

agreed: “Russell’s success in developing this red cultivar has again enabled the New Zealand kiwifruit industry to provide the market with a new, distinctive, great-tasting fruit which will strengthen kiwifruit’s share of the global fruit bowl in the years to come.”

In addition to these successes, Russell identified ‘Kaimai’ as a rootstock, selected the green-fleshed ‘Tomua’ and the associated pollenisers, ‘King’ and ‘Ranger’, the polleniser ‘Russell’, and he participated in the programme that led to the selection of the rootstock ‘Bounty71’.

Russell has developed longstanding and valuable relationships with research colleagues in China, especially at the Sichuan Provincial Natural Resources Research Institute based in Chengdu. These relationships have contributed to a valuable exchange of plant material, with lasting benefits for the

New Zealand kiwifruit improvement programmes.

The successful breeding, selection and promotion of a new cultivar involves cooperation between researchers, growers, and marketers. The acceptance by industry and the successful marketing of a new cultivar is the ultimate attainment. To be involved in the selection of a remarkably successful cultivar such as ‘Hort16A’ is the dream of any plant breeder. To follow this up with the breeding and selection of another “game-changing” product such as ‘Zesy002’ and then to have another selection ‘Zes008’ accepted for commercialisation shows that the original selection of ‘Hort16A’ was not simply a lucky chance. Russell Lowe can be counted as one of New Zealand’s most successful fruit breeders. He ranks with giants of New Zealand horticulture as Hayward Wright and Don McKenzie. Russell Lowe has made huge contributions to the kiwifruit industry and to the

welfare of New Zealand. These have been recognised by the kiwifruit industry in awarding him in 2012 the inaugural Hayward Medal and the 2020 Kiwifruit Innovation Award. He was a leading member of Plant & Food Research’s Psa Response Team that won the Prime Minister’s Science Prize in 2017. In 2020, the RNZIH awarded him the Plant Raisers’ Award. In early December 2020, he was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Science New Zealand National Awards.

For his exceptional contributions to the New Zealand kiwifruit industry, especially the development of outstanding cultivars which have enabled the rapid growth of the industry, we now congratulate Russell George Lowe on being elected an Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture.

**Citation prepared by  
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## Erratum

The printed version of the December 2020 *New Zealand Garden Journal* (ISSN 1173-7425) was mislabelled Vol. 24 (No. 2). The correct number is Vol. 23 (No. 2).

The PDF (online) version of this issue (ISSN 1179-9153) will be correct when it is uploaded to our website ([www.rnzih.org.nz](http://www.rnzih.org.nz)).

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