

Citation for Diane Helen Menzies

Election to Life Membership of NZILA AWARDED APRIL 2005

The NZILA is honoured to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution made by Dr Diane Helen Menzies to the advancement of the profession of landscape architecture, in New Zealand and internationally.

Diane graduated from Lincoln University with a Post Graduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture in 1974, after completing a Diploma in Horticulture (with Distinction) in 1971. Her lecturers and tutors included Charlie Challenger, Frank Boffa, and Tony Jackman, who were some of the early pioneers of the landscape profession in New Zealand. Their enthusiasm for, and commitment to, the landscape inspired Diane to focus her considerable energy on her work; indeed legend has it that Diane was the only person in her year who completed Major Design on time!

Since those first years as a student, she has consistently displayed the tenacity and advocacy for resource management and the landscape that have taken her to top positions in the International Federation of Landscape Architects, and more recently to her appointment as a Commissioner for the Environment Court. As well as being a Fellow of the NZILA, Diane is a Fellow of the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture, and a Fellow of the NZ Institute of Parks and Recreation Administration.

Diane's professional career began in Wellington, when she worked for the City Council as a landscape architect and recreation planner until 1984. The latter part of that period saw Diane's strengths in management and planning emerge, which served her well during the first of her three terms as president of the NZILA, from 1983 to 1985. Diane managed to clone herself in 1983, an early pioneer of biotechnology, and also served as a councillor with the Eastbourne Borough Council for four years. This was a time of change, as Diane came to the attention of George Malcolm who managed the landscape architecture division of the Ministry of Works, and joined his team as a senior landscape architect based in Wellington.

After working with George for three years, Diane moved on to a senior position with the Ministry for the Environment, with a focus on policy review and development, until 1989.

A period of relative calm followed, as Diane and her family sailed from Japan to Britain via the Middle East, but it couldn't last and she was soon working again, as a manager of country parks for Wokingham District Council. After a period living in Saudi Arabia, Diane returned to New Zealand to take on her second and third terms as president of the NZILA, from 1994 to 1998, and to act as the official NZILA representative on IFLA. She immersed herself in academia once more during this period, and quickly polished off an MBA, a PhD, and a second Masters degree in Management. One of Diane's clones found the time to be appointed a founding trustee of the NZILA Education Foundation in 1999, while yet another took on two key roles in the Eastern Region of IFLA, which continued until her election as Secretary General of IFLA in 2001, a position she currently holds.

Diane is still studying, working towards an Advanced Diploma in Maori with Te Wananga o Aotearoa; it may well be that we run out of qualifications, before Diane runs out of energy to fuel her commitment to life long learning.

The constitution notes that people who might be considered for the honour of being elected to Life Membership will have made a unique and outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession in New Zealand, and it is clear from the brief summary of the works of Diane Menzies that she is eminently suitable to be so elected.

The NZILA takes great pleasure in electing Diane Helen Menzies to the position of Life Member of the Institute.