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Dear Elenka,

This letter is to express my gratitude towards the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture Education Trust, for their sponsorship of the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition.

I returned from an 8-day Outward Bound 'Discovery' course on Saturday, - not exhausted as you might think after 18 hour days of full on adventure activities - but exhilarated by the skills I have gained and the outcomes of what Outward Bound offered. I can't say enough about what an enriching experience it was for me. Even though I thought I was pretty tough I now know that I placed lots of limitations on myself, and have come away absolutely revived and with the enthusiasm to go even further than I thought possible, personally and professionally. Among the highlights of my journey were meeting and getting to know my 13 watch-mates, and trying out a range of adventure activities such as rock climbing, high ropes, sailing, tramping, kayaking and cross country running. The course was so much more than that though, it gave me the opportunity to have some real 'time out,' reflect on my values, goals and beliefs, and grow as a person. I feel very lucky to have been awarded the course, have gained a more positive outlook on life, and would highly recommend the course to anyone.

I am also beginning a Graduate Diploma in Rural Studies with my Massey scholarship, having been granted admission equivalent status. I was fortunate enough to receive great advice from the University, and I am really excited about my future career prospects combining the skills I already have and those I gain in the next eighteen months.

I have to say that being involved in the competition has been an awesome experience, one of the highlights of my career so far, and with many ongoing benefits. Thank you again and I am certain the horticultural industry will gain a lot from its generous support of young horticulturists.

Yours sincerely,

Erin Jayne Farrow

2<sup>nd</sup> Place getter – 2009 Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition