

COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE

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PEOPLE'S
CHOICE:

20th
Century
Industry
Shapers

ELLERSLIE
High Flyers

More opportunities:
Trinity, Japan



Sixty-eight medals were won at Ellerslie '99 — a celebration of natives, colour, container gardening and whimsical tongue-in-cheek touches

Fun touches behind '99 ELLERSLIE'S eighteen golds



Above: Joy Plants (Auckland) featured 'Grandad went to Africa', a book owner Terry Hatch launched at the show. The garden was full of New Zealand and African species used in new, novel and delightful ways

Left: A sea of *Carex buechanani* surrounds Naturally Native's waka, a feature of their stand that took many showgoers' fancy

HUMOUR spiced the 1999 Ellerslie Flower Show at Auckland Botanic Gardens (Manurewa), 22-25 November. Designers flirted with their audience taunting them to lighten up. "Come on, gardening's not all serious stuff," was an underlying message.

Tucked away among the natives, container gardens and big blocks of colour, most taunts were cheeky and took a moment or two to discover.

Standards went up another notch. Design and detail got more attention and the judges handed out 18 Gold (two fewer than in 1998), 21 Silver and 29 Bronze medals — a total of 68 compared to 59 the previous year.

The Gold-getters were ecstatic! Having been nudged out of Gold at many Ellerslies, Naturally Native's Esme and Mark Dean jokingly said "it was now or never" and pulled out all stops.

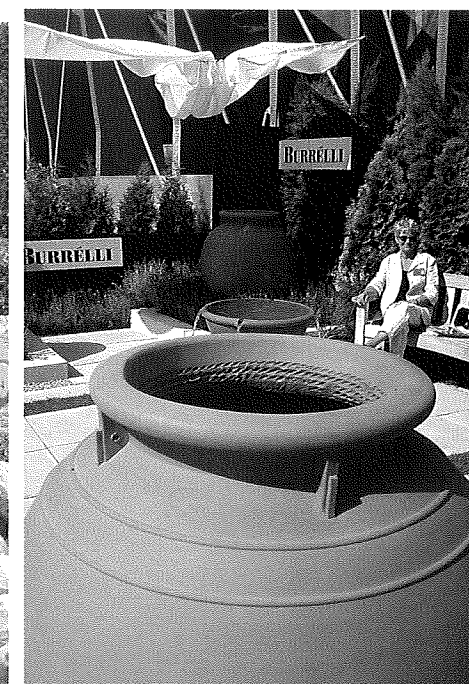
Their upmarket, native patio garden was impassable, masterful, full of symbolism and it won them their first top medal.

A carved waka (Maori canoe), entrance gate and big pergola blended with mature background totara and the expansive brick paving seduced showgoers into the stand.

Naturally Native wasn't the only nursery featuring New Zealand flora and winning Gold. Joy Plants, (Pukekohe) garden with lifelike, whimsical 'Grandad with Grandkids' figures had a corner and sink gardens in

Continued overleaf

ELLERSLIE FLOWER SHOW



Top left: Auckland Zoo's Hugo Baynes' blended New Zealand and South African natives superbly to create a gold winning Prideland's garden. Judges gave it special mention
Top middle: Paul Holmes in cabbage won Auckland Vegetable Producers Society Gold — and promoted vegetables

Right: America's Cup in a floral sea. BOP Polytechnic can't get more topical than that — or can they?

Below: Ivy Garden Centre's conservatory with views to colour co-ordinated gardens was masterful for its attention to detail. Everyone associated with those underbench garden memories



Above: A Moment in Time — this Bell Gully-sponsored garden captures soft, wispy summery tones

Below: Mushrooms, grasses 'n groundcovers made a stunning statement in the afternoon sun. Petals 'n Pots with Debco featured in Awards for this effort



Ellerslie Flower Show Awards

"Better than ever," says international judge Julian Dowle talking standards at the 1999 Ellerslie Flower Show (November). "Some of the outdoor gardens I judged I'd be proud to see in any show in the world. The good ones have got better and the average standard is far higher than last year."

He particularly praised the Auckland Zoo's Pridelands garden, a South African grasslands exhibit blending New Zealand and South African species. "Outstanding," he says.

Gold Medals

Auckland Vegetable & Produce Growers Society (Auckland)
Auckland Zoo (Auckland)
Bay of Plenty Polytechnic (Tauranga)
Bell gully (Auckland)
Blue Gecko Garden Design (Paraparaumu)
Burrelli Pot Makers (Christchurch)
Cameron Landscaping (Auckland)
CCS (Auckland)
Friends of Eastwood Hill Arboretum (Gisborne)
Iain Stephens (Auckland)
Ivy Garden Centre (Pakuranga)
Joy Plants (Pukekohe)
Naturally Native NZ Plants (Tauranga)
NZ House & Garden (Auckland)
Moonpots Pottery (Kerikeri)
Palmco (Kerikeri)
Petals 'n Pots, Debco (Auckland)
Takapuna Floral Art Club (North Shore)

Silver Medals

Artplants (Auckland)
Auckland Botanic Gardens (Manurewa)
Auckland Better Gardens Services (Auckland)
Brustics Brushwood Fences (Auckland)
Challenge Landscapes (Muriwai)
Franklin Flowers (Franklin)
Garden Bronze Co (Auckland)
Hat Attack (Auckland)
Landlyst Landscapes (Ohaupo)
Living Stone (Greytown)
Mt Roskill Floral Art Club (Auckland)
Natalie Clover 3 Gardeners (Hamilton)
Papakura Floral Art Club (Auckland)
Phoenix Italia (Drury)
Rentokil Tropical Plants (Auckland)
Palmer's Gardenworld (Auckland)
Project Crimson Trust (Auckland)
Riverview Daylilies (Auckland)
Seaview Nurseries (Auckland)
Tetrapak (Auckland)
Wildflower World (Tauranga)

Bronze Medals

ARC Native Jewellery (Katikati)

Bay Blue Design (Auckland)
Bay Flowers (Auckland)
Bill & Ben's (Auckland)
Blue Mountains Nurseries (Tapanui)
Debco with Pots 'n Petals (Auckland)
Dr Gibbs Skincare (Auckland)
Floral Art Society of NZ (Taranaki)
Honey Hive (Taupo)
Hotel du Vin (Pokeno)
John Cowan Photography (Auckland)
Kumeu Floral Art Club (Auckland)
Kumeu Garden Centre (Auckland)
Kwik Kurb, (Queensland)
Little Gardens of Wairarapa (Masterton)
Mauoa Flowers Research (Tauranga)
Murray Lye The Gardener (Hamilton)
Nanric Rd Cellars (Te Puke)
Nature's Creations (Auckland)
NZ Gardener (Auckland)
Pasifika Art (Auckland)
Plant & Plan (Auckland)
Rotary Foundation (Auckland)
Trees for Survival Trust (Auckland)
Tui Gardencare products (Palmerston North)
Waitoki Gardens & Nursery (Taihape)
Warner Fences (Auckland)
Wholesale Tree (Auckland)
WWF For Nature NZ (Wellington)

Merit Awards:

A Gardener's Gallery (Wairarapa); ARC Recycling (Auckland); Anselmi Conserva (Auckland); ARC Unwanted Pests (Auckland); BBQ Factory (Auckland); Bobs Garden Structures (Auckland); Campbell Tool (Wellington); Coopers Restoration (Auckland); Corromandel Cacti (Auckland); Del Costa Palms (Auckland); Earthworms (Matakana & Hamilton); Eureka Enterprises (Auckland); Fitovers (Manukau); Growing Family Container Nursery (Hamilton); Hauraki Flower Group (Auckland); Ivy Garden Ctre (Pakuranga); Pantry Shop (Tauranga); Primeriva (Waiuku); Redcurrent (Havelock North); Terracotta Distributors (Paparua); Western Floral Art Society of NZ (Auckland); World Vision of NZ (Auckland); Zenith Succulents (Kohukohu)

Fun touches at Ellerslie

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them. "You may have missed the gumboot prints in the soil behind the plough," Terry point out. "Somebody raked them out before the judges came around, thinking they weren't part of the design — they were."

Used to launch his new book, the Grandad went to Africa theme behind the stand had New Zealand and South African flora themes.

Auckland Zoo's 'Out of Africa' garden called Pridelands exploited grassy drifts of native carex and divaricating species with golden gazania and aloe punctuations — paw prints across a rammed earth path took folk's fancy.

Judge Julian Dowle loved it. Gave it top marks and a special in dispatches.

These three stole the TV One Outdoor Gardens judges' hearts. Exhibitors in this section snatched 12 awards in total, three each of Gold, Silver, Bronze and Merit.

Ellerslie '99 was kiwis celebrating natural and exotic colours with flare and imagination. This native/exotic combo, like the humour, peeped through everywhere.

On a site surrounded by local species, the natives were not obtrusive. They complemented the vast selection of exotics and the powerful bloom blocks, creating a very harmonious garden show.

This is what the northern New Zealand's urban landscape is all about.

Design, detail and plant use shone through this year. That's what Ellerslie organisers hoped for and what they got. Folk have listened to Ellerslie judges, Julian Dowle (Commercial Horticulture, July 1999, p26), Anthony Paul (May 1999, p13) and what others are saying.

Dominating the Grand Marquee entry, Palmco's palm garden was a glimpse into the future — the luxuriant frond-forest that will happen when dicots in their thousands, already in production, mature in Auckland gardens.

Timely and topical, the Bay of Plenty Polytech's America's Cup theme with yachts vying for honours was masterfully conceived and one of a handful of exhibits to achieve a Now! Wow! factor.

Bystanders edged forward, fascinated as the yachts rock 'n rolled on a pansy/petunia sea. Were they waiting to see which boat was going to crack its mast or muzzle a mizzen? Neither did. That's three Golds, three years running. Well done, BOP Poly.

One of four Golds in the ASB Bank Great Marquee went to Ivy Garden Centre (Pakuranga). Their theme brief was 'Who is Ivy GC'. An independent in a big player, mass merchandiser, dominated Auckland market, 'The Queen' cutting the ribbon in an opening ceremony was something Maggie's Garden Show could not ignore. Neither could viewers watching her special on the Friday evening, so Ivy achieved not local, but national exposure.

This set oozed exotics, Eastern Suburbs Auckland, excellence and signalled Watch This Space, the next

generation of garden retailing entrepreneurs is getting its act together.

Folk fell in love with the see-through conservatory/potting shed full of yesterday gardening leftovers, the vista out onto a vege patch and across an emerald lawn to superbly executed, colour-themed, annual/perennial corners.

This Gold winner's tickle-touch was a old milk bottle with money outside the gate.

Auckland Vegetable and Produce Growers Society proved again you can milk a good theme for Gold. Entitled Holmes and Gardens, Paul Holmes drew short straw as 1999's Vegetable or, because he was knee-deep in lettuce, should we say Salad, Celebrity of the Year. Funny? Yes, by the grins on folk's faces.

Cameron Landscaping (Auckland) used native and seaside species, grasses and grass look-alikes exceptionally. Bubbling, vivid blue, paua-inlaid, water circles added movement and colour and offset with white stone completed a restrained sea scene. The fun-touch here, strategically placed wetsuits hanging out to dry.

Bell Gully (Auckland lawyers) sponsored 'A Moment in Time,' a garden suggesting a canopied patio with soft, wispy, summery, small-leaved plants with no bold accents. It was quite a contrast to the bold, strong colours, foliage and design that dominated the show.

Ben Hoyle (Blue Gecko Garden Design, Paraparaumu) had the Midas touch in this year's Garden Makeover section.

Tecomanthe entwined pebble pillars framed the entry, sleeper planters were decked with natives and hand-sculpted furniture made from 44gal drums reflected good old Kiwi DIY philosophy. This was tasteful. The colour harmony and detail carried the day.

Designers demonstrated they could handle small-space gardens and work New Zealand flora into pocket-size spaces. Some felt more Golds were in order in this section. We agree.

In the schools design-only section, Golds deservedly went the way of Whangarei Girls and Kaipoi High School. There's talent

Right: A good idea simply executed. Nigel Cameron's surf 'n seaside garden was a native show-off, folk loved the paua-pools.

Below: Palmco's Steve Dodds, Chris Brunton and Neil Keating off-set their palm-dominated design with big licks of tropical fancies

here and good teaching in the wings.

Standards were also high in the Horticulture Today and Tomorrow Marquee.

The CCS Auckland made sure another Gold stayed in Auckland; the Friends of Eastwood Hill took one back to Gisborne.

Tonally the Eastwood Hill stand locked together. Their professional, black-mounted, big colour photos on bright red panels were a home hit for getting across information.

Retail Golds

Covered Retail (sales) exhibits qualify for critique. Moonpots Pottery (Kerikeri) carried home a Gold, so did Auckland-based New Zealand House and Garden's stand which reflected to a T the glossy magazine's image.

Golds in Outdoor Retail, another section for those purveying image and offerings, went to Burrelli Pot Makers (Christchurch) showing a stunning use of larger containers which dominated their garden setting, and Petal'n Pots in which Debco (Auckland) displayed a combination that reflected the plants and products on their bronze-winning stand.

Golds for florals

Two Golds were awarded in predominantly red and green Christmassy arrangements. Takapuna Floral Art Club (North Shore) won one in the amateur section and professional florist Iain Stephens, also of Auckland, the other.

That was Ellerslie '99 — another great show.

Above: Eastwood Hill's superb garden portraits told its history, promoted the garden's treasures and tickled the judge's fancy

Right: Ben Hoyle's patio garden was detail-plus, tonally tempting too yet all the materials were common garden items. He had the Midas touch

