



11 October 2022

Jan Helen Woodhouse

### Life Membership Citation

Jan's passion for the landscape and determination to succeed has seen her achieve distinction in three activity spheres, namely the development and advancement of the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects Tuia Pito Ora (NZILA), her involvement with associated organisations, events and initiatives, and her practice work (when she finds the time to work for herself). Jan Helen Woodhouse has served the NZILA and the landscape profession with honour, humility and distinction and in doing so has made an outstanding contribution to the profession and practice of landscape architecture in Aotearoa New Zealand.


Jan's introduction to landscape architecture can be largely attributed to her growing up on a farm near Darfield in Canterbury, where she developed a keen interest in plants and horticulture. Following the completion of a Diploma in Horticulture at Lincoln College in 1970, where she was inspired and encouraged by Charlie Challenger to further her growing interest in landscape design, Jan completed a Certificate in Landscape Design in 1971, graduating as top student and was awarded the David Crombie Prize. Jan subsequently joined the Landscape Section of the Ministry of Works in Christchurch where she worked under the direction of George Malcolm. In 1975 Jan joined the staff at Lincoln College as a tutor in landscape design and also assisted with tutoring horticulture and parks diploma students. Recognising the wider scope of landscape architecture, Jan studied for and passed the Institute's special exams designed for holders of the Certificate in Landscape Design, and was subsequently admitted as a full member of the NZILA in 1981, having previously joined as an Affiliate Member in 1973.

In 1983 Jan and her partner Tom, moved to Auckland where she worked on a part-time basis between looking after her young family, and eventually formed the Brown Woodhouse landscape practice. Several years later, Jan and three other landscape architects established the LA4 group practice, and in 1993 Jan set up Woodhouse Associates, the company she continues to work within.

Jan has been a member of the NZILA since 1973, during which time she has maintained an active and ongoing role with the organisation in a range of capacities and activities. Jan was involved in the production of "Cuttings" the first Institute Newsletter and has had an ongoing involvement with subsequent Institute publications, especially when AGM Publishing was persuaded to take over The Landscape journal, and she and others then gave many hours of editorial support to the production of the Landscape New Zealand magazine. She was also involved with the establishment of the Canterbury and the Auckland Branches of NZILA. Jan has served as a member of the Institute's Executive Committee for four terms between 1985 and 1997, was Vice-President in the 1987-1989 and 1995-1997 periods and earlier served as Institute Treasurer. She has had a term on the Institute's Registration Panel, helped organise numerous conferences and had significant input to the institute's strategic planning and promoting the profession's public profile. She has served as the Awards Convenor from 1994 to 1997, providing outstanding service, and has been a judge on the NZILA Awards Panel. In 1997 Jan became a Fellow of the NZILA.

In 1999 the NZILA established the Education Foundation, with Jan being one of the three founding Trustees. While the name of the Foundation changed to the Landscape Foundation in 2015, Jan has remained a Trustee of the organisation and has served for a period as the Chairperson. The Landscape Foundation is one of Jan's more notable and significant contributions to the Institute and the landscape profession. During her 23 years as a Trustee, Jan has worked tirelessly on promotion and fund-raising and activities for what has become one of the Institute's most well-known and successful achievements.

In addition to Jan's outstanding contribution to Tuia Pito Ora, Jan has made time to contribute significantly to the successful Ellerslie International Flower Show as a judge for 13 years, and as Convenor of Judges in its final year in Auckland prior to the event moving to Christchurch in 2008. In addition to being a garden assessor for the New Zealand Gardens Trust which was established by the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture in 2004, Jan played a significant role in the Trust's establishment and its ongoing operation.



Members of the Institute who know and have worked with Jan appreciate her cheerful and forgiving nature, her forthright and direct comments, and most of all her staunch commitment to the Institute and reliability to see through and excel in the tasks and initiatives she undertakes. Jan's outstanding service and contribution to the Institute and the landscape profession over nearly 50 years is acknowledged and celebrated by her peers in this Life Membership Award of Tuia Pito Ora.