



Awards

A special meeting of the Canterbury Westland Branch of the New Zealand Planning Institute on 31 August 2017 granted Honorary Membership of the Institute to Peter Skelton. They also made Sarah Dawson a Fellow of the Institute. Peter has had sixty years of legal, environmental, and resource management experience including a period as Associate Professor at Lincoln and in a lead role as a commissioner / councillor for Environment Canterbury (2010 -2017). Sarah has a lengthy catalogue of contributions and leadership roles with New Zealand Planning Institute and is currently the chair of the Lincoln University Planning Advisory Board.

Below are the citations provided at the time.

Honorary Membership of the New Zealand Planning Institute - Peter Skelton

The New Zealand Planning Institute is pleased to grant Peter Skelton Honorary Membership of the Institute.

The Institute acknowledges Peter's earlier statutory planning and Environment Court activities from 1978 to 2000 and the previous awards made to recognize those contributions to planning.

The Honorary Membership goes further to recognise Peter's sixty years of legal, environmental, and resource management experience including his more recent contributions to planning practice, plan development and plan implementation. Most particularly these contributions have been demonstrated over the past sixteen years in his lectures at Lincoln University (2000-2007) and in his lead role as a commissioner/councillor for the Canterbury Regional Council (2010 -2017).

Peter was for 10 years a partner in a legal firm from the mid1960s to the mid1970s and, following general legal practice, became a barrister specialising in planning and environmental law. He was appointed a Judge of the New Zealand Environment Court in 1978. The following 22 years saw him preside over many significant cases in many parts of the country.

Amongst these were the noteworthy cases of the Clyde High Dam and the River Conservation orders for the Buller, Ahuriri, Mataura, Rakaia and, Kawarau Rivers. He also presided over the

Doubtful Sound water export proposal, the Christchurch Metropolitan refuse landfill development and the Christchurch Northern Arterial. More recently as an Independent Hearing Commissioner he chaired the hearings on the Waikato Regional Plan Variation 5 proposals to establish a planning regime to control the loss of nitrates into Lake Taupo. The Lower Waitaki Valley hydro-electric proposal hearings were also in his care.

As a Judge in these Environment Court cases and managing statutory planning appeal processes he earned the respect and acknowledgement of his peers, friends and colleagues in both the legal and planning professions, and his care and attention was appreciated by all participants (appellants, applicants or submitters) in the cases under his authority. His work was recognised in 2000 when Peter was awarded the New Zealand Planning Institute's Alfred O. Glasse Award. Furthermore, Peter's contribution to environmental law, resource management and planning was nationally recognised in 2001 when he was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

Peter's current sixteen year phase of working directly in the areas of planning for natural resources began in 2001 when, in recognition of his explicit concerns for access to justice in the determination of these natural resource issues, he was appointed as the first chair of the Environmental Legal Assistance Fund Advisory Panel for the Ministry for the Environment. He filled that role for six years.

In 2000 Peter was appointed an Associate Professor at Lincoln University so contributing to training and education of students. On his retirement in 2008 Lincoln University awarded him the position of Honorary Professor. As recently as 2016 he also received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Natural Resources from Lincoln University.

New Zealand Planning Institute Honorary Membership recognises his planning work and its influence on the content and format of the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan and the Canterbury Air Regional Plan. Peter was involved as a member of the team undertaking the development of the complex, catchment by catchment policy framework, leading up to the notification of these instruments. Then, as a commissioner/councillor receiving and responding to the recommendations of the independent hearing commissioners. His commissioner/councillor role of overseeing such a major regional planning exercise has been undertaken in a collaborative, even handed and professional manner. All involved, be they technical officers, community groups, councillors or commissioners have respected his open commitment and wisdom shown in this path-finding project.

In 2010 when the Environment Canterbury Councillors were dismissed by the Government and commissioners were appointed to undertake all the regional councils' functions in accordance with the special legislation, Peter Skelton successfully performed the functions of a commissioner while also being a key adviser to the Canterbury Regional Council. This has resulted in more successful outcomes for the range of regional functions now being undertaken by Environment Canterbury and is reflected in his continuing contribution following his renewed appointment as a councillor in 2016.

During his professional career Peter has also contributed to many other institutions. He was one of the founders of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) and its first Vice President (New Zealand). He has also been a member of the International Bar Association (Committee F Environmental Law). He has presented papers and participated in international conferences in Washington DC on mining law; Hobart University on enforcement; and Montreux in Switzerland on enforcement.

In New Zealand he has presented many papers on planning and resource management issues at

legal and other professional conferences and been guest speaker at a number of functions involving environmental professionals. He has also written numerous articles and commentaries for peer reviewed journals.

His previous professional affiliations and awards include being an Honorary Life Member of the Resource Management Law Association of New Zealand and also the Legal Research Foundation of New Zealand. In 2012 he was awarded the Principal Judge R J Bollard Lifetime Commemorative Award by the Resource Management Law Association for an exemplary contribution to the field of resource management theory and practice over a lengthy and distinguished career as a practicing lawyer.

Peter's core respect for the law, for the environment and his support for effective and relevant planning are evident in all his professional dealings. His quiet manner extends a friendly co-operation to all in the technical, professional, political and community identities involved in these programmes. He has shown a willingness to undertake extraordinarily difficult and at times new path finding planning techniques. He has progressed the prudent management of the Canterbury Regional Council's research, reporting and programmes so as to maintain regionally based strategies and environmental standards.

Peter's experience reflects the essence of the NZPI Constitution's five key Goals and his actions have fostered the Constitution's accompanying seven working Objectives.

Peter Skelton has travelled a long way in his sixty year professional pilgrimage. A journey that began as a lawyer and over time through specialising in planning and environmental law, has become an ever increasing concern for conservation and the environment, and in particular the planning processes that protect and provide for them. He continues that extraordinary career in the role of a regional councillor. This range of experience is unique and it is fitting that he be a full member of both the legal profession and the planning profession. Consequently, the New Zealand Planning Institute Board has resolved that Peter Skelton should join the small group of distinguished members and become the seventh Honorary Member of the New Zealand Planning Institute.

Fellow of the New Zealand Planning Institute – Sarah Dawson

Sarah Dawson has a highly distinguished professional planning career that has spanned four decades and reflects a level of commitment and accomplishment attained by few. Her outstanding contribution to the Institute, her influence on the advancement of planning practice and her leading role in some of New Zealand's major planning projects, collectively warrants her recognition as a Fellow of the New Zealand Planning Institute.

Sarah's contribution to the planning profession and Institute has previously been recognised with the presentation of a Distinguished Services Award in 1999. That award acknowledged her role as Chairperson of the NZPI Canterbury Branch (1994-1996), as an independent planning commissioner (from 1997) and of course her significant contribution to the profession as a planner/resource manager and mentor since her career commenced in 1977.

Since 1999, Sarah has continued to support the Institute and the profession with thoughtful leadership, hard work and her time. She has taken an active interest in improving the practice of planning as well as seeking to make planning an attractive and fulfilling career for her colleagues. She is also acutely aware of the need to mentor younger planners and readily provides professional coaching and guidance to those who come under her wings.

She has demonstrated her leadership as an Accredited RMA Hearings Commissioner (with chair endorsement since 2014) and is a longstanding member of the local branch interview panel for candidates applying for NZPI membership. Sarah continues to contribute to planning education as a member of the New Zealand Planning Institute Tertiary Training Institutions Accreditation Committee, where she has evaluated numerous planning programmes across the country, along with membership of the Lincoln University Planning Advisory Board.

Sarah has presented at numerous professional training workshops for both elected members and planners on subject matters including consenting practice, presentation of expert evidence, plan-making and case law. In 2014 she co-authored a think piece and presented at workshops, commissioned by the New Zealand Planning Institute, to help planners understand the implications of the King Salmon decision, a case in which she was professionally involved.

Not one to shy away from planning projects that are complex, highly technical and of high public interest, Sarah has worked on many regionally and nationally significant projects. Between 1997 and 2003 she led a multi-disciplinary team of consultants to obtain a privately requested plan change and associated regional consents for a new town for 5000 people (Pegasus in North Canterbury).

More recently she has provided extensive policy and consenting advice in respect of numerous aquaculture and marine farming proposals in the Marlborough Sounds, including application and AEE preparation in respect of New Zealand King Salmon's expanded salmon farming operations, culminating in presenting planning evidence to the associated Board of Inquiry.

For many years, Sarah has been heavily involved in projects involving renewable energy policy and infrastructure as an advisor to Meridian Energy including consenting relating to the Manapouri and Waitaki hydro power schemes, along with a large windfarm in Southland.

Sarah's technical expertise, experience and professional manner result in her being highly sought after by local authorities. Waimakariri, Christchurch, Kaikoura, Marlborough, Selwyn, Ashburton and Queenstown-Lakes District Councils have all engaged Sarah to assist them in undertaking their plan review and consenting functions.

Sarah's vast experience and planning expertise has also been sought by Central Government where she was appointed as an inaugural member of the Minister for the Environment's Advisory Board on Professional Development for RMA Decision Makers (2004-2008), as a member of Minister for the Environment's Reference Group on Resource Management Amendment in 1998 and most recently she has been appointed by the Minister for the Environment to the Environmental Legal Assistance Fund Advisory Panel.

Sarah is one of New Zealand's leading experts in the preparation of Assessments of Environmental Effects, having project-managed a wide range of AEEs, including some for very large projects which involved highly complex scientific aspects, with complex ecological or biophysical systems. She is skillful at managing and coordinating the input of technical expertise, distilling technical reports, writing AEEs, explaining complex concepts and summarising technical findings.

She is also a leading proponent in formulating conditions of consent for addressing complex effects, such as those required to establish adaptive management regimes in environmental settings where knowledge and information is still evolving.

More recently, she was appointed as a core member of the Independent Hearings Panel set up to hear submissions and make decisions on the Replacement Christchurch District Plan. In this capacity, Sarah displayed exemplary professionalism and expertise when engaging with witnesses, drafting decisions and mentoring planners within the Secretariat staff over the 2 years that the Panel sat. The respect for Sarah's plan-writing skills saw the Panel appointing Sarah with the task of working with the Secretariat, submitters and Council officers through the "working hearings", definitions amendment and

plan restructuring processes. Many planners, other witnesses and Counsel who appeared before the Panel can attest to her ability to quickly get to the heart of complex and wide-ranging planning issues, robustly testing evidence in a courteous and respectful manner. Throughout, Sarah's dry sense of humour was used effectively to diffuse tension and bring a touch of relief to the formal proceedings.

Sarah is described as having a very sharp mind, with incredible recollection and an 'eye for detail', while always able to 'see the big picture'. Professionalism, proficiency and personality are the hallmarks of Sarah's illustrious planning career. The New Zealand Planning Institute congratulates Sarah on her elevation to Fellow and recognise her outstanding service to the profession and to the advancement of the practice of planning in New Zealand.

Sir Bob Owens award - Chris Kissling

The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport AGM and Annual Awards Presentation Dinner was held on the 11th October 2017 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Albert St. Auckland. Former professional planner and Professor of Transport in the Department of Environmental Management at Lincoln University, Emeritus Professor Chris Kissling, won the Sir Bob Owens award. The Award is not presented every year and is for 'an outstanding contribution to the logistics, transport or supply chain sectors. The winner is some-one who has promoted professionalism and excellence through leadership and example: they have encouraged young people to enter the sector and assisted them in their development, and they have provided personal leadership on a voluntary basis in the wider community beyond anything to do with their paid employment'.



Student Awards – 2016

Rachael Jane Brown was awarded the John Hayward Memorial Prize for 2016. This award is given to the most outstanding student completing a Master of Environmental Policy and Management, who has completed the requirements for the degree, and is based mainly on their academic performance in core subjects. This prize was previously awarded to the most outstanding student completing the Master of Environmental Policy degree but from 2016 onwards has changed to the most outstanding student completing the Master of Environmental Policy and Management degree. This award was created after the death of John Hayward in 1993. John Hayward was the founder of the Centre for Resource Management at Lincoln, as well as the Master of Science (Resource Management) degree, the precursor of the Master of Environmental Policy degree.

Alison Sarah Outram was awarded the Thomson Reuters Prize (formally Thomson Brookers) in Resource Management for 2016. This prize is awarded to the highest performing first year Master of Planning student, and is based on academic performance in core

subjects. Thomson Reuters are a leading provider of information and solutions to the legal, tax, accounting and business markets in New Zealand. Through their online and hard copies of the Resource Management Act and other relevant pieces of legislation they allow students to gain information and keep up to date with changes in resource management and planning law.

Pippa Huddleston was awarded the New Zealand Planning Institute Reginald Hammond Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded annually by the New Zealand Planning Institute for the final year of study for an accredited planning degree at the undergraduate or post-graduate level in New Zealand. The planning degree must be recognised as an Accredited degree in the year in which the application is made. The applicant must be a New Zealand citizen or have permanent resident status in New Zealand. The scholarship has a value of \$4,000 which is paid in April/May of the year in which the Award is held.

Summer Scholarships 2015/2016

Ella Shields: *Enhancing landholder implementation of expert advice in the Selwyn-Waihora catchment*

Supervised by Hamish Rennie, Adrienne Lomax
Funded by the Waihora Ellesmere Trust

Deborah Paterson: *Māori and Indigenous Agribusiness Pathways*

Supervised by Simon Lambert
Funded by the Lambert research account

Jamie Evans: *An investigation into digital farming in Canterbury*

Supervised by Shirley Gibbs, Pat Anthony, Kevin Moore
Funded by Canterbury Branch Royal Society of NZ

Olivia Lin: *Future-proofing the Styx website*

Supervised by Shirley Gibbs
Styx Living Laboratory Trust

Zac Taylor: *Managing visitor impacts on the New Zealand sub-Antarctic*

Supervised by Emma Stewart, Stephen Espiner
Canterbury Branch Royal Society of NZ

Hannah Wilson: *DesignLab*

Supervised by Mick Abbott
School of Landscape Architecture

Mees van Wagendonk: *DesignLab*

Supervised by Mick Abbott
School of Landscape Architecture

Li Xuejing: *DesignLab*

Supervised by Mick Abbott
School of Landscape Architecture

Hin Chun Woody Lee: *DesignLab*

Supervised by Mick Abbott
School of Landscape Architecture

Summer Scholarships 2016/2017

Max Curnow: *Making the case for a predator free Banks Peninsula / Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū*

Supervised by Geoff Kerr
Funded by Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust

Ali Outram: *Aspinall Scholarship: Viability of an online rural property access facility (Access Me)*

Supervised by Geoff Kerr
Funded by The Walking Access Commission

Irene Setiawan: *Investigation of the drying reaches of Avon River tributaries*

Supervised by Bryan Jenkins
Funded by ECAN/Waterways