

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

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From 12 to 29 April, 2013, I participated in the IPPS exchange program between New Zealand and Japan Regions. During my staying, many IPPS New Zealand (NZ) Region members welcomed me as hosts and treated me graciously. I had a profitable time and I gained inspiration and experiences that I had not gained in Japan. Additionally, I attended the New Zealand Annual Conference which was convened during my staying as a member of a 4-Pack. I enjoyed the various presentations and discussions, and gained an understanding of part of horticulture in NZ. I will present here what I experienced during my staying in NZ.

I first encountered feijoa (*Acca sellowiana* syn. *Feijoa sellowiana* Berg.), a myrtaceous fruit, during this journey (Fig. 1). New Zealand is the world's largest feijoa producer and all nurseries I visited dealt in feijoa. The fruit has a moderate sour and crunchy texture, and I loved it very much (Fig. 2). On the west coast of NZ, an area of high rainfall, I visited Tree Top Walk, which was the bridge threading through the trees in a deep forest. On this walk I saw a lot of NZ native plants and was impressed by their beauty and grandeur (Fig. 3). A nursery I visited in Nelson dealt in not only NZ native plants but also various fruit trees including persimmon (*Diospyros kaki* Thunb.) (Fig. 4), which I use for my research. At a nursery I visited in Palmerston North, I learned practical cutting propagation methods. The pots were immersed in warm water to grow callus at the base of cuttings and cool water was used for the mist to improve rooting (Fig. 5). At the end of the journey, I deepened exchanges with a lot of NZ Region's members at the annual conference, and it was a valuable experience when I talked with them about similarities and differences between Japan and NZ.

All host families kindly took me around to places of interest. For example, I watched a colony of fur seals, saw Parliament House (beehive shape) (Fig. 6) which is a building that symbolizes the capital, Wellington, and visited Christ Church Cathedral in Nelson. I enjoyed NZ very much.

I would like to express my gratitude to IPPS Japan regional members who gave me the chance and provided me a valuable experience and to NZ IPPS Region's members who took care of me. I want to make use of the meaningful experiences for my life in the future. I hope to see an expansion of this exchange program and deepening exchanges between the two regions, so that a lot of members will have valuable experiences in both countries.



Fig. 1. A feijoa tree in Jeff Elliott's Nursery (Christchurch).



Fig. 2. Tasting feijoa in Jeff Elliott's house (Christchurch).

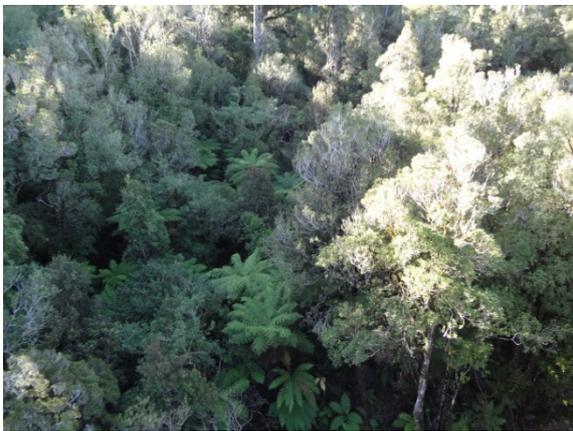


Fig. 3. New Zealand's native trees; a view from "Top Tree Walk" in Hokitika.



Fig. 4. Persimmon trees in Waimea Nursery (Nelson).



Fig. 5. Cutting propagation house in Plantlife Propagators (Palmerston North).



Fig. 6. Beehive parliament house (Wellington).