

The Report of IPPS International Exchange Program of New Zealand and Japan Region[©]

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I was very lucky to participate as a supported member of the 40th anniversary conference that was held at Napier in New Zealand (N.Z.) from 5 to 8 May. More than 200 members participated in the memorial conference, from which I learned many things. This report outlined what I learned during my stay in N.Z.

Scott Base Nurseries (Auckland). At first, I visited Scott Base Nurseries, which mainly produced ground cover and shrub plants. I practiced division of *Phormium*, which is one of the most popular plants in N.Z. Large plants of *Phormium* were planted on road slopes and small ones were supplied for gardens. The nursery produced a very beautiful two-colored cultivar, but the sorting operation was difficult because its coloration varied with stock plants (Fig. 1).

Joy Plants (Pukekohe). The nursery mainly propagated and sold rare plants and N.Z. native plants. It was located in a natural environment with old forest plants. The plants preferring shade were placed under the shade of trees, while those preferring wet condition were managed in the vicinity of the swamp (Fig. 2). The environment-friendly nursery did not have any large scale facilities. These efforts were highly praised in the region, and the staff actively gave lectures at schools and held workshops.

Taupo Native Plants (Taupo). Taupo lies in the highlands in a volcanic region and snows occur in winter. There were some geothermal power stations using steams and hot water (Fig. 3) in the area. The nursery used energy from a geothermal well and the greenhouses were heated by steam from a neighboring geothermal heat plant. The nursery mainly produced native plants, fruit trees, and ground cover plants. I went into the old forest and experienced the collection of *Podocarpus*, *Pittosporum*, and *Phormium* seedlings.

Plant Struck Ltd and Copperfield Nurseries (Tauranga). Plant Struck Ltd produced nursery plants and actively bred flowering plants, especially *Alstroemeria* 'Aldun01', Rock and Roll[®] Peruvian lily a wonderful cultivar because of its beautiful flowers harmonizing with the white variegated leaves (Fig. 4). I practiced planting and digging up *Citrus* at Copperfield nurseries (Fig. 5). All *Citrus* cultivars were grafted onto *Citrus trifoliata* (syn. *Poncirus trifoliata*) rootstocks, and I learned that citrus tristeza virus had damaged *Citrus* trees around the world, including N.Z.

Bruntwood Nurseries (Hamilton). Shrubs, flowering plants, and fruit trees were produced at this nursery, which was my last visit in N.Z. and I practiced cutting propagation of *Acca sellowiana* (syn. *Feijoa sellowiana*) (Fig. 6). *Feijoa* was difficult to propagate by cuttings. For example, the rooting percentage of one of difficult-to-root cultivar was under 30%. I learned lots of techniques of cutting propagation, about which I learned that the number of leaves, collection of plant parts, and cutting period were important.



Figure 1. Division of *Phormium* at Scott Base Nurseries.

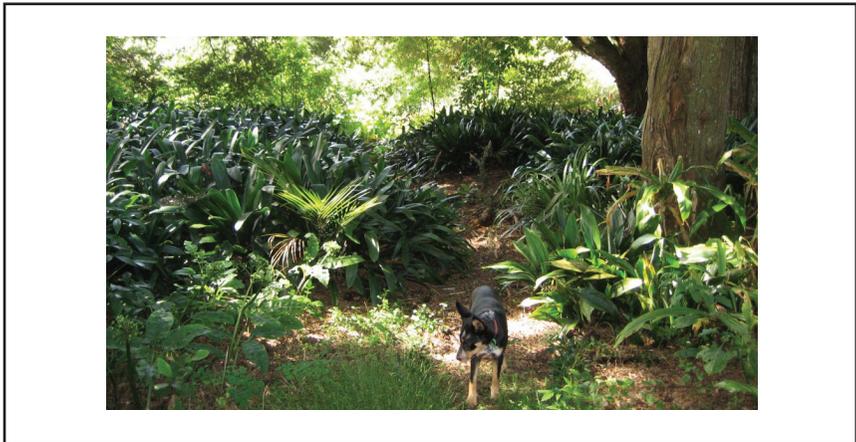


Figure 2. Nurturing of *Clivia* at Joy Plants.



Figure 3. Wairakei Geothermal Power Station near Taupo Native Plants.

I would like to express my gratitude for IPPS N.Z. Region's members who welcomed me and for IPPS Japan Region supporting the exchange program. I want to make use of the valuable experience for my work and Japanese agriculture.



Figure 4. *Alstroemeria* 'Alsdun01', Rock and Roll® Peruvian lily (Plant Struck Ltd).



Figure 5. Planting *Citrus* at Copperfield Nurseries.



Figure 6. Cutting propagation of *Acca sellowiana* at Bruntwood Nurseries.