

## Lyndale Custom Compost #3 - November 2022

### Peats Pros and Cons act 2

I appear to have poked a hornets nest with my comments on the sensible and sustainable use of peat for the horticultural purposes of growing food and long-term woody plants (many of which become wonderful carbon sinks).

I stand by my argument that on balance the controlled mining of peat and the subsequent (mandated) rejuvenation of wetlands from which the controlled activity occurs in New Zealand is a win for the environment.

As an industry, I believe it is vital to put our side of the argument forward at any opportunity, or we will be swamped by a green wave of well-meaning but mindless urbanites who appear to have little understanding of the damage to the environment, that possible alternatives can present.

We remain hugely fortunate in NZ that we have relatively cheap local sources of soft wood, bark (*Pinus radiata*), pumice sand and peat.

The elephant in the room remains the cost of transport. With NZ's reliance on road transport, we are extremely vulnerable to increasing costs (of everything) as the price of diesel reaches new previously unattained heights, (despite the governments' temporary removal of the Road User Charge on kilometres driven, by Diesel powered vehicles).

Effective rail and coastal shipping are and practical alternatives. Areas both need urgent investment, if we are to get away from our current national dependence on diesel-powered trucks and trailers.



## NZPPI in Napier

There is never a time of year that suits every sector of our diverse plant-producing industry. However, a decision was made to hold the 2022 NZPPI Conference in Napier on the 12 and 13 of October.

Approximately 120 people managed to make it to Napier this year to hear a diverse range of speakers speak to the Conference theme of 'Bringing Plants to life: Our Sustainability Story.

Speakers with a common theme of challenging our industry over the very real issue of environmental responsibility set a hard act to follow by the first speaker, the Prime Ministers' Chief Science Advisor & Dame Juliet Gerrard.

For me, the next stand out was Professor & Ellison Chair of the Department of Horticultural Sciences at Texas A&M University, Dr Charlie Hall, who talked a lot of pragmatic sense around plant production in an environmentally conscious world that scrutinizes and challenges industries to take responsibility for their downstream waste i.e., in our case plastic pots, nutrification of waterways, and use of plastic films in crop production.

## The Industry Future is Bright

There was a marked increase in the attendance of young people at this conference, a refreshing change and an exciting development as younger folks are discovering that horticultural pathways can provide satisfying and intellectually challenging careers.

The caliber of the below-thirty sets was impressive. And judging by the entrants and results from the Young Achievers competition, the ornamental horticulture internal competition, to find a representative for the wider industry competition Young Horticulturalist of The Year (YHOTY), the industry's future is in good hands.



Amy Clark, branch manager at Kings Plant Barn Botany is our Young Achiever for 2022 and we wish her well for the upcoming, YHOTY competition, set to take place on the 8th and 9th of November. Go, Amy!

Also recognized was last year's Young Achiever and finalist in the YHORTY in 2021 Danielle (Dani) McBride, Production and Procurement Manager at Rural Design. Danielle was awarded the inaugural Carol Fraser Industry Training Award.

Speaking on behalf of the Fraser family, Michael Fraser presented the award to Dani, paying tribute to his late mother Carol Fraser and outlining the criteria for the award. Michael encouraged Dani to further her education at any opportunity, to buy books, and travel to gardens and garden centres whenever she could.

After the conference, one could only feel that many good and positive things were happening in a vibrant industry, and it felt exciting to be part of this growing business.

Well, that wraps up another blog.

Kind Regards

**The Custom Mix Team**


---



*Copyright (C) 2022 - Lyndale Custom Mix. All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:  
82a Trig Road, Whenuapai, Auckland  
PO Box 81022, Whenuapai, Auckland

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

Grow your business with  **mailchimp**

