Seeding futures for 20 YEARS

Young Horticulturist OF THE YEAR 2025

KAIAHUONE RANGATAHI O TE TAU

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NEWS UPDATE

For 20 years, we've been investing in young people, bringing the best from across all horticultural sectors together for the Grand Final competition.

It aims to showcase rising talent, promote development in leadership to meet future industry challenges and raise awareness of potential career paths across all sectors of the horticultural industry.

Thank you to all our community of supporters for helping us seed the future for 20 years, 2006 – 2025.

Introducing our 2025 finalists

These four are all winners of their sector finals – congratulations! We look forward to meeting you at the Grand Final on 5 & 6 November.

Grace Fulford
T&G Global, Hastings
Young Grower

Jade Bedal
Willow & Sage Botanics, Waimauku
Florists & Flower Growers

Nina Downer
Felton Road Wines, Cromwell
Young Viticulturist

Jordan Sutherland
Treetech, Christchurch
New Arborist

Sector finals still to come

Young Amenity
19 May, Auckland Botanic Gardens

Recreation Aotearoa

Young Plant Producer
26 June, Lincoln

New Zealand Young Plant Producer of the Year

Professional Development Forum for 2024 Finalists

27 & 28 May, Hastings

This event brings together our 2024 finalists six months after the Grand Final. In a new format this year, they will be visiting Hawke's Bay to view aspects of horticulture they may not have seen before.

We'll be hosting a discussion panel with alumni working in Hawke's Bay, led by Emma Taylor (Winner 2007) to discuss career development in horticulture. And we're excited one of the site visits is to Springhill orchard and vineyard, owned by **Craigmore Sustainables** and managed by previous finalists Ben James (orchard) and Sam Bain (vineyard).

Candice Collier from teamhub will guide finalists in using insights from Belbin profiling to strengthen their leadership and team management capabilities.

Thanks to Craigmore for helping cover extra costs, enabling us to hold the forum in Hastings.

Follow Competition updates here

KEY DATES

Orientation day

19 August, Auckland Botanic Gardens

An introduction to the competition for 2025 finalists and to meet representatives from our Official Partners and Silver sponsors.

Grand Final

Karaka Bloodstock, South Auckland

Business and practical components held over two days, 5 & 6 November.

Grand final awards dinner

Karaka Pavillion
6 November, 5.30 – 10pm

Tickets on sale in June

Double Tree Hilton discounted booking offer

If you're planning to stay at the Double Tree Hilton during the competition there is a **15% discount** off the best available flexible rate, subject to availability for stays during the competition.

To access use the link below and the code GRNZA

CLICK HERE

RNZIH EDUCATION TRUST

The Trust is a not-for-profit charity, comprised of a voluntary group of industry professionals with a common interest in promoting professional development of young people in horticulture.

It meets monthly to manage the competition with the support of the Event & Sponsorship manager. Thanks to the Auckland Botanic Gardens for the use of your meeting rooms throughout the year.

The **AGM is being held on 15 May, 11.30am**, at the Auckland Botanic Gardens. Anyone with an interest in the Trust is welcome. If you would like to attend, please register at event.manager@younghort.co.nz

The RNZIH Education Trust at the annual strategic planning day at the Auckland Botanic Gardens earlier this year.

L to R, Craig Hart (Yieldia), Claudia Knarston (Auckland Irrigation), Jo Woolley, *Vice* ***Chair*** (Mayfield Group), Ingrid Ennis (Terra Nova Seeds), Nicola Rochester (ICL), Martina Balasova (Primary ITO), Shaun Trevan, ***Chair*** (Cornwall Park), Jeni Rowney, ***Treasurer***, (Tommy & Co), Shona Willis, Event & Sponsorship Manager

Support Young Hort with your

DONATION!

Your donation can help to invest in the future of the Grand Final Competition. As a charitable trust, the RNZIH Education Trust needs financial support to ensure the ongoing running of the competition on a sustainable basis.

To make a donation, please use online banking

Account name:
Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture Education Trust

Account number:
38-9005-0683075-00

Reference code:
Donate

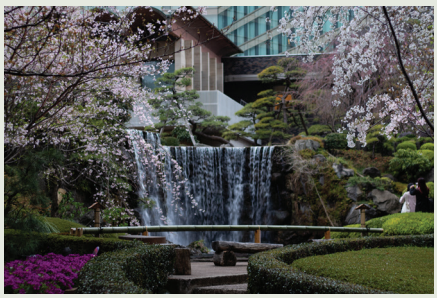
To claim a tax credit for your donation or a receipt please email **event.manager@younghort.co.nz**

Our industry needs individuals and organisations who see the value in supporting the next generation of horticultural leaders.

Thank you for your support.

AWARD SCHOLARSHIP UPDATES

Renee Johnston (2023 Runner up) recently returned from a study tour to Japan where she gained knowledge in Eastern practices of Amenity Horticulture. She visited during the cherry blossom festival, known as Hanami in Japan, meaning "viewing flowers". Renee says the trip has helped deepen her understanding of gardens and their various uses. She says "I will use this to enhance the training I provide my team and the garden care we provide to our clients".



Meryn Whithead (2023 Overall winner, T&G Fresh Practical Components, Fruitfed Supplies Leadership & Bayer Best Practice awards) begins an extensive study tour through the UK, Europe and Canada, starting in May, to view fruit growing in different climates and to further her interest in horticultural sustainability with short term volunteering and internships at world renowned botanic gardens.

Lydia O'Dowd (2023 3rd place) is studying for a Diploma of Horticulture Business at Lincoln University this year.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 SPONSORS

We are extremely grateful to all our sponsors who are investing in young people in horticulture to grow future leaders.

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RNZIH Education Trust thanks

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JOIN OUR SPONSORSHIP SUPPORTERS

2024 Winner Anna England

We have a range of options for organisations to get involved in supporting the next generation of leaders.

To find out more about our sponsorship programme, please contact Shona Willis, Event & Sponsorship manager **event.manager@younghort.co.nz** or phone **021 630 311.**