



**NAPIER PORT
HAWKE'S BAY
PRIMARY SECTOR
AWARDS 2021**



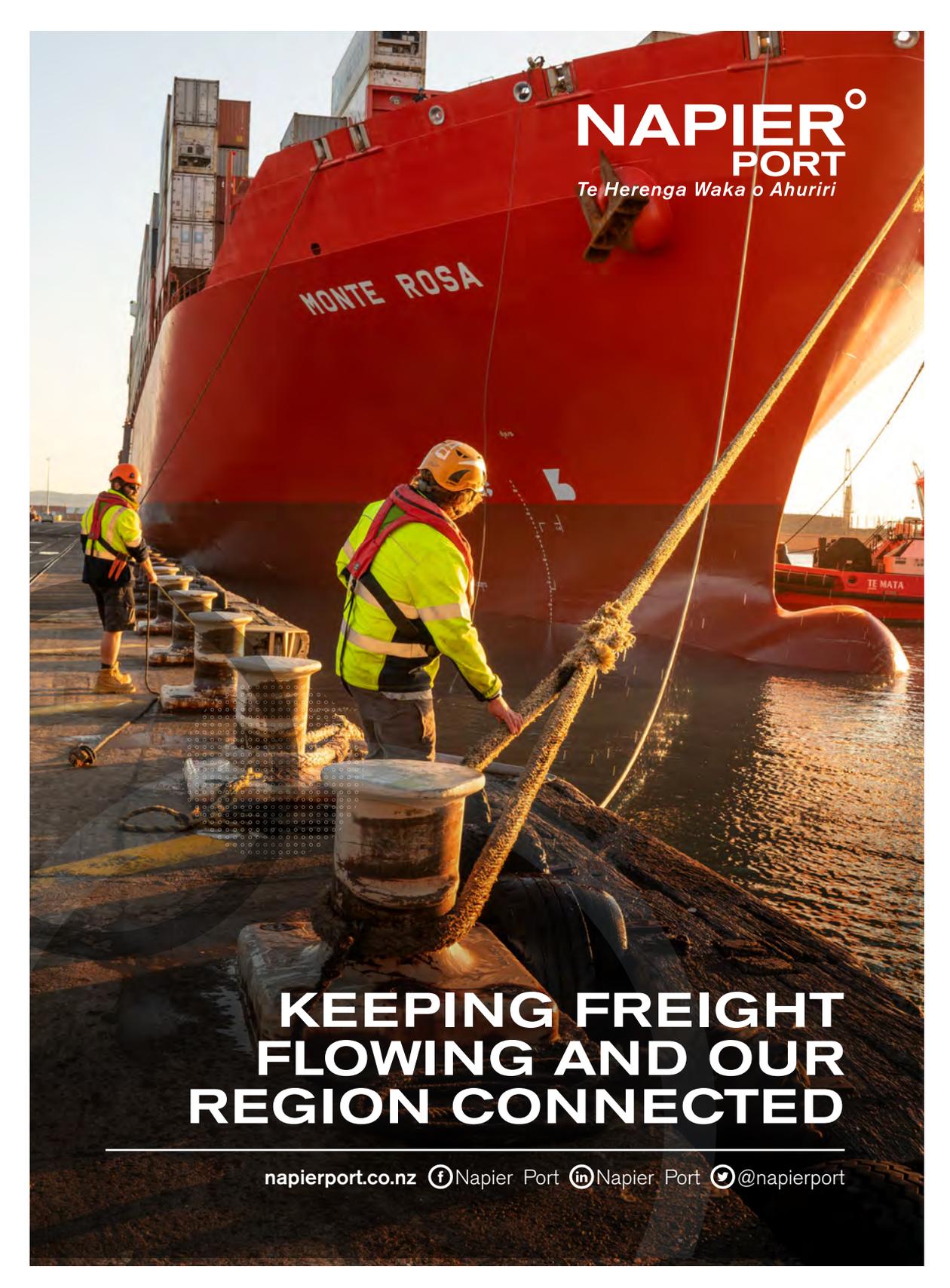
Hawke's Bay
**Horticulturalist
of the Year**



EIT

**2021 Horticulture Hawke's Bay Horticulturalist
of the Year - EIT Field Day**

Wendy and John Evans - RJ Flowers



NAPIER^o
PORT
Te Herenga Waka o Ahuriri

**KEEPING FREIGHT
FLOWING AND OUR
REGION CONNECTED**

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2021 Hortcentre Horticulturalist of the Year - EIT Field Day Programme

Please note that the Field Day has been cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

10:30am	Registration & Morning Tea – The Village
11:15am	<p>Sally Jackson, General Manager Hawke’s Bay A&P Society Open, welcome, health & safety and day plan</p> <p>Hortcentre Representative here</p> <p>EIT Paul Keats</p> <p>Wendy & John Flowers, 2021 Hortcentre Horticulturalist of the Year Recipients Personal & Business Background.</p>
12:00pm	<p>The Village – Wendy & John Overview of The Village and Pastoral Care of the business (25 minutes) Tour through one of the houses (20 minutes)</p>
12:45pm	Travel to the McNabb block and park next to oak trees <i>Lunch on arrival after parking – BBQ.</i>
1:30pm	<p>Orchard Overview – Wendy & John History of the Orchards Varieties What everyone is looking at</p> <p>Discussion point on the Apples and Pears</p> <p>Walking tour through the orchard: Questions & Answer session</p>
2:35pm	<p>EIT Chris Thorman</p>
2:45pm Group One	<p>Walk across the road to ‘The Hub’ and Kiwifruit Orchard Information on Kiwifruit</p> <p>Discussion point on Technology across the business: <i>Hectre Potential speaker option of Matty from Hectre</i></p> <p>Question & Answer session</p>
4:00pm	Finish back at the Oak/Parking area for refreshments

<p>2:45pm Group Two</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Packhouse Tour</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Walk through the packhouse to view processes and machinery</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Question & Answer session on packhouse floor</p>
<p>4:00pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Oak Tree Lawn</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please join the Hawke's Bay A&P Society, Horticulture Trust and Eastern Institute of Technology for a BBQ and Hospitality.</p>





The Hawke's Bay A&P Society would like to thank and acknowledge Horticulture Trust and Eastern Institute of Technology for their sponsorship. The Society would also like to acknowledge New Zealand Apples & Pears and Hawke's Bay Fruitgrowers Association for their support in establishing the Horticulture Horticulturalist of the Year.

Today's Field Day is sponsored by the team at Eastern Institute of Technology

GROW YOUR POTENTIAL

DIPLOMA IN HORTICULTURE PRODUCTION

With the NZ Diploma in Horticulture Production you can choose from two different specialties. These have been developed with industry to provide you with specialist technical skills and knowledge.

- ▶ Post Harvest (Part-time)
- ▶ Fruit Production (Part-time)

You will be given access to a range of resources and industry experts during your programme that will enhance your understanding and build on your skills.

HORTICULTURE APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME (FRUIT PRODUCTION) [Levels 3 - 4]

Supported by industry, the EIT Horticulture Apprenticeship Programme is designed for people working in the fruit industry. This programme will allow students to gain formal qualifications and improve all aspects of their knowledge and skills.

Students will learn about pests and diseases, machinery, soils, irrigation and gain other relevant skills.

ENROL NOW!
FEES FREE*

* Conditions apply



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HISTORY

Ron started RJ Flowers Ltd in 1968 growing onions. In the early 80s the cropping was diversified into growing of apples and kiwifruit.

Ron has designed and built all types of machinery including pack house graders and later times was the project manager for the CA store and the development of the RSE Village (completed 2020).

John and Wendy met in the early 80s and got married in 1985. John was a Horticulture cadet. Both John and Wendy's grandparents were orchardist's and spent all day picking and packing fruit at night often finishing around midnight. John remembers his grandparents grader made from native Rimu (how times have changed?).

John and Wendy bought John's parents orchard, which is now Gilbert Orchard Ltd named after his grandfather Gilby. The orchard has expanded over time, more land purchased and has increased capacity for growing and other developments.

R J Flowers Ltd and Gilbert Orchard Ltd run today all under the same operation but separate entities. This works well as making both businesses more viable utilizing staff and equipment.

New RSE Accommodation

RJ Flowers have recognized the importance to house RSE workers on site for stability for the business. This is their second home away from home. Completed in Spring 2020, a mini village was built with houses that are well insulated, with ventilation and heating, WI-FI, SKYTV, amenities and large outdoor recreational areas and gardens have all been incorporated. This was a big investment, but it was needed to ensure they were future proofing our business. The team at RJ Flowers understand a successful business must continue to invest in infrastructure, technology and human resources for long term sustainability.

A message from the winners:

Our Big Family

While we have a strong team of Kiwis, we also rely on RSE workers from the Pacific. We are very grateful to our RSE workers for coming to our orchard and working harvesting our crops. In return their earnings able to provide opportunities for their families that otherwise would not be possible.

Our focus is to do the utmost to look after people. Without good people and ethics, we have not got an industry. Pastoral care is an utmost importance of our business looking after all staff and their wellbeing. Training and making everyone part of our journey and giving every employee a feeling of ownership.

We encourage and support education on healthy diet, fitness, being smoke free, mental health and support for their families in need.

A positive take away from COVID-19, we have recognized supplying food in lock down to The Village, everyone was eating healthier, feeling healthier and more positive. The baking and beautiful meals cooked created a homely environment. Supplying food to the team continues today with only a very small charge to contribute to the costs.

Business Information Development

- Continue developing new technology to run the business more sustainable and producing good quality fruit. Having less risks.
- Covering majority of orchard with hail netting.
- Attention to detail developing the young trees. They are in for the long haul. No short cuts. Clear understanding that they have one chance to get it right.
- Long-term development. At this stage RJ Flowers want to concentrate on growing better crops without expansion.

Goals & Objectives for RJ Flowers

A positive happy workplace. We want our employees to wake up in the mornings and want to come to work. Not to expand at this stage but do what we do better. Protect our resources. We are privileged to be caretakers of this land. We have the best soil, climate in the world to grow pip fruit and kiwifruit. Long-term the goal is to keep the operation within the family for future generations.



Opportunities

- Growing fruit that is in great demand in the Export and Domestic Market.
- Acknowledgment that currently we are going through trying times with COVID-19 and shortage of labour. There are hurdles but positives are to come from this new world.
- Fortunate part of the world, producing food and lucky to have a purpose and job.

Ownership & Structure

Owners/Directors: Three

Managers: Two

Employees: 38 Permanent

Congratulations to ...



R J FLOWERS LTD

Hawkes Bay Horticulturalist of the year

Horticulture

18 Station Road, Whakatu, Hasting | 06 873 0699

PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Introducing RJ Flowers 3rd generation orchard family in Twyford on the Heretaunga plains growing Apples, Pears and Kiwifruit. Ron Flowers, Wendy's father is a very talented Engineer and started the family business growing onions and always has engineering projects on the go. Wendy's husband John oversees Operations and Wendy manages Compliance and Administration.

They believe a lot of hard work, passion and attention to detail with issues such as care of staff employment to pick and process the fruit has put R J Flowers on a strong footing.

"Being on the land is a bit like bringing up a family - it is a 24/7 occupation" John says. "Being diverse with three crops it works well, and we can provide all year-round employment for our New Zealanders." John constantly monitors the weather, planning the work schedule. On wet days orchard staff work in the pack house packing pears supplying the domestic market throughout the year. Apples can be harvested in the wet dewy mornings and kiwifruit harvested later in the day. Therefore, no down time for pickers in kiwifruit harvest.

The employees enjoy the variety of all different tasks shared in the workplace.



In the past they have done various community projects including a rebuild project in Fiji after Cyclone, sent building materials, clothing, school desks etc. to the Islands. The biggest project was raising funds for surgery for a life-threatening condition that was not covered under the Health System. Not only RJ Flowers workplace was on board but the wider community of Hastings. To date they have donated many clothes, including a "bra project" for sending bras to the islands which is now ongoing as people continue dropping off goods to the site storeroom.



DIRECTORY

The Hawke's Bay A&P Society would like to thank the 2021 Napier Port Primary Sector Awards Committee for all their time and dedication put towards the competitions this year.

Organising Committee:

Peter Tod
Mel Croad
Mike Petersen
Grant Charteries
James Mead
Anna Lorck
Rowan Sandford
Graeme Hodges
James Hunter
Sam Morrah

Napier Port Primary Sector Awards are proudly owned and event managed by the Hawke's Bay A&P Society

Judging Criteria - Five Areas

Innovation Resilience Leadership Education and Social.

2021 Judges

Anna Lorck - PSA Committee
John Paynter - Yummy Fruit
Bruce Willis - Trelinnoe

General Manager A&P Society

Sally Jackson
sally.jackson@showgroundshb.co.nz

Event Manager A&P Society

Isabelle Crawshaw
awards@showgroundshb.co.nz





BECOME A MEMBER

“
CHAMPIONING
THE BAY,
”



BECOME A VIP AS A MEMBER OF THE A&P!

At the Hawke's Bay A & P Society, we truly value our members. It's only with dedicated member support that we are able to offer our agricultural and pastoral sector a range of opportunities and benefits to further its growth and, by extension, the growth of the beautiful region we all call home.

Our constitution, aims "To bring town and country together" and this rings as true now as it did when we first created it over a 150 years ago.

We love promoting our primary sector to a wide audience, facilitating events, acknowledging our history and heritage, developing educational programmes, awarding scholarships and celebrating excellence in all its forms so that our sector and region can continue to develop, grow and prosper.

WILL YOU JOIN US?

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PROUD SUPPORTERS OF THE Napier Port Primary Sector Awards - Field Days

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Notes

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EASTERN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

