

# Awards to people

## PETER BARR MEMORIAL CUP 2012 Awarded to John Hunter

Brian Duncan

In 2012, John Hunter from Nelson, New Zealand, was awarded the Peter Barr Memorial Cup by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), on the recommendation of the Society's Daffodil and Tulip Committee. The award is for good work of some kind in connection with daffodils.

John Hunter is a most deserving recipient, a daffodil breeder of long standing, with an excellent reputation for producing high quality daffodils in practically all divisions.

John showed his first daffodil at Nelson Horticultural Society in 1945 as a 9-year-old and started hybridizing in 1949, when he made eleven crosses. He has made crosses every year since then and has retained meticulous records. He has named approximately 130 seedlings, and has registered them with the RHS. Among these, 'Polar Sky' 2W-WWP, 'Polar Convention' 3W-W, 'Tranquil Image' 2W-P and 'Flight Path' 6Y-W have been awarded First Class Certificates by the National Daffodil Society of New Zealand (NDSNZ) and 'Sulphur Monarch' 1Y-Y and 'Moon River' 1Y-Y have had Awards of Merit. 'Polar Sky' is the top prize-winning pink in New Zealand, with many Premier Bloom awards.

John has been on the executive of the NDSNZ, has a great interest in the history of the daffodil and a great knowledge of all those who have contributed to its development since the early days of hybridizing. He is also a senior NDSNZ judge, an Honorary Life Member, and holder of the Society's David Bell Gold Medal for the advancement of daffodils. He has been awarded the American Daffodil Society's Gold Medal, and he is a Life Member of Nelson Horticultural Society, the oldest horticultural society in New Zealand.

John's Champion Blooms at NDSNZ shows have been 'Polar Sky', 'Tucana' 1W-W and



John Hunter, recipient of the Peter Barr Memorial Cup 2012  
(photo Ian Tyler)

'Pacific Phoenix' 2Y-YOO (twice). 'Flight Path', an exciting division 6, was Reserve Best Bloom at the Australasian Show last held in Hamilton.

Division 1W-Ps and 2W-Ps of Hunter raising have been well represented on the show benches and premier table, and his Y-Ps have been very successful, as have a great range of triandrus hybrids in Y-Y, W-W and Y-W. 'Gold Lake' 11Y-O has been a consistent winner on the premier stand at both the South and the North Island shows. Some of John's own favourites are 'Absolute' 2W-YYP and 'Bridal Brocade' 2W-W, and some excellent new doubles. He is aiming at present for new 3 W-Ps and 3 Y-Ys.

Breeding from *N. viridiflorus* since 1988, John's first registration from such crosses was 'Emerald Sea' 7W-G, which has proved to be a very successful parent and is used extensively by growers all over the world. Its progeny may result in a new race of green-cupped, autumn/winter blooms for the cut-flower trade. John's flowering season now runs from April to October.

Of daffodil breeding, John says, 'Advances in the daffodil in the last 170 years have been truly amazing. It cannot be said that a new seedling is the work of one hybridizer alone. It is the culmination of the work of all who have gone before.' He also recognises the dedicated support of his wife Marie, who, with their children, was able to be with him at the RHS for the presentation of the Cup.