM will be followed by RNZIH award presentations.

Minutes, reports, and proposed revisions to our Constitution will be circulated before the AGM.

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Vance Hooper** of Magnolia Grove (Waitara, Taranaki) who continues to receive national and international acclaim for his *Magnolia* selections.



Vance and Kathryn Hooper in their show garden at Magnolia Grove.

Within New Zealand, Vance's horticultural accomplishments were profiled in the December/January 2014 issue of *Commercial Horticulture*. Also in 2014, he received the RNZIH Plant Raisers' Award for *Magnolia* 'Genie' and M. 'Cleopatra' (www.rnzih.org.nz/RNZIH_Journal/Pages_33-34_from_2014_Vol17_No1.pdf). More recently, in August 2022, his *Magnolia* breeding programme was featured in a comprehensive *NZ Gardener* article (available on Stuff at www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/homed/garden/129576855/no-genie-in-a-bottle-magnolia-breeders-awardwinning-streak).



Magnolia 'Genie', one of Vance Hooper's outstanding selections.

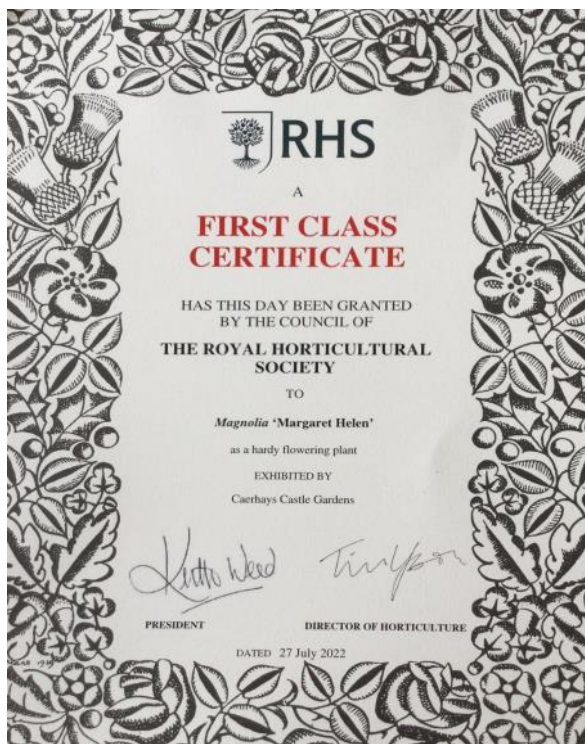
Vance's selections are well-received overseas. In 2011, *Magnolia* 'Genie' won the prestigious Best Novelty Award in the category 'Trees and Shrubs' at the International Trade Fair for plants (IPM Essen). In 2020, it won a KVBC Gold

Medal Award from the Netherlands. In England, this cultivar was featured in 'A plantsman's notebook' in the April 2022 edition of *The Garden*, monthly magazine of the British Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).



Magnolia 'Margaret Helen', named after Vance's mother and raised from a cross he made in 1987 or 1988 during his time working at Duncan and Davies.

This was followed by *Magnolia* 'Margaret Helen' receiving a First-Class Certificate from the RHS following its exhibition by Caerhays Castle Gardens in July 2022.



First Class Certificate awarded to *Magnolia* 'Margaret Helen' by the RHS.

A remarkable level of patience, a sharp eye for detail, and a lot of hard work is needed for *Magnolia* breeding. It can take 10–15 years until they first flower and at least five years to propagate and fully assess a selections' horticultural qualities.

As well as magnolias, Vance has had success breeding *Agapanthus*, *Aloe*, and *Prunus* hybrids.

Well done Vance – this past and present recognition is richly deserved.

Congratulations to **Dr Beverley Clarkson** and **Simon Walls** for receiving the prestigious Loder Cup. The Loder Cup is one of New Zealand's oldest conservation awards. It acknowledges individuals and groups who make an outstanding contribution to conserving native plants of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Dr Beverley Clarkson (Bev) is a plant ecologist based at Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, Hamilton, and is nationally renowned for her knowledge and championing of the value of New Zealand's wetlands. She has written or co-authored dozens of research papers, guides and handbooks on wetland care and restoration.



Loder Cup presentation to Dr Bev Clarkson by the then Minister of Conservation, Kiri Allan on 27th April 2022. Photo: © Peter Drury, courtesy Department of Conservation.

As a founding trustee of the National Wetland Trust, Bev continues to connect science with the public through symposia, field days,

restoration projects, events, articles, policy input, and advice.

Bev was nominated by both the University of Waikato and the Waikato Conservation Board, with supporting letters from Northland Regional Council, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, National Wetland Trust, Ministry for the Environment, and Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research.

Minister Kiri Allan presented Dr Beverley Clarkson with the Loder Cup at the Hamilton Department of Conservation office, at a small gathering which included Dr Bruce Clarkson – Bev's husband and winner of the award in 2006. Bev was awarded the cup for 2021 but was presented with it in April 2022.

Read the DOC press release at www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2022-media-releases/conservation-cup-win-runs-in-the-family/.

Simon Walls is a former Department of Conservation ranger based in Golden Bay. He first worked for the Lands and Survey Department from 1967, and then with DOC from its formation in 1987 until he retired in 2021.



Simon Walls with the Loder Cup, presented by Minister Poto Williams on 29th November 2022.
Photo: © Department of Conservation.

Simon's dedicated work to protect and restore native plants has been well above and beyond his DOC work and is continuing into his official retirement.

Such is Simon's commitment to New Zealand's native flora, he grows threatened native plants at his Golden Bay home, including *Pentapogon lacustris* (syn. *Deyeuxia lacustris*), Cook's scurvy grass (*Lepidium oleraceum*), and coastal peppergrass (*Lepidium banksii*). The cultivation of these plants helps ensure the continuation of species should they become extinct in their natural environments and provides seedlings for planting in the wild.

Simon has contributed his knowledge and skills to many restoration projects in his Golden Bay community, including a project with local landowners planting an extensive native vegetation riparian corridor on both sides of the Onekākā River.

During his fieldwork, Simon has found previously undiscovered native plant species and discovered new populations of threatened species.

He was nominated for the Loder Cup by the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board with supporting letters from Manawhenua ki Mohua, the Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology, and the Nelson Botanical Society Inc.

Minister of Conservation Poto Williams presented the Loder Cup to Simon at a ceremony at Onetahua Marae in Golden Bay in November 2022.

Read the DOC press release at www.doc.govt.nz/news/events/awards/loder-cup-award/2022-winner/.

The RNZIH used to administer the Loder Cup, before this responsibility passed on to DOC.

The RNZIH can submit awardee nominations, and we have a representative on the Loder Cup committee.

Congratulations again to **Martin Keay**, for becoming a Fellow of the RNZIH in 2022. Martin's many supporters, and members of the RNZIH, came together at Highwic, Auckland, to present him with his award certificate in person.



Martin Keay (right) receiving his FRIH certificate from RNZIH President Dr Keith Hammett at Highwic on 17th October 2022. Photo: Penny Cliffin.

Congratulations to **David Cranwell** of Havelock North, who received the International Oak Society (IOS) Special Service Award on 1st September 2022 at their 10th international conference, held at the Las Cruces Convention Center in New Mexico.



David Cranwell with a Himalayan evergreen oak in bloom. Photo: © Tim Whitaker, via www.internationaloaksociety.org/content/himalayan-oak-trust.

David was unable to attend but sent a brief acceptance video. He accepted the award on behalf of the HIMCON group (Himalaya Consortium for Himalaya Conservation), the villagers they have been working with since

2007 in the lower Himalayas, and the small group of people who make up the trust board in New Zealand.

The Special Service Award is given to individuals who have made significant contributions to the knowledge of oaks or to the advancement of the IOS's goals.



Special Service Award plaque made from a small piece of white oak (*Quercus alba*) from the last known trail marker tree in Illinois.

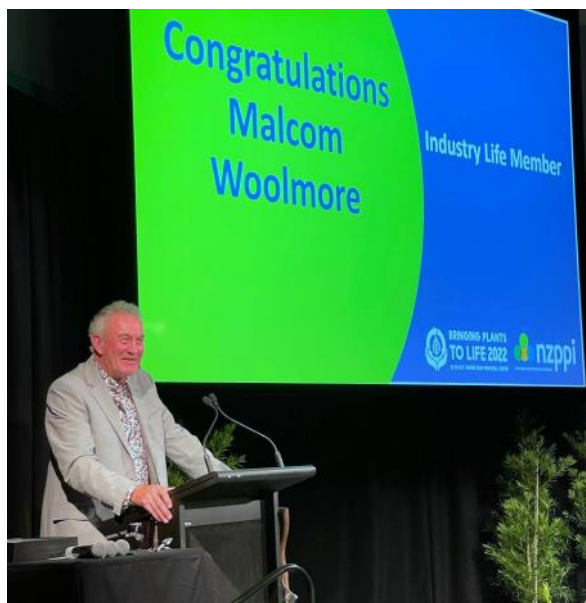
Among the contributions recognised was David's work in establishing the Himalayan Oak Trust (<http://himalayanoaks.com/>) and supporting the regeneration and rejuvenation of Himalayan evergreen oak (*Quercus leucotrichophora*, syn. *Q. oblongata*) forests in the lower Himalayas in India, as well as local community projects such as education and water conservation. The value of his efforts promoting the planting of Himalayan evergreen oak in New Zealand, both as ornamental trees and as windbreaks and remedies for soil erosion was also acknowledged.

David was among five international recipients of the Special Service Award for 2022.

Congratulations to **Malcolm Woolmore** of KiwiFlora, Auckland, for becoming a New Zealand Plant Producers Inc (NZPPI) Honorary Life Member, in recognition and appreciation of his outstanding and dedicated service to the plant production industry.

The NZPPI Board citation states that Malcolm is an accomplished and passionate horticulturist, plantsman and industry player. For more than four decades he's developed his craft, built businesses, helped shape the industry and

secured enduring relationships both in New Zealand and overseas. Malcolm's contribution to industry affairs is extensive, long and impactful. He served several terms over two decades on the NZPPI's Board, always bringing clear, insightful and practical thought to discussions, processes and decisions.



Malcolm Woolmore being recognised as an NZPPI Honorary Life Member during their October 2022 conference 'Bringing Plants to Life: Our Sustainability Story' in Napier. Photo: www.facebook.com/KiwifloraInternational/.

His impact is overwhelming, demonstrated through countless hours and personal expense given willingly to industry advocacy and promotion.

Malcolm's contributions and recognition extend beyond NZPPI: he has served on the International Plant Propagators' Society – New Zealand (IPPS–NZ) committee in numerous roles and in 2006 was the recipient of the IPPS–NZ Award of Merit. He is also a long-term supporter of the Auckland Botanic Gardens and RNZIH NZ Education Trust Young Horticulturist Competition.

The RNZIH has also recognised Malcolm's work, firstly as a Fellow of the RNZIH (FRIH) in 2019, then in 2021 with their highest award, an Associate of Honour (AHRIH).

Malcolm thoroughly deserves NZPPI's recognition through Life Membership; his contribution has been freely given, significant, and enduring.

Congratulations to **Dr Carol West**, recipient of the 2022 Allan Mere Award. The mere is a traditional Māori hand club made from pounamu (NZ greenstone). The prestigious Allan Mere is awarded by the New Zealand Botanical Society to outstanding botanists to acknowledge their contribution and work.

For more than forty years, Carol has taken on many roles to study, protect and cherish New Zealand's indigenous flora, and encouraged many others to do the same.



Anthony Wright presenting the Allan Mere to Dr Carol West, at an event held at Ōtari-Wilton's Bush, Wellington, 22nd November 2022. Photo: Tim Park.

Carol completed her MSc at the University of Auckland on the regeneration of native plants on Tiritiri Matangi Island; followed with a doctorate on the population ecology of *Beilschmiedia tawa* at Pureora Forest, commenting on the impact of logging native forest at different intensities. This was important work at a time when 'selective logging' of native forests was a controversial issue.

For her first employment, Carol joined Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial

Research in 1984 and was based for three years at the Taitā Substation. Her post-doctoral work on the impact and ecology of *Clematis vitalba* (old man's beard) aided our understanding of one of NZ's most significant pest plants.

Carol's next employment was as editor of the *New Zealand Journal of Botany* until 1992.

Her third employment was as the Conservancy Scientist for the Department of Conservation (DOC) Southland. In this role, Carol provided science advice to the DOC Southland Senior Management Team and Biodiversity staff. She was a strong advocate for protection, management, and enhancement of indigenous ecosystems in Southland and for weed control in the region, including wilding pines.

Carol returned to Wellington to continue her work with DOC as the Threats Management Manager and then Director Terrestrial Ecosystems. As part of this work, Carol played a significant role in the Kermadecs flora where she has collected and recorded the plants and monitored plots and pest incursions for many years. In 2017, Carol 'retired' to the position of Honorary Research Associate of DOC, keen to work on writing and publishing her research, particularly her work on the Kermadec Islands.

Outside of her official roles, Carol has contributed to many organisations that study and protect our native flora. While in Invercargill, she was a founding member of the Ōtatara Landcare Group and was actively involved with the Southland Natural History Field Club. In Wellington, she is an avid supporter of Ōtari-Wilton's Bush, the only botanic garden dedicated to New Zealand native plants. She has led many tours through the garden and bush, raising both funds and awareness, and has been Chairperson of the Ōtari-Wilton's Bush Trust since July 2020. Carol has been an active and enthusiastic member of the Wellington Botanical Society for more than 30 years where she has served on their committee as secretary, president, and vice-president. She is also a founding member of the New Zealand Botanical Society and has served on its committee since 1988.

You can read more about Carol's achievements at www.nzbotanicalsociety.org.nz/pages/Allan_Mere_Award-2022.html.

Congratulations to **Rob Somerfield** of Tauranga for his continuing success breeding award-winning roses.



Rob Somerfield (second right) with his wife Linda (second left), their daughter Kate, and their nephew Fraser Clarke, holding the five awards he won for breeding roses. Photo: Danielle Zollickhofer, *Waikato Herald*.

In 2017, Rob received the RNZIH Plant Raisers' Award for four of his selections: *Rosa* 'Scent to Remember', 'Pacific Glory', 'Looking Good', and 'Christchurch Remembers'.

In 2018, Rob's rose 'Little Miss Perfect' won the Rose of the Year and Best Floribunda Rose titles.

In 2019, Rob had major successes in the New Zealand Rose of the Year awards, winning the coveted Rose of the Year in 2019 for 'Everlasting Hope' which also won the Best Shrub Rose title. The same year, he also won Best Hybrid Tea Rose for 'Diamond Design', and Most Fragrant Rose and Best Floribunda Rose for 'Skyla Rose'.

In November 2022, Rob repeated his successes, winning the Pacific Rose Bowl for the seventh time and claiming four of the seven other awards.

The annual New Zealand Rose of the Year rose trial is the key part of the Pacific Rose Bowl Festival. The festival and trials are held at the Rogers Rose Garden at Hamilton Gardens.

The Pacific Rose Bowl is the only rose trial in the world that has a public voting system; all others are judged by panels of experts.

Rob won the Pacific Rose Bowl for the New Zealand Rose of the Year (2022) for his rose 'Strawberry Blonde'.



Rosa 'Strawberry Blonde', bred by Rob Somerfield is the New Zealand Rose of the Year. This selection also won the Best New Zealand Raised Rose and the Children's Choice award in 2018. Photo: Danielle Zollickhofer, *Waikato Herald*.

His rose 'Ink Spot' was voted by the public as the Best New Zealand Raised Rose, Best Floribunda Rose, and Children's Choice award. This selection is predominantly white with a dark purple spot around the stamen.



Rob Somerfield's rose 'Ink Spot', which won three awards in 2022. Photo: Danielle Zollickhofer, *Waikato Herald*.

Rob also won the Best Hybrid Tea Rose for 'Tabasco'.

Rob has been breeding roses for 39 years and credits his grandfather with getting him into roses. Together with his wife Linda, Rob runs



Rob Somerfield's rose 'Tabasco'. Photo: Danielle Zollickhofer, *Waikato Herald*.

Glenavon Roses in Te Puna which grows around 55,000 roses a year for the wholesale market.

Danielle Zollickhofer, journalist for the *Waikato Herald*, wrote a comprehensive account of Rob's latest achievements. This is available at www.nzherald.co.nz/waikato-news/news/nz-rose-of-the-year-tauranga-rose-breeder-cleans-up-pacific-rose-bowl-festival-awards/MPH006MRKXZB2A6VK47HQQW43HE/.

RNZIH Education Trust

The 2022 Young Horticulturist Competition



Regan Judd, overall winner of the 2022 Young Horticulturist Competition. Photo: © RNZIH NZ Education Trust.



The seven finalists of the 2022 Young Horticulturist Competition. From left to right: Sam Bain, Jodie McDonnell, Solomon Caldwell, Guillaume Chabbert, Regan Judd, Amy Clark, Courtney Chamberlain.
Photo: © RNZIH NZ Education Trust.

The RNZIH Education Trust are thrilled to announce **Regan Judd** as the winner of the 2022 Young Horticulturist Competition! Also, congratulations to all our 2022 Finalists – they were exceptional in this years' Competition.

This year we had seven Sector Finalists, including NZ Arboriculture for their second year, competing in the 2022 Competition held on 8th & 9th November followed by our Grand Final Awards Dinner on the evening of the 9th November at the Karaka Bloodstock, Auckland. This was the event's seventeenth Competition.

The Competition is seen as a premier event in the Horticulture Industry, and the Grand Final Awards Dinner is attended by guests representing a cross section of the horticulture industry including sponsors, suppliers, sector association representatives, as well as finalist's employers, friends and family. It was wonderful to celebrate this years' 2022 Competition with 240 guests at the Awards Dinner; this was a highly anticipated event after having a break in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Results from the 2022 Young Horticulturist Competition

2022 Young Horticulturist of the Year Winner: Regan Judd. Regan is the Karamu Orchard Manager for T&G Global in the Hawke's Bay.



Winners of the 2022 Young Horticulturist Competition: (left to right) 2nd Place, Sam Bain; 1st Place, Regan Judd; 3rd Place, Courtney Chamberlain.
Photo: © RNZIH NZ Education Trust.

Second: Sam Bain. Sam is the Vineyard Manager at Springhill Vineyard for Villa Maria Estates.

Third: Courtney Chamberlain. Courtney is a Flower Grower at the Hadstock Farm in Canterbury.

The Countdown Innovation Project winners

First: Courtney Chamberlain. Courtney's project was a design a Price Scanning App to price bouquets in the retail business by scanning a bouquet from your phone/device which would then give you a retail price.



Glenn Bewley from Countdown (left) presenting the first-place project award to Courtney Chamberlain. Photo: © RNZIH NZ Education Trust.

Second: Jodie McDonnell. Jodie's Plant by Place website and app allowed commercial and community gardeners to search for native plants via a filtered search function encouraging use of native plants in commercial and amenity spaces and use of less known native plants.

Third: Amy Clark. Amy's Pine Pots project created a new biodegradable pot that is more sustainable and eco-friendlier being made from pine needle and potato starch materials.



Glenn Bewley presenting the second-place award to Jodie McDonnell. Photo: © RNZIH NZ Education Trust.



Glenn Bewley presenting the third-place award to Amy Clark. Photo: © RNZIH NZ Education Trust.

2022 Individual Award Winners

T&G Practical Activities Award: Regan Judd, for the highest overall practical activities score during the Grand Final. Regan won a \$3,500 travel scholarship.

Fruitfed Supplies Leadership Award: Courtney Chamberlain. Courtney won a \$2,500 scholarship towards a Leadership or Outward Bound course.

Bayer Best Practice Award: Regan Judd, for the highest score in a range of Grand Final activities

with a focus on crop management and sustainability practices received a \$2,500 scholarship.

RNZIH Best Speech Award: Sam Bain, won a \$750 cash award.



Dr Keith Hammett, President of the RNZIH (left), presenting the Best Speech Award to Sam Bain. Photo: © RNZIH NZ Education Trust.

Horticulture Trust Community Engagement Award: Courtney Chamberlain, won a \$1,500 cash prize.

Countdown Best in Sector Award: Courtney Chamberlain, won a \$3,000 cash prize.

Countdown Award: Each finalist received a \$500 award for perseverance and commitment to the competition.



See the RNZIH NZ Education Trust December 2022 Newsletter at www.younghort.co.nz/news/15-12-2022/december-2022-newsletter/ for full details.

2023 IPPS Conference:
‘Navigating the Waves – Plotting your Course’



Parnell Hotel and Conference Centre
10-20 Gladstone Road, Parnell, Auckland
20–23rd April 2023

The International Plant Propagators’ Society – New Zealand are pleased to invite you all to join them in beautiful Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland for their 2023 Conference and Tour.

After two years of cancellations and disruption, what lies ahead? Smooth sailing or stormy seas?

To navigate successfully through opportunities and challenges that lie ahead we need to use all our knowledge, experience and skills to grow and value our relationships with each other.

Speakers include:

- **Jack Hobbs**, who will officially open the conference and talk on ‘Plant Breeding at the Auckland Botanic Gardens’
- **Ross Bicknell** (Plant and Food Research) ‘Grape Rootstock Research’
- **Jeff Elliott** ‘Navigating the Importation Process’
- **Dr Revel Drummond** (Plant and Food Research) ‘Gene Editing’
- **Chris Barnaby** ‘New Treaty-related requirements for protecting native plant varieties’
- **Ian Swan** ‘Experiences and trials growing rhododendrons in straight coir and coir bark mixes’
- **Peter Brass** ‘Life after retirement’
- **Hayden Foulds** ‘50 years of International Rose Trials’
- **Amy Clark**, the 2022 Young Achiever will talk about her experiences winning this and then competing in the Young Horticulturist Competition.

Field trips in the Auckland area include Zealandia Horticulture, Nga Rakau Nurseries, Waimea Plant Production, Blooming Hill Flowers, and Auckland Botanic Gardens to

name a few, giving you a great cross section of plant propagation and growing environments.

Catch up with old friends and colleagues, enjoy learning new ways to 'plotting your course' and make new connections while enjoying all that Auckland has to offer.

Register online at:

<https://ipps.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=11ae26a7aa6db89e2ee6c2ca9&id=3d169cbe&e=1527ac30cc>.

Download post-conference tour details at:

<https://ipps.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=11ae26a7aa6db89e2ee6c2ca9&id=401c6c0272&e=1527ac30cc>.

This conference is open to RNZIH members. Please contact Hayden Foulds at haydenfoulds@gmail.com if you have difficulties registering online.

'Taking Stock': Resolving New Zealand's cultivated plants problem

This three-year project officially ends 20th January 2023, so it is timely to report on what has been achieved over this period.

Background and issues to address

To recap, this project was undertaken to help resolve a major lack of knowledge and poor documentation of what cultivated plant species are present in New Zealand. The ultimate goal is to facilitate better management of NZ's cultivated plant resources.

As stated in our successful application to the Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures fund, improved resolution of what exotic species are present achieves better plant importation and regulation decisions, and more effective plant breeding, production, biosecurity, and pest plant management.

Many of these issues arose as a consequence of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms

(HSNO) Act 1996, and were highlighted during a workshop Documenting New Zealand's cultivated flora: "A supermarket with no stock inventory" held in September 2009.

These issues were more recently reiterated in the November 2021 Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment 'Space invaders' report, that called for an up-to-date and authoritative list of all exotic plant species growing in NZ.

It's widely known that numerous species have been present in NZ for many decades but are missing from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI's) Plants Biosecurity Index, much to the frustration of growers and importers. Little progress was being made, and very few plant species were being submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) each year.

Compounding this problem, Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research's (MWLR's) BiotaNZ database prioritised native plant species, followed by naturalised (weedy) species, with little attention paid to the cultivated-only exotic species. Exotic species was also a recognised data gap in the New Zealand Organisms Register (NZOR).

Approach

We captured plant names from botanic gardens/arboreta stock lists, specialist publications, and herbarium specimens, identified the exotic, cultivated species (as opposed native species and numerous cultivars), then fully resolved botanical names and identities (determining what species names are currently accepted, and evaluating evidence for their presence in NZ).

Once resolved, names and references for key species were added to MWLR's BiotaNZ database to make them publicly accessible.

Our second main approach was to submit the best evidence-based cases of horticulturally important species for presence in NZ determinations to the EPA (via Section 26 applications).

What did we achieve?

- The project was successful, and we delivered on all our agreed milestones.
- We captured thousands of plant names drawing from a horticultural dataset of more than 300,000 NZ records.
- A 'Taking Stock' database was created, containing 225,412 records and aggregating stock lists from seven NZ major botanic gardens and arboreta.
- 1,924 new names of exotic cultivated plants have been added (nearly the same number as all native NZ vascular plant species), and 2,488 records have been updated in BiotaNZ. All botanical names added to BiotaNZ are fully resolved with a classification (placed in a hierarchy of Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species etc.), author authorities (author of that name, year, and publication), synonyms, biostatus (i.e., exotic and cultivated for this project), and any common names. Full resolution requires in-depth research of each botanical name. Names added to the BiotaNZ database are automatically federated to the NZOR.
- Four applications were submitted to the EPA comprising 130 species (134 taxa). This required a high threshold of evidence for presence in NZ. We prioritised species important to our interest groups. We plan to prepare further applications in 2023.
- What we achieved should be considered a first (but major) step towards fully resolving the cultivated plants problem – there remains much to do in recognising all cultivated plant species that are present in New Zealand. This is technical and time-consuming work that is easily underestimated.

What difference has this project made to our interest groups?

This project had strong collaborations between researchers (MWLR, Massey University, Scion), horticulturists (botanic gardens and arboreta, the RNZIH, industry associations and horticultural societies), the EPA and MPI.

Dr Marion MacKay's (Massey University) close connections with Pukeiti (one of the world's largest and most diverse collections of rhododendrons and other exotics) resulted in the 'official' recognition of many species that they grow (through additions to BiotaNZ and EPA Section 26 applications). Marion was also a very effective Chairperson and heavily involved in preparing the EPA submissions.

Murray Dawson's (MWLR and RNZIH) taxonomic expertise and strong linkages with botanic gardens and the horticultural community provided effective communication and project management. Murray was heavily involved in resolving and providing plant names for addition to the BiotaNZ database.

Glenys MacCrae (Orchid Council of NZ) worked closely with the project team to provide a comprehensive set of exotic orchid names of species present in NZ but missing from BiotaNZ and the PBI, and prepared a comprehensive Section 26 application to submit to the EPA. Glenys made a huge voluntary contribution to our project.

We also developed a close working relationship with Kathryn Hurr of the NZ Plant Producers Inc (NZPPI), and several species of interest to them were researched and will soon be added to an EPA application.

We also fostered working relationships with botanic gardens and arboreta in NZ, for the purpose of documenting species in their past and present collections.

Formal recognition and documentation of numerous species as being present in NZ before 1998 removes the fear of investigation and prosecution associated with growing and selling species not previously listed on the PBI, and facilitates their importation (assuming phytosanitary requirements are also met).

Where to from here – what are the next steps?

Although we have already met the agreed project milestones to deliver three tranches of Section 26 submissions to the EPA, for 2023 we

will extend our delivery by including several additional applications for presence in NZ determinations:

- 25 taxa from various genera, prepared by Marion MacKay (Massey University) and including four species researched by Kathryn Hurr (NZPPI).
- 25 species of exotic orchids, prepared by Glenys MacRae (OCNZ).
- Possible further submissions, including *Hoya* species, compiled by a specialist grower.

We also plan to facilitate publication of several comprehensive checklists as part of an extended delivery:

MacKay, M.; Smith, G.; Brooker, A.; Catt, P.; Dawson, M. 2021: Checklist of *Rhododendron* subgenus *Vireya* in New Zealand.

MacKay, M.B.; Smith, G.F.; Brooker, A.; Catt, P.; Davies, S.E.; Thomson, D.; Dawson, M. 2023: Checklist of *Rhododendron* species (excluding *Vireya*) recorded in cultivation in New Zealand.

MacRae, G. 2022: Orchid Council of New Zealand (OCNZ) checklist of exotic orchid species in New Zealand.

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