

2009 Young Horticulturist of the Year

Congratulations to the winners of the New Zealand Horticulture ITO Young Horticulturist of the Year competition.

The Grand Final was held over two days – Thursday 5th November and Friday 6th November 2009.

On Thursday the finalists gave presentations to support a written project, the AGMARDT Market Innovation Project, which they had completed leading up to the Grand Final.

Friday was a series of desk based and practical activities held at the Auckland Botanic Gardens, Manurewa. There was an awards dinner held in the evening at the Rendezvous Hotel (formerly the Carlton Hotel) in Auckland City.

The list of winners is as follows:

Overall winner: Caine Thompson, Viticulturist from Mission Estate winery in Hawkes Bay.

Second place: Erin Farrow, Landscaper for Glorious Gardens, Auckland.

Third place: Pip McVicar, Sales and Marketing Manager at Conifer Grove, New Plymouth.

Winner of the Leadership NZ Course: Caine Thompson.

AGMARDT Market Innovation Project:

Winner: Caine Thompson with a project on a clip-on machine/device to carry out virus scanning in the vineyard.

Second place: Laura McGuire, Florist from Christchurch with a project on a recyclable florist material.

Third place: Pip McVicar with a project on an interactive website re-launching conifers.



Caine Thompson



Erin Farrow



Pip McVicar

Best Overall Speech: Caine Thompson.

Best Overall Practical Activities Score from Friday: Marc Higgin, Arborist from Wanganui.

This year was a great competition with some outstanding results. We wish Caine well with an exciting year ahead in 2010 and in his travels, he plans to visit Europe and in particular Italy to view their wine production.