

## Fellow of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (FRIH)

### Christopher Charles Webb



Chris Webb is a keen amateur horticulturist who has always enjoyed plants and comes from a long line of keen gardeners.

Some of his earliest memories are of his mother striking cuttings of pelargoniums and of the *Prunus* 'Kanzan' (flowering cherry) and *P. nigra* (black plum) trees growing in their Dunedin garden. Another early memory which inspired Chris's interest in plants and gardening were the huge apples that grew on their 'Peasgood's Nonsuch' tree and having more than one variety of apple on trees that were grafted by his father.

Chris hoped to have a working career in horticulture but when he left school suitable courses and positions were not easy to find, and he ended up working in banking.

His first placement was in Dunedin and shortly afterwards, in October 1978, he relocated to Christchurch. Chris boarded near the Christchurch Botanic Gardens during a time when Alan Jolliffe was curator and

they attended the same church, St Andrews Presbyterian Church. Chris loved the ambiance of the trees in the gardens and central city. In September 1984 he bought a small unit and planted his garden full of bulbs.

In August 1985 he moved to Wellington, again relocating for work. There he planted his garden with modern roses.

In February 1989 Chris moved to Auckland, where he was based for the next 27 years before relocating to his present home in the Thames/Paeroa area in January 2016.

Although Chris's main working life has been in the bank industry, his passion has always been in horticulture. In addition to developing and maintaining his own gardens containing a variety of decorative plants of interest to him, Chris has enjoyed working for others as a part-time landscaper and gardener. He is a practical horticulturist and not afraid of getting out in the garden and getting his hands dirty.

Chris was a long-term member of the management committee for Fernglen, a native plant garden located in Birkenhead, originally developed by Bill and Muriel Fisher. This outstanding, historically significant garden is now administered by the Auckland Council Parks Department and relies on continued support

from members of the horticultural community such as Chris.

Chris has been and is a member of many horticultural groups, including the Wellington Rose Society, Heritage Roses, Friends of the Auckland Botanic Gardens, Eden Garden Society, Meadowbank Garden Society and the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (RNZIH). At various times he has served on the executive of many of these organisations.

Chris joined the RNZIH in 2001 and remains active in the Auckland Branch. He became a member of the National Executive from 2015 and in the following year took on the added role of Treasurer, drawing upon his previous career in banking.

Chris enthusiastically contributes to the affairs of the Institute. He has a wide focus, providing ideas for future conferences, journal and Facebook content, keeping in touch with our members and attending and representing the RNZIH in many of the horticultural events around New Zealand.

An RNZIH fellowship is awarded to "Members who have made a significant contribution to horticulture by their activities or interest in or service to horticulture", qualities that make Christopher Charles Webb a worthy recipient.

**Citation prepared by Alan Jolliffe and Murray Dawson**

