

# 2021 Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture Awards

## Garden History Award (Award in Horticultural History and Conservation)

### Allan Ross Ferguson



Dr A.R. Ferguson, recipient of the RNZIH Garden History Award for 2021. Photo: Penny Cliffin.

Dr A.R. (Ross) Ferguson has a long and distinguished association with the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture, serving as vice president, and becoming an Associate of Honour in 1998.

He is perhaps the only person to have presented the prestigious Banks Memorial Lecture twice, on topics of horticultural history. In his 2008 lecture, “Sir Joseph Banks and the transfer of crop plants”, Dr Ferguson provided a fascinating account of botanist Joseph Banks and his efforts to bring new crops to Britain and its colonies. In 2019 he presented “The domestication and successful commercialisation of kiwifruit”. This second lecture summarised a series of his papers, providing a detailed account of the domestication of the kiwifruit from when it was a wild plant in China to where it is today, an important fruit plant in many countries. This story is of particular relevance to New Zealand since it was in this country that the kiwifruit first became a commercial crop. His papers describe the various steps in the kiwifruit’s domestication. It is

most unusual for almost every step between wild plant and commercial crop to be known and his study of kiwifruit domestication is now recognised as a definitive account. Several of his more specific kiwifruit papers have appeared in the RNZIH *New Zealand Garden Journal*, e.g., a biography of Hayward Wright, selector of the kiwifruit cultivar most widely grown throughout the world, and an account of the renaming of the Chinese gooseberry, as it was called for many years, as the kiwifruit (see references under ‘Kiwifruit history’).

Dr Ferguson has an interest in botanical art and in florilegia, particularly of the 18th century. An account of the Banks’ Florilegium was published in the RNZIH journal several years ago and was republished by the *New Zealand Herald* as being of general interest. Two more recent papers, on 18th century illustrations of New Zealand plants, have been published in the RNZIH journal (see references under ‘Florilegia’).

A study of the history of horticulture in New Zealand can be facilitated by examining the activities of individual horticulturists and horticultural researchers. Dr Ferguson has been involved in the preparation of a remarkable number of citations, more than 40, for various RNZIH awards as well as others. Dr Ferguson was not named as a compiler for most of these citations, which we acknowledge here in the list that follows. He has also written comprehensive obituaries for more than ten distinguished horticulturists and horticultural scientists. As a result, their achievements have been placed on permanent record.

**Citation prepared by  
Murray Dawson and  
Andrew Maloy**

### **Selected list of horticultural history and related publications by A.R. Ferguson**

#### **Banks Memorial Lectures**

- Ferguson, A.R. (2008). The 2008 Banks Memorial Lecture: Sir Joseph Banks and the transfer of crop plants. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 11(2): 9–15.
- Ferguson, A.R. (2019). The 2019 Banks Memorial Lecture: The domestication and successful commercialisation of kiwifruit. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 22(2): 11–18.

#### **Kiwifruit history**

- Ferguson, A.R. (1983). E.H. Wilson, Yichang and the kiwifruit. *Arnoldia* 43(4): 24–35.
- Ferguson, A.R. (1983). Hayward Reginald Wright: Nurseryman, the importer and raiser of new fruits. *Annual Journal of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture* 11: 36–56.
- Ferguson, A.R. (1986). Augustine Henry. (Book review). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 24: 673–675.
- Ferguson, A.R. (1989). E.H. Wilson: A Victorian plant collector. *New Zealand Kiwifruit* 62: 9.
- Ferguson, A.R. (1989). The first kiwifruit nurserymen. *New Zealand Kiwifruit* 63: 17.
- Ferguson, A.R. (1990). The first commercial kiwifruit orchard. *New Zealand Kiwifruit* 64: 9.
- Ferguson, A.R. (1990). The Luther Burbank of New Zealand. *New Zealand Kiwifruit* 65: 16.
- Ferguson, A.R. and Bollard, E.G. (1990). Domestication of the kiwifruit. Pp. 165–246 + 3 plates. In: Warrington, I.J. and Weston, G.C. (eds.). *Kiwifruit: Science and management*. Auckland, Ray Richards Publisher in association with the New Zealand Society for Horticultural Science.

- Ferguson, A.R. (1995). Kiwifruit: *Actinidia* (Actinidiaceae). pp 1–4. In: Smartt, J. and Simmonds, N.W. (eds.). Evolution of crop plants. 2nd edn. Essex, UK, Longman Scientific & Technical.
- Ferguson, [A.]R. (2001). The legacy of Hayward Wright. *The Orchardist of New Zealand* 74(4): 34, 35.
- Ferguson, [A.]R. (2004). Science and the success of the kiwifruit industry. *The Orchardist of New Zealand* 77(2): Kiwifruit centennial insert: 7–11.
- Ferguson, A.R. (2004). 1904 – the year that kiwifruit (*Actinidia deliciosa*) came to New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Crop and Horticultural Science* 32: 3–27.
- Ferguson, A.R. (2005). Why were kiwifruit initially successful only in New Zealand? *Acta Horticulturae* 694: 223–227.
- Ferguson, A.R. and Huang, H.-W. (2007). Genetic resources of kiwifruit: Domestication and breeding. *Horticultural Reviews* 33: 1–121.
- Ferguson, A.R. (2011). Kiwifruit: Evolution of a crop. (Opening address 7th International Symposium on Kiwifruit 2010). *Acta Horticulturae* 913: 31–42.
- Ferguson, [A.]R. (2011). The kiwifruit story. Pp. 103–107. In: [Moughan, P.J. and McCool, P. (eds.).] Floreat Scientia: Celebrating New Zealand's scientific agrifood innovation. Auckland, New Zealand, Wairau Press [Random House].
- Ferguson, A.R. (2020). Changing names: Tamarillo and kiwifruit. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 23(1): 4–8. Republished by request as Ferguson, [A.]R. (2021). Inside the name game. The evolution of the kiwifruit moniker. *New Zealand Kiwifruit No. 265 (February/March 2021)*: 47–53.
- Florilegia**
- Ferguson, [A.]R. (1993). The Banks' Florilegium. *The Auckland Garden (Spring 1993)*: 3–4.
- Ferguson, A.R. (2000). Joseph Pierre Buc'hoz. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 3(2): 12–14.
- Ferguson, [A.]R. (2012). Book reviews: The western tradition of botanical illustration, comprising: The golden age of flowers by Celia Fisher, Flora mirabilis by Catherine Herbert Howell, Botanical riches by Richard Aitken and The golden age of botanical art by Martyn Rix. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 15(2): 30–33.
- Ferguson, [A.]R. (2017). From the Library – the Temple of Flora. *The Auckland Garden (December 2017)*: 17, 18.
- Ferguson, A.R. (2017). Book review: Joseph Banks' Florilegium. Botanical treasures from Cook's first voyage. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 20(2): 31–33. (Shortened version published as Ferguson, R. (2018). Banks' lifework blossoms. *New Zealand Herald*, Weekend, 3 February 2018: 16.)
- Ferguson, A.R. (2020). The kōwhai and mānuka: Mary Delany's "paper mosaicks". *New Zealand Garden Journal* 23(2): 23–27.
- Ferguson, A.R. (2021). The first published illustrations of New Zealand plants. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 24(1): 6–16. (This issue.)
- Camellia history**
- Ferguson, A.R. (1993). The most popular camellia of all. *New Zealand Camellia Bulletin* 18(2): 13–16; (3): 38–43.
- Ferguson, A.R. (1994). Camellias in old nursery catalogues. *New Zealand Camellia Bulletin* 18(5): 33–38; (6): 35–39.
- Ferguson, [A.]R. (2016). Congratulations, Neville Haydon QSM. *New Zealand Camellia Bulletin* 29(6): 20–22. (Reprinted in *International Camellia Journal No. 48*: 104–106.)
- Ferguson, [A.]R. (2019). The Chinese rose. *New Zealand Camellia Bulletin* 31(2): cover, ii.
- Ferguson, [A.]R. (2019). Thea, Camellia, Camel, Camellus and Kamel. What's in a name? *New Zealand Camellia Bulletin* 31(2): 12–14.
- Obituaries**
- Ferguson, A.R. (1995). Li Lairong (Li Lai-yung). *Proceedings of The Royal Society of New Zealand 1991–95*: 132.
- Ferguson, A.R. (2004). Jean Veal. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 7(1): 22.
- Ferguson, A.R. (2007). Jacqueline Nancy Mary Adams CBE, QSO. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 10(1): 25–26.
- Davison, S. and Ferguson, [A.]R. (2008). Joan Marjorie Dingley. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 11(2): 18–19.
- Ferguson, A.R. and Buchanan, P.K. (2010). Obituary: Ross Ewen Beever. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 48: 139–151. (Based on an obituary available from The Royal Society of New Zealand: [www.royalsociety.org.nz/who-we-are/our-people/our-fellows/obituaries/fellows-obituaries/ross-ewen-beever/](http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/who-we-are/our-people/our-fellows/obituaries/fellows-obituaries/ross-ewen-beever/))
- Falloon, R.E. and Ferguson, A.R. (2011). Dr Ross E. Beever MSc (Hons 1), PhD, FRSNZ, FNZIAHS, FAPPS (1946–2010). *Australasian Plant Pathology* 40: 309–314.
- Ferguson, A.R. and Bellamy, A.R. (2012). Edward George Bollard. The Royal Society of New Zealand: [www.royalsociety.org.nz/who-we-are/our-people/our-fellows/obituaries/fellows-obituaries/edward-george-bollard/](http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/who-we-are/our-people/our-fellows/obituaries/fellows-obituaries/edward-george-bollard/). Reprinted in part: *Emmanuel College Magazine* 44 (2011–2012): 240–245.
- Ferguson, [A.]R. (2016). In memoriam: Rod Bieleski. *The Auckland Garden (December 2016)*: 8, 9.
- Ferguson, A.R. (2017). Obituary. Roderick (Rod) Leon Bieleski. [www.royalsociety.org.nz/who-we-are/our-people/our-fellows/obituaries/fellows-obituaries/roderick-rod-leon-bieleski/](http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/who-we-are/our-people/our-fellows/obituaries/fellows-obituaries/roderick-rod-leon-bieleski/)
- Ferguson, [A.]R. (2017). Dr Ronald (Ron) Meric Davison FRIH. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 20(1): 26.
- Ferguson, [A.]R. (2019). Neville Haydon QSM, 1926–2019. *The Auckland Garden (June 2019)*: 11–14. (Republished with minor changes in *New Zealand Camellia Bulletin* 31(1): 25–28 and *New Zealand Garden Journal* 22(1): 33–35.)

Ferguson, [A.]R. (2019). In memoriam. Bob Martin (1942–2019). *Chronica Horticulturae* 59(1): 41.

## Citations

### Honorary degree

Bieleski, R. and Ferguson, [A.]R. (1994). Miss Joan Dingley, DSc (honoris causa). *New Zealand Botanical Society Newsletter* 36: 8–10. (Reprinted from *The Week at Mt Albert Research Centre* 16/94).

### Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture award citations

#### 1. Associates of Honour

- [Bieleski, R.L. and Ferguson, A.R.] (2006). Neville Haydon. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 9(2): 21–22.
- Davison, S. and Ferguson, [A.]R. (2012). Andrew David Maloy. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 15(1): 32–33.
- [Ferguson, A.R.] (1987). E.E. (Ted) Chamberlain. *Annual Journal of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture* 14: 59.
- [Ferguson, A.R.] (1992). R.W. Earp. *Horticulture in New Zealand* 3(2): 19.
- [Ferguson, A.R.] (1994). K.W. Kiddle. *Horticulture in New Zealand* 5(1): 27.
- [Ferguson, A.R.] (1994). Sam D. McGredy. *Horticulture in New Zealand* 5(2): 18–19.
- [Ferguson, A.R.] (1995). Keith R.W. Hammett. *Horticulture in New Zealand* 5(2): 20–21.
- [Ferguson, A.R.] (1996). Brian Buchanan of Auckland. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 1(4): 9–10.
- [Ferguson, A.R.] (1996). Jack Hobbs of Auckland. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 1(4): 10.
- [Ferguson, A.R.] (1996). Ron Gordon of Taihape. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 1(1): 10.

[Ferguson, A.R.] (1997). Roderick Leon Bieleski of Auckland. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 2(4): 22.

[Ferguson, A.R.] (1997). Geoffrey Thomas Sandford Baylis of Dunedin. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 2(4): 22–23

[Ferguson, A.R.] (1998). Beverley McConnell. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 5(1): 22.

[Ferguson, A.R.] (2004). Gordon Sydney Collier. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 7(1): 17–18.

[Ferguson, A.R.] (2004). Terence Charles Hatch. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 7(1): 18–19.

[Ferguson, A.R.] (2004). David Lewis Shillito. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 7(1): 20.

[Ferguson, A.R.] (2007). Brian Peter John Molloy. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 10(1): 23–24.

[Ferguson, A.R.] (2007). Margaret Barker. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 10(1): 22–23.

[Ferguson, A.R.] (2007). Graham Frederick Smith. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 10(1): 24–25.

[Ferguson, A.R.] (2008). Peter Harcourt Arthur. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 11(2): 16–17.

Sole, D. and Ferguson [A.]R. (2010). Kwai Ock (Keith) Lowe. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 13(1): 28–29.

Sole, D. and Ferguson [A.]R. (2010). Robin (Rob) Lucas. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 13(1): 29–30.

Ferguson, A.R. and Seal, A.G. (2021). Russell George Lowe. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 24(1): 35–36. (This issue.)

#### 2. Fellows

[Ferguson, A.R.] (2007). Penelope Clifflin. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 10(1): 22.

Ferguson, [A.]R. (2010). Elizabeth Anne Morrow. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 13(1): 28.

Ferguson, A.R. and Hobbs, J. (2021). Isabel Rosa Powell. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 24(1): 32. (This issue.)

#### 3. Award in Garden History

[Ferguson, A.R.] (2007). John P. Adam. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 10(1): 20.

[Ferguson, A.R.] (2008). Helen May Leach. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 11(2): 16.

Ferguson, [A.]R. (2009). Christopher Johnstone. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 12(1): 25.

Ferguson, [A.]R. (2010). Eleanor Kay Baxter. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 13(1): 26.

Ferguson, [A.]R. (2011). Bee Dawson. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 14(1): 18.

Ferguson, [A.]R. (2012). Alan Jellyman. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 15(1): 30.

#### 4. Plant Raisers' Award

[Ferguson, A.R.] (1991). N. Haydon. *Horticulture in New Zealand* 2(2): 33.

[Ferguson, A.R.] (1992). T.C. Hatch. *Horticulture in New Zealand* 3(2): 14.

[Ferguson, A.R.] (1994). A. Easton. *Horticulture in New Zealand* 5(1): 25.

[Ferguson, A.R.] (1994). Riwaka Research Centre, HortResearch. *Horticulture in New Zealand* 5(2): 7.

[Ferguson, A.R.] (1996). T.J. Mechen. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 1(4): 11.

[Ferguson, A.R.] (1997). F. Schuurman. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 2(4): 24–25.

Ferguson, [A.]R. and Collier, G. (2009). Peter Cave. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 12(1): 25.

Ferguson, [A.]R. (2013). Ian Thomas Baldick. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 16(1): 28.

Ferguson, A.R. (2020). Russell George Lowe. *New Zealand Garden Journal* 23(1): 19.