

Fellow of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (FRIH)

Alan John Matchett



Alan Matchett, Fellow (FRIH) of the RNZIH for 2022.

A Fellowship is bestowed on members who have made a significant contribution to horticulture by their activities or interest in or service to horticulture.

Alan Matchett began his career in horticulture in 1980 with Dunedin City Council Parks Department and shortly after signing up as a horticultural apprentice. After completing his apprenticeship qualifying with Trades Certificate, Alan took up the position of Leading Hand of the Dunedin Botanic Garden Rhododendron Dell. Also completing his National Certificate in Horticulture, Alan moved on to the position of Upper Botanic Garden Foreman which then led to a more

extensive role as Overseer-Botanic Garden incorporating responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the Botanic Garden. Alan remained in this role for 15 years along with changes in job title, Botanic Garden Manager then Collections Manager.

In 2001, with new responsibilities including management of the Dunedin City crematorium and cemeteries the position title changed to Team Leader. Another change in 2011 removed the crematorium and cemeteries from Alan's role and the focus returned to solely manage Dunedin Botanic Garden. In 2020 Alan had another role title change and he is currently Botanic Garden Manager responsible for management and leadership of the NZ Gardens Trust Six-Star Dunedin Botanic Garden.

Over his 42 years with Dunedin City Council and the botanic garden, Alan has had many notable achievements. These include collecting trips to China (1992) and Chatham Islands (1996) bringing seed back to expand the plant collections at Dunedin, re-establishing the pathway of horticulture trade training and youth

engagement in the early 2000s, presenting papers at various Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) Congress's, celebrating Dunedin Botanic Gardens' 150th anniversary in 2013 (and delivering the RNZIH Banks Memorial Lecture – 'The History of Botanic Gardens in New Zealand'), managing the replacement of the Plant Propagation and Nursery Facility 2013–2015, and, most notably, securing the rights and hosting the prestigious 5th BGCI Global Botanic Garden and 6th BGANZ Congress's in 2013.

Alan has served as Chairman of the BGANZ NZ Regional Group (2009–2013), BGANZ Council NZ Vice President (2009–2013), and is currently a BGANZ NZ Executive Committee Member (from 2005) and BGANZ Assistant Editor for the BOTANIC GARDENER publication (from 2013).

Alan and his wife Jane have been joint members of the RNZIH since 2014.

**Citation prepared by
Barbara Wheeler**

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Gordon Frank Bailey



Gordon Bailey, Fellow (FRIH) of the RNZIH for 2022.

Gordon Bailey has had a long and varied career in parks and recreation in the southern regions of the South Island. Born and educated in Waimate, Gordon's career in horticulture was inevitable as his parents and grandparents were keen gardeners and, from an early age, Gordon and his two brothers were press-ganged into mowing and weeding the five-acre block his parents owned near Waimate township. The brothers were keen competitors in everything they did including growing and exhibiting daffodils at the local shows. They all had their own rows of bulbs which were guarded intensely.

Just up the road was the well known garden of Centewood developed by the late Mrs W.J. Hayes and during Gordon's first year at high school his mother was approached to see if he was interested in mowing lawns there after school. Just before Gordon started work there, he was invited to view a new *Rhododendron* that Mrs Hayes had bred, called *R. 'Joybells'*, which was flowering for the first time. Meeting Graham Smith from Pukeiti that day, along with the fact that Mrs Hayes was a good teacher to a young person keen to learn, sparked Gordon's enduring interest in rhododendrons and associated woodland plants.