

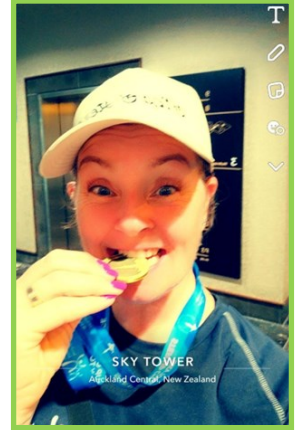
Horticulture Happenings!

Awesome Staff Achievements

Congratulations, Kim!

Recently Kim Cossey (Drury branch) entered the Step Up Challenge to raise money for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer. The challenge involved training to climb the 1103 stairs of the Sky Tower. Kim completed the challenge in a seriously impressive 15 minutes, not only that but she raised just over \$1500 for the cause, awesome work Kim!

Thanks goes also to the Horticulture staff who donated to Kim's mission.



Bon voyage, Tim!

Motueka temporary staff changes

As Tim and his lovely wife are about to head off on a six week adventure of a lifetime (travelling via Doha to Morocco then Spain where they will sail up the Douro River, making their way back to Barcelona then heading around Europe stopping again in Doha on the way home - WOW!), Rob Bisley, former Horticulture employee, will be covering for Tim while he is away. Have an amazing time, Tim, we look forward to seeing pics!

Happy Retirement, Graeme - wishing you all the very best

Graeme Wilson, who has been our Storeman in Tauranga for the past four years, has decided to take retirement mid next month. Thank you for all you have done during your time with Horticulture, Graeme, it has been greatly appreciated and I know your dependable, hardworking nature will be missed by the Tauranga team. All the very best for your retirement, may you thoroughly enjoy this new chapter.

Tomatoes NZ AGM & Mini-Conference

Earlier this month Jon, Andrew, Brian, Paddy and Jean-Paul attended the [Tomatoes NZ](#) Mini Conference at the Pukekohe Stadium – home of the mighty Counties Manukau Rugby. A stall was set up displaying the various relevant product on offer from Horticulture.

The hygiene mats on display at the entrance were a big hit. Also, great to note also that Horticulture were the only supplier asked to attend.



Marlborough Grape Producers Co Op Workshop & BBQ

**MARLBOROUGH
GRAPE
GROWERS
COOPERATIVE**

The Blenheim team provided a BBQ lunch for the [Marlborough Grape Producers Co Op](#) during their Grower Field Day and workshop in conjunction with Syngenta.. of course the BBQ was a big hit with everyone there - great to see it out in sunny Marlborough!



Horticulture & TasmanCrop in the Marlborough Grape Producers Cooperative Publication

Aaron was recently interviewed following the very successful Horticulture Trust sponsored *Kelly Mulville Regenerative Viticulture Tour workshops* held in Cromwell, North Canterbury, Marlborough and Hawke's Bay. Check out this fantastic article in the [Marlborough Grape Growers Cooperative](#) publication. There are some great quotes from Aaron in the article and excellent coverage for the Trust, Horticulture and TasmanCrop. Have a read below...



Left to right: Aaron Carter, Kelly Mulville and James Maslin



Kelly Mulville in his California Palcinas Ranch Vineyard

Regenerative Viticulture Tour with Kelly Mulville: Insights and Impact

In an illuminating series of workshops across New Zealand, renowned Californian viticulturist Kelly Mulville has shared his innovative approach to regenerative viticulture.

Sponsored by the Horticulture Charitable Trust and organised by Organic Winegrowers NZ, Kelly's tour emphasised ecological health, climate resilience, and increased soil water-holding capacity and health.

Kelly's approach is rooted in a holistic understanding of agriculture, integrating high-wire training systems and livestock into vineyards. This method reduces the need for chemical inputs and enhances soil health, biodiversity, and climate resilience.

With over 25 years of experience, Kelly has consulted on vineyard and farm management worldwide, designing systems that promote ecological balance and sustainability.

His workshops were held in Central Otago, North Canterbury, Marlborough, and Hawke's Bay, focusing on ecosystem processes, decision-making for ecosystem health, and the role of grazing animals in vineyard management.

INNOVATIVE VINEYARD DESIGN

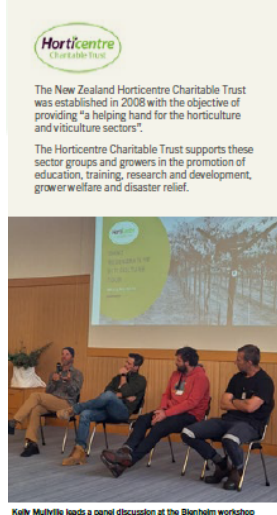
Aaron Carter, Technical Field Advisor at TasmanCrop (one of the trading members of the New Zealand Horticulture Trust), explains that the vineyard at Palcinas Ranch, California, was designed by Kelly as a polyculture with a partial overhead trellis system allowing for yearly grazing.

This eliminates the need for tillage, mowing, herbicides, suckering, and hand weeding and encourages a high biodiversity of plants, insects, birds, and soil biology.

"Kelly's methods of incorporating high trellis systems and livestock grazing offer a revolutionary way to manage vineyards," Aaron says.

Aaron visited Palcinas Ranch in May when part of a delegation of 27 members from Marlborough Grape Growers Cooperative, including grower/owners, directors, and staff, on the trip to California to visit MGCC's largest customer, The Wine Group.

One of the most discussed topics during Kelly's New Zealand workshops was soil health and fertility management. "The emphasis on soil microbiology and reducing chemical inputs resonated strongly with many growers," Aaron notes.



Kelly Mulville leads a panel discussion at the Blenheim workshop



The New Zealand Horticulture Charitable Trust was established in 2008 with the objective of providing "a helping hand for the horticulture and viticulture sectors".

The Horticulture Charitable Trust supports these sector groups and growers in the promotion of education, training, research and development, grower welfare and disaster relief.

Kelly's practices have shown significant reductions in water usage – by up to 80% - thanks to increased soil carbon and improved soil porosity, which enhance water retention.

ADAPTING PRACTICES TO NEW ZEALAND

While the benefits of regenerative viticulture are clear, Aaron acknowledges the challenges of adapting these practices to New Zealand's unique conditions.

"The high trellis systems used by Palcinas Ranch mean the grapes can't be machine-harvested, making them less viable for large-scale commercial vineyards here," he explains.

However, the principles behind these practices – enhancing soil health, reducing chemical usage, and increasing biodiversity – can still be adapted in more conventional settings.

Indeed, Kelly's visit encouraged local growers to rethink their approaches and consider how they might implement aspects of regenerative viticulture in their vineyards.

"Even if we can't adopt all of Kelly's methods, there are valuable lessons to be learned about sustainability and soil health," Aaron says. "Growers are starting to ask, 'How can we do things better? How can we be more sustainable?'"

This aligns with the Horticulture Charitable Trust's mission to promote education and innovation in the horticulture and viticulture sectors.

POSITIVE FEEDBACK AND FUTURE STEPS

Aaron says that growers' feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing interest in exploring regenerative practices further. The workshops prompted discussions on integrating sheep grazing, improving soil microbiology, and reducing reliance on chemical inputs.

"Kelly's tour has opened up new possibilities for viticulture in New Zealand," Aaron concludes. "It's about taking small steps toward a more sustainable and resilient future."

Gisborne Technical Update Sessions

Last week the Gisborne team, along with Chris Herries, held some Technical Update sessions across a day for their growers including a session each for Citrus, Grapes, Apples & Kiwifruit. The sessions attracted many growers from across their region and there has been a lot of positive feedback since. Awesome, Gisborne!

THE TEAM AT
Horticulture
INVITE YOU TO OUR
TECHNICAL UPDATES
Wednesday 21st August 9am-4.30pm
Citrus 9am to 10.30am
Grapes 11am to 12.30pm
Apples 1pm to 2.30pm
Kiwifruit 3pm to 4.30pm
Bushmere Arms, Waerenga-a-Hika
Tea & Coffee provided
RSVP by 19th August to Gerard:
gerard.mcdiarmid@horticulture.co.nz



Young Horticulturalist of the Year 2024 Orientation Day

The [Young Horticulturalist of the Year](#) will be held at the end of October this year, and Paddy went along to the orientation day last week on behalf of the Trust to meet the contestants.

The five finalists are:

- Craig Scott of Hamilton (New Arborist),
- Kyla Mathewson of Dunedin (Young Amenity),
- Tai Nelson of Kumeu (Young Viticulturalist),
- Taylor Leabourn of Pukekohe (Young Grower), and
- Anna England of Christchurch Young Plant Producer).



The New Zealand Horticulture Trust is Silver Sponsor of this event and also sponsors of the contestant clothing.

Tauranga Kissan Growers Dinner



This week Erik, Paras and Jon hosted a dinner for their Indian community growers, they had a fantastic turnout - a great sign of the strong relationships forged with Horticulture in the Bay of Plenty.

Growing Better Crops Together

In promoting our brand you may have noticed we are now focusing on the above bi-line – **Growing Better Crops Together**.

This is demonstrated in the stall wall coverings produced for the RSE & Horticulture Conference (below) and the Apples & Pears Conference (right).

This highlights

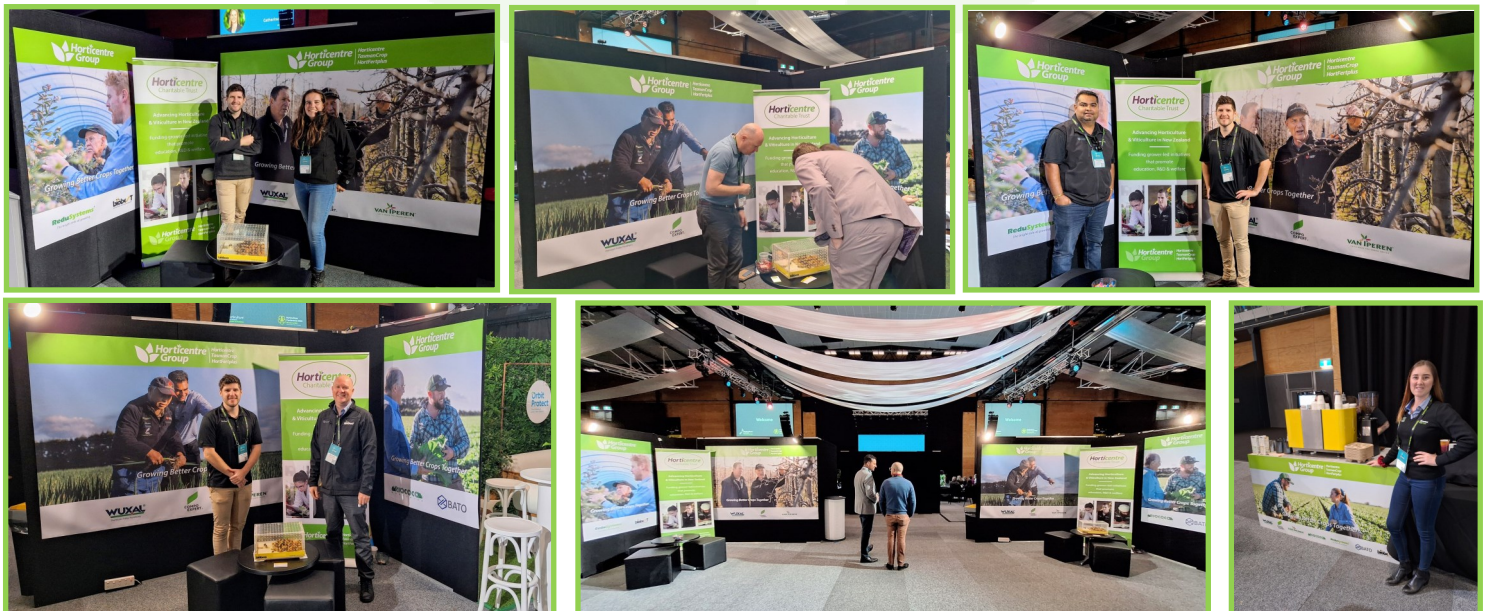
- * **our people,**
- * **the depth of their knowledge and**
- * **the excellent relationships we have with our growers.**

Recently, we had some fantastic professional photos taken, big thanks to all who were asked to be part of the photoshoots – they look amazing. We will be doing more of these in other regions as the weather improves



RSE & Horticulture Conference

This week also see's the [RSE & Horticulture Conference](#) kick off, where Jon, Erik, Paras, Katherine, Paddy, Molly & Rob will attend and represent Horticulture. We were lucky to secure the two sites either side of the entrance to the conference so Horticulture is front and centre! Mike from Biobees will also be at the stall, the first day saw loads of conversation generated by the display hive Mike has taken along! Horticulture Trust are Gold sponsors of this event and Horticulture have sponsored the lanyards and a coffee cart. Erik will represent the Trust and speak at the NZ Horticulture Trust Gala Dinner. This week Hort NZ also announced their new CEO, Kate Scott, she will be attending the conference in Mount Maunganui this week and will be formally introduced at the networking event. [Read more on](#)



Kiwinet Representatives

[KiwiNet - KVH](#) – Thank you to the following people who have agreed to be Kiwinet regional contact points for Kiwifruit Vine Health:

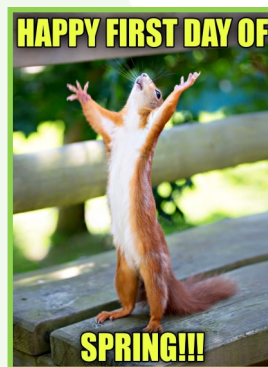
- Bernie Ryan (Whangarei)
- Chris Lowe (Pukekohe)
- Katherine Smith (Tauranga)
- Bruce Egan (Gisborne)
- Rob Hengst (Hawke's Bay)
- Paul Atkinson (Motueka)

KVH will forward information quarterly to share with your teams and as required in the case of an emergency response. I spoke with Linda Peacock from KVH and she is incredibly grateful for the strengthened and proactive relationship Horticulture has with KVH due to the work Erik has been doing in the Bay of Plenty. As the organisational structures can change frequently in orchards and turnover can be high from year to year, they very much value the role our teams have to spread the word about any biosecurity information directly to our growers.

Spring Crop Photos

As Winter leaves us and Spring arrives please send in any beautiful crop pics, or pics of you and your growers out with your crops (along with some text) so I can share them on social media, thanks.

Caps and bucket hats for your growers are on their way out to you later this week, next years calendars wont be too far behind them - Have a successful September, and for Sunday.....



Wishing all a successful September!



#BetterTogether