

# Awards to people

## **PETER BARR MEMORIAL CUP 2013** **Awarded to Peter Ramsay** Malcolm Bradbury

The Peter Barr Memorial Cup has been awarded annually since 1912, by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) on the recommendation of the Daffodil and Tulip Committee and now the Bulb Committee to 'someone who has done good work of some kind in connection with daffodils.' Peter Ramsay was the worthy and popular choice for this major international award in 2013. Peter and his wife Lesley travelled from Hamilton, New Zealand for the presentation by RHS president Elizabeth Banks at the RHS Awards Ceremony on 11 April 2013 in the Lindley Hall, London. The award was also recognised by the presentation of a commemorative certificate to Peter and Lesley by Malcolm Bradbury, Bulb Committee chairman, at the Daffodil Show on 9 April. In both of his acceptance speeches, Peter stressed the joint nature of the award in view of Lesley's substantial support for his endeavours over the years and her contribution as a past president of the National Daffodil Society of New Zealand (NDSNZ).

Given a lifetime love of daffodils by his father Jim, Peter was taught the art of grooming and staging flowers for exhibition and how to breed them. Peter is a successful hybridizer of standard-sized daffodils primarily from divisions 1–4. Between 1985 and 2008 Peter and Lesley, together with Max and Kath Hamilton, bred, grew, distributed and exhibited daffodils under the trade name Koanga Daffodils. The partnership dominated the open collection classes at the North and South Island Shows in New Zealand and made not only their own introductions but also cultivars bred overseas available to their customers. Now trading as Ramsay Daffodils, Peter has registered over 100



Lesley and Peter Ramsay with the Peter Barr Memorial Cup, awarded to Peter for 2013 (photo RHS)

cultivars with the RHS, including those such as 'Blossom Lady' 4W-O (2002) and 'Cameo Joy' 2Y-R (2004) that have been particularly successful on the show bench abroad as well as in New Zealand. As top-level exhibitors Peter and Lesley are the current Australasian Open Champions.

A past president of the NDSNZ, Peter edited their publications for a decade; he is also a regular contributor both to this Yearbook and to other daffodil publications worldwide. He was also the prime mover of Springworld 1984 in Hamilton, which incorporated the World Daffodil Convention and attracted 60,000 visitors. Peter and Lesley are frequent visitors to Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom and are popular speakers and judges wherever they go.

A retired university professor, Peter was awarded the Queen's Service Medal in 2007 for his contribution to both horticulture and education. His many ongoing contributions to the development and enjoyment of daffodils make Peter a worthy recipient of the Peter Barr Memorial Cup.