

2015 Melbourne Flower Show

Jacqui Jones

What a year! It feels like it was only yesterday that me and my husband Ben were boarding a plane and heading over to the Melbourne Flower Show. What an experience! Neither of us had been before and we were blown away not only by the size of the show but also the quality of the exhibitor's stands and show gardens. We spent a very enjoyable few days in Melbourne checking out the show and looking through a few garden centres as well as catching up with a few of our customers and suppliers. This has been an amazing experience and I am very grateful to the sponsors for providing such an awesome opportunity.

Since arriving back in NZ I have been busy working on a few projects around the nursery. We now have 4 trainees on board with the Primary ITO who are working towards level 4 advanced qualifications. It has been a privilege and an exciting opportunity for me to assist them as both a mentor and an assessor. I have also been busy developing the marketing side of our business and working with my boss to capture exciting new plant releases to bring into the nursery. I am currently exploring my options around completing a sustainable marketing course and a Degree in Agribusiness Management to help take my career to the next level. I may however find this to be a bit of a challenge as we are expecting our first child in December just in time for Christmas.

I wish everyone competing in this year's Young Achiever and Young Horticulturist all the very best and good luck throughout the journey! I look forward to catching up with all of you at the next conference.



Nathan Piggot (General Manager), Me, Ben Jones (my husband) arriving at the flower show



Me and Ben checking out some of the display gardens



A giant pile of pumpkins I found (and a bit of shopping)

Plant Profile

Michael Scott

Grevillea lanigera 'Mt Tamboritha'

Unfortunately it is an Aussie but we can't hold that against it. It's an excellent ground cover which can grow well in the New Zealand conditions. Mt Tamboritha grows best in a well-drained soil in the full sun or part shade. The big attraction is the thick spectacular clusters of pinkish-red and cream flowers and spectacular foliage of dark green with a silvery sheen. The flowers attract all the nectar seeking birds we like to see in our gardens and maintains a beautiful compact form. Its growth habit is 0.4m high to 1-2 meters wide and grows best in a rockery. So if you are looking for a ground cover that produces lots of colour through winter and spring, this grevillea is the one to try.



Image taken from <http://www.plantthis.com.au/plant-information.asp?>

Chelsea Flower Show 2015

By Hayden Foulds



In May I had the opportunity to spend a day at the world famous Chelsea Flower Show in London which was an amazing experience. I had tickets for one of the RHS member's days so while things were still hectic, they were at least bearable. Getting there early helped as there was almost no one in the grand marquee. The grand marquee contains exhibits from many nurseries, specialist plant societies and other organisations.

The quality of the exhibits were outstanding and the attention to detail was just something else. Everywhere you looked, there was something to catch your eye. We went around several times during the day just to make sure we saw everything. Outside, the display gardens were equally as good and there were also a large number of retail sites selling just about everything you could think of gardening wise. The British certainly do know how to run a Flower Show and Chelsea receives extensive coverage in the media in the UK.

Chelsea should be on every gardeners bucket list to see, it is well worth it and you will come away with lots of inspiration and ideas. I know I did.



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Tulips—Franklin Park Botanical Gardens in Columbus Ohio 2015