



INAUGURAL AWARDS NIGHT

WEDNESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2012

David Thom Distinguished Fellow of IPENZ is widely recognised as New Zealand's foremost "Environmental Engineer" and was recognised by the Institution of Civil Engineer, UK by award of their Gold Medal in 1999. He has spent a working lifetime and in retirement, actively promoting sustainability and minimisation of adverse environmental effects from engineering works.

He served with the RNZAF during World War II and studied at AUT for his professional engineering qualification. His engineering career began in 1948 and by 1955 he had joined the firm that he was to be a Director of through to 1986. (Kingston Reynolds Thom and Allardice and later KRTA Ltd). David led the Civil Engineering Division for many years before concentrating on environmental planning as well as some specific major design and construction projects.

His interest in the environment has led him to contribute in many ways. He is a past chairman of the NZ Environmental Council and served on the Regional Steering Committee of the Planning Council. He has been a President of IPENZ and chair of its Auckland Branch as well as serving on the related Council and committee for several years. He was chair of the IPENZ committee which produced the Institutions first Environmental Code. He also served on the National Parks Authority including a term as chairman. He lead a delegation to the 1998 IEAust. Conference in Hobart to agree a draft environmental policy which was adopted by the World Federation of Engineering Organisation as their Environmental Code of Practice in their Arusha Declaration. He served on the WFEO Environmental Committee for a number of years, working on the development of a virtual library for the dissemination of information about engineering and the environment.

David has written many papers on environmental matters. He has also written at least two books – "Roads in the Landscape" and "Heritage – The Parks of the People", being a descriptive history of the development of New Zealand's Nation Parks.

David was awarded a CBE in 1982 for services to engineering and the environment and the "McLean Citation" in 1989 from IPENZ - only the ninth time in 35 years that the award had been made up to that time. In 1998 he was awarded the Charles Fleming Award by the Royal Society of New Zealand, in recognition of his work in conservation, in the development of national policy on the environment and by changing the culture of professional engineering towards environmental sensitivity.