



DIANE LUCAS - CITATION FOR ELECTION
AS FELLOW OF THE NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE OF
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

The Central Otago Landscape in which Diane Lucas was born and raised has had a major influence on her life and career as a landscape architect. This dramatic landscape, with its ecological and cultural richness, undoubtedly helped to shape Diane's early appreciation and understanding of the inherent qualities of the New Zealand landscape.

Diane grew up on Bendigo Station, Tarras, and quickly came to understand why the inherent qualities of the landscape should be nurtured and why stewardship of the land was a central concept to farming. Visiting and working in other South Island rural landscapes during her school and university holidays also contributed to her practical and intimate understanding of farm management and its role in shaping the landscape.

A decision to study for a Bachelor of Science majoring in botany, at the University of Otago was an expression of Diane's affinity with the natural landscape and a desire to gain a greater understanding of the way it worked. On completing her degree, she enrolled in the newly established post graduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture course at Lincoln College.

Once completing her Dip L.A. Diane then embarked on her career as a landscape architect and during the past 14 years she has achieved much more than what many people do in an entire lifetime! Her first appointment was working with other landscape architects under George Malcolm in the Ministry of Works and Development office in Christchurch. Six months later she took up a position as landscape architect with MWD in Dunedin. In 1976 Diane moved to a vastly different landscape, the Waikato, as District Landscape Architect in the MWD Hamilton office.

Diane quickly proved her ability with MWD, and demonstrated how she was able to work quickly and innovatively, either independently or in association with other disciplines. This resulted in a large number and a wide range of projects being completed - from large scale landscape planning exercises, site planning projects and detailed design.



At the end of 1977 Diane resigned from MWD and travelled overseas for a year, visiting Britain, Europe, South and Central America and the United States. In 1978 she was the New Zealand delegate to the IFLA Congress in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil. Diane's year of travel was a time of "looking and learning" - about landscapes, land use and other cultures' attitudes and impacts on the land.

Diane returned to New Zealand in 1979 and immediately established her own rurally based landscape practice in Geraldine. Consulting work from farmers and other clients arrived quickly, both from the local area and from other districts. Many of Diane's clients are longstanding ones, where, having prepared initial landscape proposals for them or given them advice, her involvement has continued on an ongoing basis as jobs have been implemented or as new projects or developments have arisen. It has been Diane's thorough understanding of farmers and farming that have enabled her to achieve practical and worthwhile results and have also helped to establish a profile for landscape architects in the rural sector.

Despite the workload of private practice Diane has always made time to share her knowledge, ideas, and experience with others. Giving talks and lectures at conferences, seminars and field days, to university students, local groups, farmers, farm foresters, agricultural scientist and others have helped Diane to promote a wide understanding and awareness of landscape planning, design and management matters.

As well, she has prepared numerous articles that have appeared in a variety of publications - 'The Landscape', 'Landscape Australia', 'New Zealand Environment', 'Permaculture Association Bulletin', 'New Zealand Journal of Agricultural Science', 'The Farmer', and 'Forest and Bird'. In 1980-81 Diane published 'Landscape Guidelines for Rural South Canterbury' and in 1987 'Woodlots in the Landscape'. Both of these publications were written primarily for landowners and dealt with practical landscape planning and design guidelines and have received acclaim both here and overseas.

Diane is also a prolific and energetic correspondent and always finds time to dash off a quick note of advice or a lengthy comment on landscape issues, offering encouragement and assistance to students and colleagues alike.



Diane's appointment in 1982 to the Environmental Council and membership of the South Canterbury Land Settlement committee 1984-87, were both significant. For both organisations it was the first time a landscape architect had been appointed and the appointments were primarily recognition of her own significant track record and ability.

In 1986 Diane received a Lincoln Foundation Award and undertook a research trip to Europe investigating sustainable land management systems and presented a paper on New Zealand pastoral landscapes to IFLA's 'Rural Landscape Management Conference' in Poland. On her return she was awarded a Teaching Fellowship at Lincoln College and during 1987 combined her own research and investigations with lecturing.

It is entirely appropriate that Diane Lucas is being admitted as a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects; her significant contribution to landscape planning, design and management, particularly in the rural sector, and the two terms that she served on the Executive of the Institute, one as Vice President, are all tangible evidence of her immense contribution to the aims and objectives of the landscape architectural profession.