



7 August 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KIWI WORLD CHAMPION AGAIN

For the third time in a row, New Zealander James Kilpatrick has been crowned the world's best tree climber.

Kilpatrick won the overall Men's Masters Champion title at the 2018 International Tree Climbing Championship (ITCC) held this week in Columbus, Ohio. He was also ITCC Men's Masters champion in 2017 and 2016.

In the Women's competition, the 2018 New Zealand Rural Sportswoman of the Year Chrissy Spence, a former world champion, was second behind Canadian Krista Strating.

Kilpatrick, a 33 year-old arborist originally from Tauranga, won the prestigious Men's Masters event, after qualifying on his cumulative score from five different preliminary events testing speed, agility and skill. He was part of a strong New Zealand team that was up against the best tree climbers from 21 countries.

Kirkpatrick said he was 'stoked' with the win. Having collected the world title twice before, he said it was the least stressful of all the ITCC competitions he'd competed in to date. "This time it was all about enjoying myself and that really helped my performance."

Will Melville, president of the New Zealand Arboricultural Association (NZ ARB), the main sponsor of the NZ tree climbing team and organiser of New Zealand's national competition series, said Kilpatrick's performance was exceptional. "Arborist like Kilpatrick climb trees every day at work as part of their job role, but it takes dedication and skill to compete and dominate a world championship competition so successfully."

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

New Zealand Arboricultural Association (NZ ARB) ph.03 928 0620 or mob.021 1170916