

# CAREER PATHWAYS in the *Vegetables* Sector

*A guide for school leavers, career changers, those already in their career and career advisers on five common career pathways in the vegetables sector. This guide highlights, qualifications, skills, and role models for each pathway as well as direction on next steps to start or progress your career.*



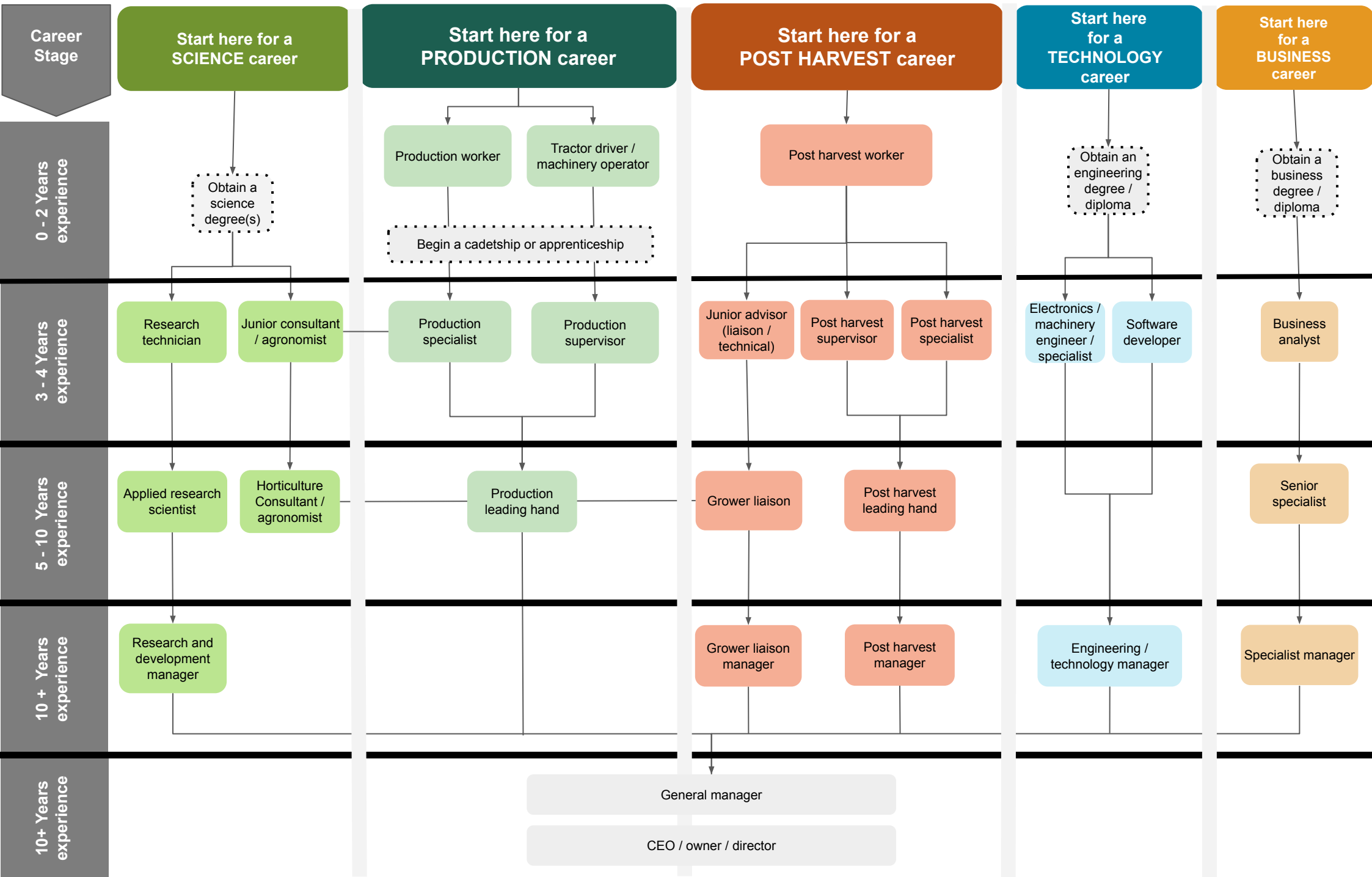
**Te Ahikawariki**  
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Find out more:

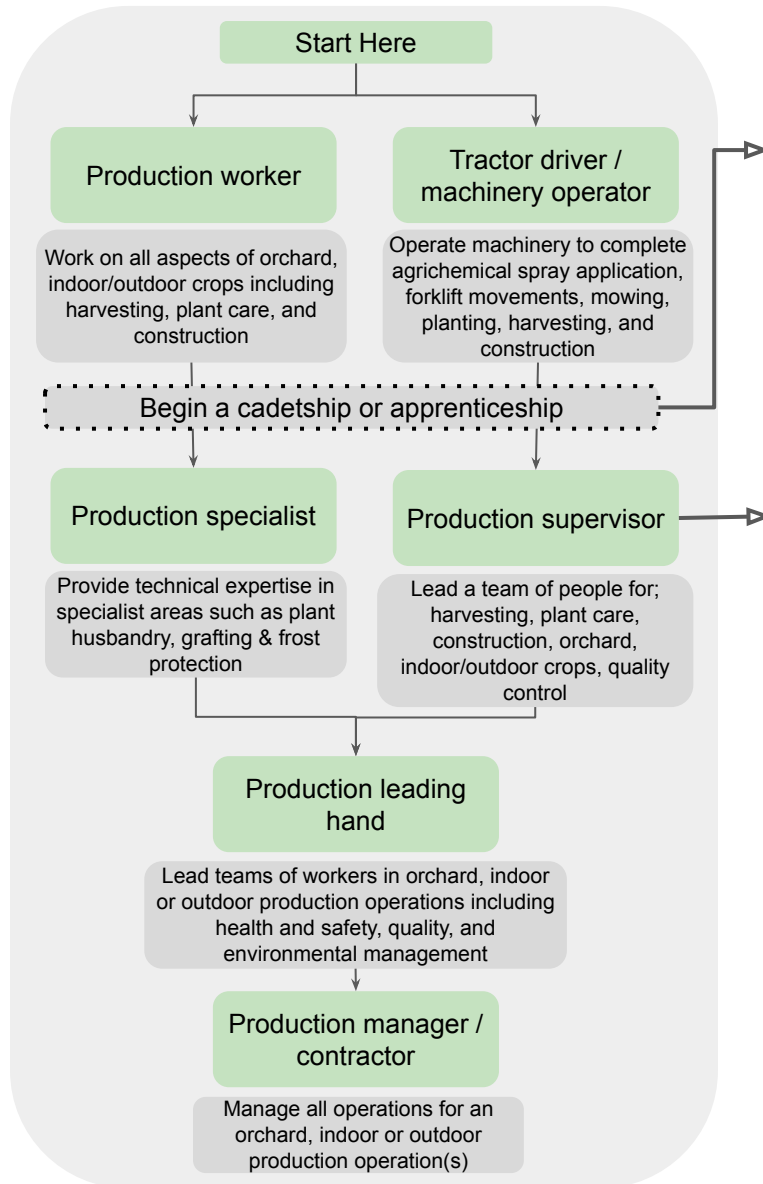
- All Pathways
- Production
- Post-Harvest
- Technology
- Business
- Science



# HORTICULTURE CAREER PATHWAYS



# How to get started with a PRODUCTION CAREER

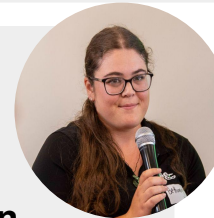


## What Qualifications could get me started?

- New Zealand Apprenticeship in Outdoor/Indoor Crop Production while working
- Certificate in Hort Production
- Diploma in Hort Production

## Who could I be like?

**Bethany Lang**  
**Indoor Crop Technician**  
*Indoor Crop Production Apprenticeship, Primary ITO*



- Bethany's career in the vegetable sector began with a temporary summer job in a glasshouse, which evolved into a long-term position. She progressed from being a crop worker to a technician and now supervises all aspects of indoor growing and production.
- Bethany's advice to those starting their careers is to 'embrace every opportunity to learn from mistakes and grow.'

## Skills to build and progress your career

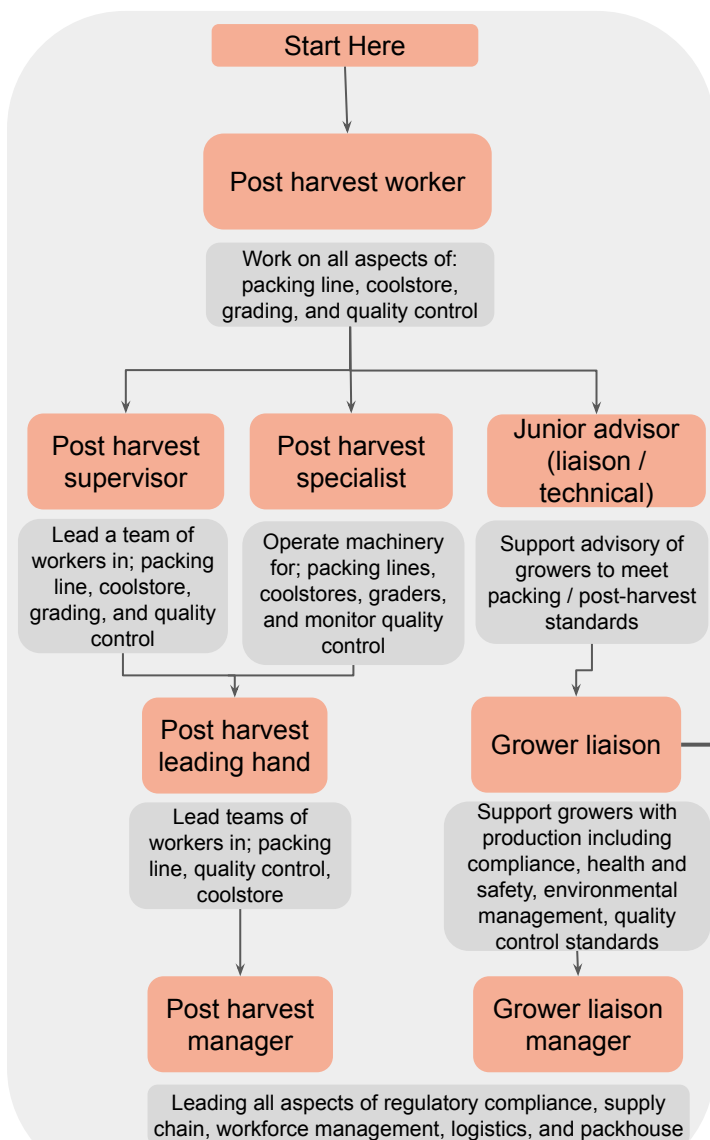
### Transferable Skills

- Problem Solving and Critical Thinking
- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Time Management

### Specific Skills

- Precision Agriculture
- Agronomy
- Sustainable Practices
- Equipment Operation

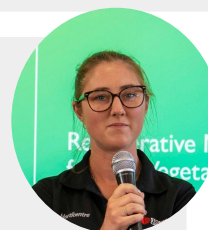
# How to get started with a POST-HARVEST CAREER



## Qualifications to get started with

- New Zealand Apprenticeship in Post-harvest or Distribution - Horticulture
- Degree in Horticulture, Agribusiness, or Commerce (Horticulture)

## Who could I be like?



### Molly Green - Technical Field Advisor

*Plant Science, Massey University*

- Molly started her career with an internship at Willcox and LeaderBrand. She then moved to a position at Horticulture.
- Now, she works daily with growers to solve technical challenges and ensure top-quality fresh produce for New Zealand.
- Molly's advice to those starting their career is 'to say yes to opportunities that push them out of their comfort zones and be adaptable while learning from the passions of others.'

## Skills to build and progress your career

### Transferable Skills

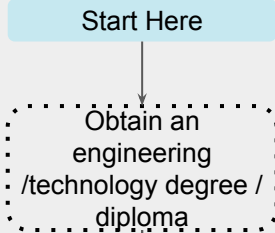
- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Compliance and Risk Management
- Quality Assurance

### Specific Skills

- Cold Chain Management
- Quality Assurance
- Inventory and Supply Chain Management
- Food Safety Knowledge
- Equipment Operation Skills



# How to get started with a TECHNOLOGY CAREER



Electronics / machinery engineer

Develop, install, and fix specialist technology

Software developer

Develop, test, install, and update specialist software for technology

Engineering / technology manager

Manage a team in an engineering speciality or general area

## Qualifications to get started with

- Diploma or Bachelor of Engineering or Information Technology (Robotics, Electrical, Mechanical, Software, Bio/Chem Process)
- Bachelor of Food Technology

## Who could I be like?

### Josh Hawkhead - Technical Officer

*Diploma of Information Technology, Otago Polytechnic*



- Josh began his career in IT, earning a diploma from Otago Polytech and attempting to start a website development company.
- He now works at NZ Gourmet's Hastings site, applying his IT skills to glasshouse technology and irrigation in the horticultural industry.
- Josh's advice to those starting their career is to remain open to unexpected opportunities, as they can lead to fulfilling and surprising career paths.

## Skills to build and progress your career

### Transferable skills

- Basic IT Proficiency
- Problem Solving and Critical Thinking
- Quality Assurance
- Adaptability and Flexibility
- Project Management

### Specific skills

- Precision Agriculture
- Technical Design Skills

# How to get started with a BUSINESS CAREER

Start Here

Obtain a business degree / diploma

Business analyst

Specialist in one or more of; accounting, administration, marketing, sales, compliance, health and safety, environmental management, market access, communications, supply chain, management, human resources

Senior specialist

Lead a team of workers in; accounting, administration, marketing, sales, compliance, health and safety, environmental management, market access, communications, supply chain, management, human resources

Specialist manager

Lead a team in an area such as supply chain, marketing and sales, compliance, market access, finance, communications, human resources

## Qualifications to get started with

- Bachelor of Commerce with majors in Hort, Agribusiness, Supply-chain, various.
- Diplomas in related business topics.

## Who could I be like?

### Kazi Talaska - Project Coordinator

*Horticulture Science, Massey University*

- Kazi began her career at HortNZ, focusing on labor initiatives, before transitioning to Onions NZ.
- Her current role involves collaborating with government bodies to advocate for growers and exporters on policy and trade issues, as well as engaging with international delegations to ensure compliance with regulatory, sustainability, and food safety standards.
- Kazi advises newcomers that your 'Interpersonal skills are your greatest asset in building successful trade partnerships.'



## Skills to build and progress your career

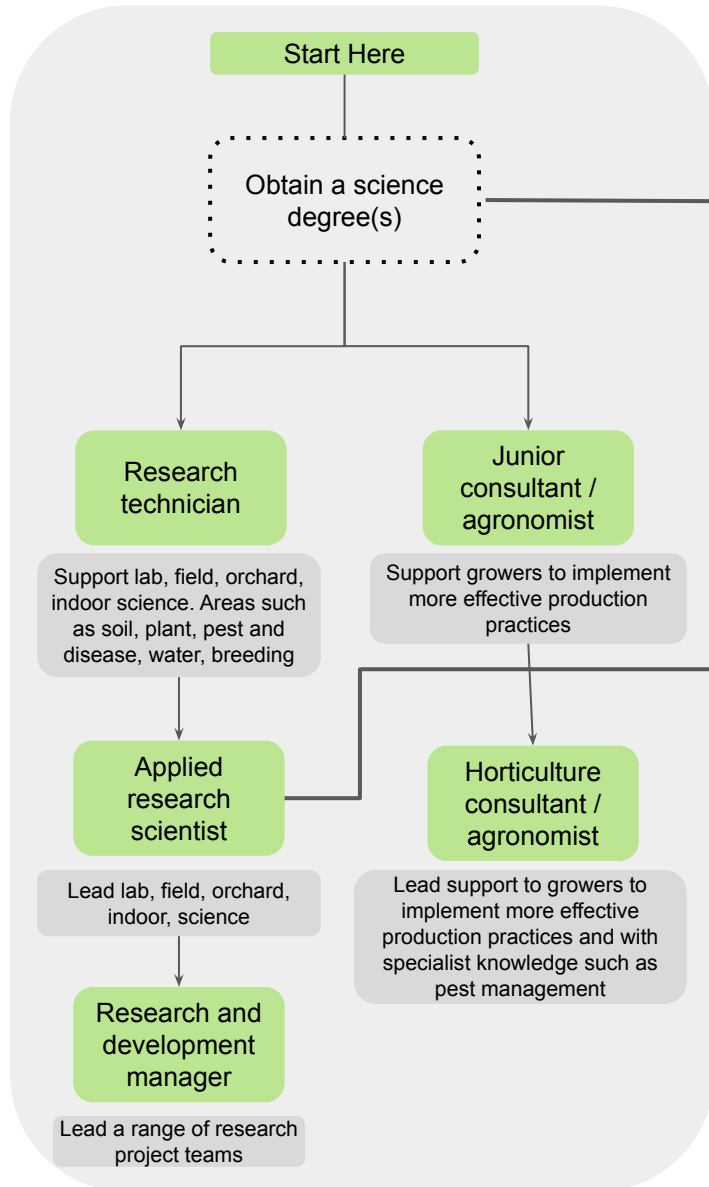
### Transferable skills

- Communication and Teamwork
- Leadership and Management
- Data Analysis
- Financial Acumen
- Negotiation Skills

### Specific skills

- Inventory and Supply Chain Management
- Regulatory Compliance
- Market Trends and Consumer Behavior

# How to get started with a SCIENCE CAREER



## Qualifications to get started with

- Bachelor of Hort Science
- Bachelor of Science with majors in Hort, Plants, Soil Botany, Genetics, Data, Environment, Climate, Information Technology.

## Who could I be like?

### Matt Norris - Scientist

*Bachelor of Science  
(Soil Science and Chemistry)*



- Matt has held roles in local government and research before specialising in farm systems research.
- His current role at Plant and Food Research focuses on sustainable agricultural practices and nutrient management. He specialises in developing nitrogen testing approaches and participating in regenerative agriculture research.
- Matts advice is to 'develop a broad skill set to remain adaptable and open to career opportunities.'

## Skills to build and progress your career

### Transferable skills

- Problem Solving and Critical Thinking
- Data Analysis
- Innovation
- Research
- Technical writing

### Specific skills

- Agronomy
- Sustainable practices

Learn more at: [www.gohort.co.nz](http://www.gohort.co.nz)

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