

Ifpra medallist profile - John Brandenburg



Australian member John Brandenburg was awarded the prestigious Ifpra Gold Medal in October 2013 “In recognition of significant and dedicated service to furthering the values and ideals of the Ifpra vision” over a period of more than two decades.

The medal was presented by incoming president Emmanuel Trueb, who awarded three gold and three silver Ifpra medals to members who had made significant contributions to Ifpra.

Well before joining Ifpra in 1989 John was part of the Ifpra Congress organisation and organised the technical tours in Canberra in 1970. As a member he was involved in organising the post-conference tour for the 1998 Ifpra Congress in Melbourne and has continued to contribute to conferences and study tours to the present.

Importantly he was involved in the development and success of the Ifpra Asia Pacific Region as the Region’s first Secretary for 16 years (1992-2008), developing the Region’s financial and communications systems including a regular newsletter and Ifpra’s first website to keep the region’s members engaged in Ifpra’s international activities. Emanuel Trueb noted this was a significant contribution to the development and success of Ifpra.

John’s broader contribution to the parks and horticultural industries, through Councils, private practice and long involvement with professional associations is immense. After studying horticulture he began his professional career in Canberra in 1969 with the Parks and Gardens Section of the Australian Government’s Department of Interior, then in 1976 as Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Nunawading (18 years) that included leading the way with Australia’s first community allotment gardens and receiving the Australia’s Prime Ministers Award, and other awards, for his work designing and establishing a horticultural recreation centre.

John subsequently served significant periods with the cities of Rockdale (12 years) as well as with other cities through private practice, including Botany Bay.

In addition to Ifpra he has been heavily engaged with national professional associations, in Australia including:

- The Royal Australian Institute of Parks & Recreation (1976-1998) including as a Federal Councillor for 5 years and Associate Fellow
- Parks and Leisure Australia (since 1998), where he is a Life Member and received the Frank Stewart Award in 2011 “In recognition of an individual who has provided a significant contribution to the development, promotion and advocacy of the Parks and Leisure Industry of Australia over many years.”
- The Royal Horticultural Society of NSW (since 1999), including 8 years as Vice President to 2011.
- As a member of the Australian Institute of Horticulture (since 1971)
- As a qualified Horticultural Judge and a volunteer Steward for the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW.

He has been involved in several paid international study tours including the USA, Soviet Union, China and Japan, and is a regular speaker on horticultural, open space and leisure management matters.

John’s career and contribution to the industry highlights his keen interest in community and professional development, and it is for bringing that passion to Ifpra and Ifpra’s development that our organisation has sought to acknowledge with one of our highest awards.