

Bruce Clarkson award

Bruce was a founding member of the Rotorua Botanical Society, and has maintained his membership despite a move to the Waikato three decades ago.

Congratulations to Professor Bruce Clarkson of Hamilton for his 2023 New Year Honours. Environmentalist Professor Bruce Clarkson has been made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to ecological restoration. His ONZM citation reads: “Professor Bruce Clarkson is recognised as one of New Zealand’s foremost authorities on ecological restoration, making significant contributions to conservation through his ongoing



Professor Bruce Clarkson, ONZM for 2023.

research, education, protection, and restoration of native plants and ecosystems over a 40-year career. Professor Clarkson was Deputy Vice Chancellor Research at the University of Waikato from 2015 to 2019, having held professor roles since 2000. He has 223 publications on the ecology of New Zealand native plants and vegetation. He is a Board member of the International Society for Ecological Restoration and chairs the Australasian chapter. He is ambassador for New Zealand’s Biological Heritage National Science Challenge. In 2005, he co-conducted a review of progress on the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy. Since 2016 he has led ‘People, Cities and Nature’, a research programme focusing on restoring damaged or depleted indigenous ecosystems in urban environments. His research has guided biodiversity and restoration projects including the Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park and Hamilton’s Gully Restoration Programme, and he has contributed significantly to many other North Island conservation and restoration projects. His research has helped guide district and regional councils’ increasing commitment to environmental sustainability, native plantings, biodiversity strategies and long-term plans. Professor Clarkson assists community groups, iwi, hapū, whānau, the Department of Conservation and other agencies with practical advice.”

Bruce and his wife Dr Beverley Clarkson have previously been awarded the Loder Cup, in 2006 and 2021, respectively, and both received the Hamilton-Kirikiroa Medal, in July 2021.

An article on Dr Clarkson’s New Year’s honour is published at www.stuff.co.nz/environment/300769903/environmentalistbruce-clarkson-recognised-for-restorationefforts-in-new-years-honours.