



Volume 26, Number 2  
December 2023

**Principal Editor**  
Murray Dawson

**Associate Editor**  
Andrew Maloy

**Contributors**  
Isabella Kerby

Ross Ferguson

**Typesetting**  
June E Lincoln

**Production**  
The Selwyn Printing Company  
<https://www.selwynprint.co.nz>.  
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**Editorial Address**  
Murray Dawson  
c/o Landcare Research  
PO Box 69040, Lincoln 7640, New Zealand  
Ph: (03) 321 9645 Fax: (03) 325 2418  
Email: [dawsonm@rnzih.org.nz](mailto:dawsonm@rnzih.org.nz)

ISSN 1173-7425 (Print)  
ISSN 1179-9153 (Online)

For Membership information please write to:  
Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture,  
PO Box 85012, Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand  
Email: [office@rnzih.org.nz](mailto:office@rnzih.org.nz) Website: [www.rnzih.org.nz](http://www.rnzih.org.nz)

**Front Cover**  
Plate of early New Zealand nursery catalogue covers and pages: D. Hay & Son, 1899; Nimmo & Blair, 1907; Yates, 1926; Yates, 1928.

## From the Editors

On the weekend of 29–30th July 2023, members of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (RNZIH) gathered in Auckland to celebrate 100 years of the Institute. It is fitting then that this issue continues our focus on horticultural histories in Aotearoa New Zealand, to further commemorate the centenary of the RNZIH.

Isabella Kerby presents the second part of her series of profiles on early New Zealand nurserymen and seedsmen by profiling six Otago nurseries and their founders: William Martin, George Matthews, Thomas Allan, William Reid, Charles Sonntag, and Nimmo & Blair. In our last issue, Isabella covered early seed merchants and nursery men and women from Canterbury. These profiles draw upon the substantial collection of nursery catalogues held at Lincoln University Library.

Next, Dr Ross Ferguson explores the origin of early New Zealand fruit selections, based largely on a series of hard to obtain notes and articles published in the *New Zealand Herald* and *Fruit and Produce*.

Congratulations to our RNZIH award recipients for 2023. We have three new associates (Noelyn Parr, Ron Beatson and Chris Barnaby), one new fellow (Josie Martin), a plant raiser (Denis Hughes), and a new horticultural communicator (Jo McCarroll). Although it is customary to publish their full citations the same year they were awarded, we will have to wait for our next journal in June 2024 to honour them fully. In truth, we simply ran out of space for this issue.

**Murray Dawson and Andrew Maloy**

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### **The 'Seeds of Industry', Part Two: prospering the nursery and seed trade in early Otago**

Isabella Kerby presents the second part of her profiles on early New Zealand nurserymen and seedsmen. Here, six Otago nurseries and their founders are profiled.

**2 William Martin (1823–1905), pioneer nurseryman and seedsman of Fairfield, Otago**

**5 George Matthews (1812–1884), pioneer nurseryman of Moray Place and Hawthorn Hill Nurseries, Dunedin**

**11 Thomas Allan (1835–1926), nurseryman of Dunedin**

**16 William Reid (1834–1909), seedsman, florist, and nurseryman of Dunedin**

**21 Charles Sonntag (1822–1897), nurseryman of Kaikorai, Dunedin**

**26 Nimmo & Blair, seed merchants and growers of Dunedin**

**31 The origin of New Zealand fruits: the publications of Albert Farmer**

Ross Ferguson uncovers the origin of several New Zealand fruit selections, drawing mainly upon a series of about 50 papers and notes from the late Bert Farmer, dating from the 1950s to 1970s.