



## Ross Peter Jackson - Citation

Ross Jackson was born in Dunedin and received his primary and secondary education in Southland and Otago. Ross studied horticulture at Lincoln College completing a diploma in Horticulture in 1966. Following this, Ross joined a large North Island commercial nursery as field supervisor which led to him establishing and managing a landscape section within the business and his first professional engagement with the landscapes of New Zealand began. In 1971 he returned to Lincoln College, completing a Certificate in Landscape Design.

Ross then travelled to Vancouver, Canada where he lived from 1973 to 1976, during which time he studied landscape architecture part time with the University of British Columbia. Throughout his time in Vancouver Ross was employed as a landscape architect by Justice and Webb, a firm of landscape architects and recreation and parks planners

Ross returned to New Zealand in 1977 where he worked as a landscape architect for the Upper Hutt City Council. He was involved in the preparation of plans and open space proposals and also the establishment of tree registration in New Zealand. It was also in 1977 that Ross became an Associate member of the NZILA, the equivalent status of our current Registered landscape architects.

In 1979 Ross was appointed to the position of District Landscape Architect with the Wellington Office of Ministry of Works and Development. In this capacity he was responsible for the management of the Environment Design Section of the Wellington district. For a time during this role Ross was also seconded to the New Zealand Tourist and Publicity Department to service the Beautiful New Zealand Planning Committee.

Ross convened the 1981 NZILA "New Zealand Where are you?" Conference Committee and in 1983 was elected a member of the Executive Committee, becoming the President of the NZILA in 1985.

He left for a two-year sojourn in 1986 where he was placed with Nottinghamshire County Council. While in the UK he also undertook a post-graduate planning course at the University of Nottingham, sponsored by the New Zealand government.

On returning to New Zealand, Ross was appointed Environmental Planner with the Ministry of Works and Development Head Office and was responsible for implementing the Governments' Town and Country Planning policies and promoting quality development in the landscape. In 1988 he took up the role as the Chair of the Wellington Branch of the NZILA. In that same year Ross was appointed to the position of Principal Conservation Officer, with the Department of Conservation, providing advice and guidance to staff and the co-ordination of landscape issues within the Department involving assessment, planning and policy formulation.

Later in 1988 he joined the Recreation Department of the Wellington Regional Council, as Project Liaison Officer.



Ross convened the organizing Committee for the 1993 NZILA Conference: “An opportunity for landscape: designing and managing for sustainability”. At the same time he also convened the judging panel for the NZILA Monier George Malcolm Award.

Ross has held positions at the Wellington Regional Council from 1988 until his retirement in 2013 and has stayed actively involved in ‘participatory landscape architecture’ throughout most of his career. Ross has made attempts in the past at retirement from the Regional Council, however throughout those attempts colleagues and community groups that Ross has worked with over many decades have always managed to pull him back to his natural calling – the facilitation of landscape change for the good of the people and the land.

Ross finally managed a retirement of sorts in 2013 and has more recently been of enormous use and support to the Greater Wellington’s Flood Protection Division where he has continued to provide service to the public through his exceptional inter-personal skills for the good of the people and the landscapes of the Wellington Region. Ross has recently bought a property in Waikanae, after years of living in Karori, and is now building, and putting his lifetime of skills and energy to good use for his own more personal projects.

Outside of his love and commitment for the land and for his profession, Ross has been energetic and very successful in his sporting endeavours. During his time working and studying in Vancouver, Ross won the 1976 Vancouver marathon in a time of 2 hours and 22 minutes, the first non-local to do so. Ross is a long time and now life member of both the Wellington Harrier Club and the Wellington Cycling Club. His preferred method of transport is by bicycle and he has kept himself busy outside of his professional life enjoying the benefits of a very active lifestyle.

Ross’s career has been of extraordinary length, depth and significance to the profession of landscape architecture, to the NZILA Tuia Pito Ora and to the land, waters and people of the Wellington region.

Ross has been a student and healer of the landscape for over 50 years. Ross travelled overseas to work and study early in his career, bringing back knowledge and skills from afar and applying them in a New Zealand context, for the benefit and advancement of our profession here. Throughout his career he has focused on service to the public, through his loyalty to city, regional and government department employers and through his commitment to projects and people both within and outside of his day-to-day work. He has been a member and given 42 years of loyal service to the Institute. Ross has shown and taught humility, dignity and skill in navigating his way through a mainly public career in landscape architecture and has advanced our collective understanding of ‘participatory landscape architecture’ in New Zealand.

Ross Peter Jackson’s award of life membership of the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects Tuia Pito Ora, is, therefore, a fitting tribute to his personal qualities, his contribution to the Institute and his wider contribution to the landscapes of Wellington and Aotearoa.