

and most field days over the years. This has allowed Gus and Glenys to travel the world with a group of like-minded horticulturists. A highlight of this travel was in November 2019, when Gus and Glenys joined a group of IPPS international members on a fact-finding trip at the invitation of the Singapore Government¹. Eddie Welsh was the organiser and the group were treated like royalty. They were taken on many tours around Singapore Gardens and Singapore Zoo, to areas off-limits to tourists. They also visited housing communities to look at communal gardening atop high rises.

Gus's sentiments were captured well in a *Kāpiti News* interview (16th June 2021), where he said, "The New Zealand region of the society is one of the strongest in the world and an amazing group of people who will be friends forever."

Upon learning of his Associate of Honour, Gus says, "To the wonderful people who have been so good to me, and always been there for me over so many years, too many to acknowledge, from the bottom of my heart I will never know how to repay you all. You are my family and have

made my career so memorable. Thank you all. It is with enormous pleasure I accept this award and I dedicate it to all those amazing people I met on this journey."

Citation prepared by Alan Jolliffe, and based in part on an article published by David Haxton in *Kāpiti News* (16th June 2021) and *Commercial Horticulture* (August/September 2021, p. 20–21).

¹ Hayden Foulds published a report of this trip in the *New Zealand Garden Journal*, 2020, Vol. 23, No. 1, pp. 14–17.

Award of Associate of Honour of the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (AHRH)

Dr John Clemens



Dr John Clemens, RNZIH Associate of Honour (AHRH) for 2022.

John Clemens is a landscape ecologist, plant biologist and horticulturist with qualifications and experience gained progressively in chemistry, landscape ecology, horticulture and, most recently, landscape architecture.

Working initially as a chemist at the University of Zürich and botanising in alpine meadows at the weekend, it soon became apparent to John that he was more interested in field

ecology than working in a chemical laboratory. Returning to England he retrained at Wye College in Kent and was reborn a horticulturist/landscape ecologist in time to secure an academic position in the Department of Agronomy & Horticultural Science at the University of Sydney. Discovering there was more joy than terror in teaching, he developed horticultural courses and researched in urban ecology, the domestication of Australian ornamental plants, and land reclamation.

He emigrated to New Zealand and worked with the International Plant Propagators Society – New Zealand (IPPS–NZ) and the nursery industry while Director of the New Zealand Nursery Research Centre at Massey University from 1987 to 1993.

Research with co-worker and wife, Professor Paula Jameson, blossomed with several Public Good Science Fund projects on the floricultural development of New Zealand plants in association with the (then) Crop & Food Research CRI. John and Paula co-supervised numerous talented masters and doctoral students who went on to positions in science and

the horticultural industry. John was awarded the RNZIH Peter Skellerup Plant Conservation Scholarship in 2000 for work on kākābeak (kōwhai ngutu-kākā) biodiversity.

The family moved to Christchurch in 2004, where John completed a Master of Landscape Architecture degree with Distinction at Lincoln University. He worked as a landscape architect, briefly with Di Lucas & Associates and then with Peter Rough Landscape Architects, receiving gold and silver awards for landscape research from the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects.

He was appointed Curator of Christchurch Botanic Gardens / Te Māra Huaota o Waipapa in 2009 and Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Biological Sciences, University of Canterbury in 2010. With the support of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens, and international and local collaborators, he revitalised botanical research conducted within the Gardens to a level not seen since the promising early careers of Curator John Armstrong and his son Joseph Armstrong 150 years earlier.

Collaborations with keen and talented staff and students at the University of Canterbury and other organisations were critical for the success of several projects. These projects included flowering in New Zealand woody plants with Paula Jameson (Jameson and Clemens, 2015), pollination in the New Zealand potato orchid with Kristina Macdonald, Zoë Lennon, Lauretta Bensemann, and Dave Kelly (Macdonald et al., 2015), endangered tree species in Canterbury plant collections with Matthew Arnet, Bernardo Santos, Ecki Brockerhoff, Peter Pelser, and Chris Ecroyd (Arnet et al., 2015), biosecurity and botanic gardens with Ecki Brockerhoff (Clemens and Brockerhoff, 2016), the pollen preferences of native bees with Della Bennet and Dave Kelly (Bennet et al., 2018), aphid–pine tree species associations important for the International Plant Sentinel Network with Sarah Redlich, Ecki Brockerhoff, and others (Redlich et al., 2019), and host tree species for the organism responsible for Legionnaire's Disease with Stephen Chambers and numerous others (Chambers et al., 2020). It is thanks to former and current Christchurch Botanic Gardens staff who made and documented the plant collections that these and other research projects could be undertaken.

John gave many public talks on the history and potential of the Botanic Gardens and worked with others to guide the future development of the Gardens up until 2018. He has published numerous science and more practically-oriented papers across his areas of expertise.

He was a member of the RNZIH for 16 years, editing the *New Zealand Garden Journal* from 2002 until 2004. John edited the *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand* from 2004 to 2006, and has been the scientific editor of the *Canterbury Botanical Society Journal* for the last 10 years. He is actively researching the horticultural and scientific life of early Canterbury in collaboration with Sue Molloy of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, enjoying the trials of propagating plants at home with minimal equipment, and working occasionally with Environment Canterbury to help growers avoid the introduction of pest plants into home gardens and the wider landscape.

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**Citation prepared by
Murray Dawson**



Clianthus (kakabeak)