Hugh Wilson has a national and international reputation as a botanist, naturalist and innovator.

His scientific research has focused on vegetation patterns and dynamics across New Zealand’s entire altitudinal range, with additional studies overseas, including the Peruvian Andes.

For the last three decades as manager of the 1250 hectare Hinewai Reserve on Banks Peninsula, he has overseen the transformation of gorse-infested farmland back to native flora and fauna reserve.

Since 2015 he has also managed the adjacent 192 hectare Purple Peak Curry Reserve for the New Zealand Native Forest Restoration Trust.

The reserves attract domestic and international visitors who are welcome to walk the nearly 40kms of tracks.

He has received a number of awards; in 1987 he was awarded the Loder Cup for his work with native flora, in 1991 the Bloomer Medal from the Linnaean Society London for Contribution to Botany and in 2014 the Old Blue Award from Forest and Bird.

He has authored numerous botanical publications including scientific treatises and popular field guides on the plants of Aoraki Mt Cook National Park, Stewart Island and Banks Peninsula, as well as papers and articles for the New Zealand Journal of Botany, the Journal of the Canterbury Botanical Society, and the Department of Conservation.

His most recent major publication is “Plant Life on Banks Peninsula” in 2013.

Hugh has appeared in film and television documentaries, on RNZ and in Christchuch street art, reflecting his high public profile and the esteem in which he is held.

Lincoln University is delighted to present this well-deserved honour to Hugh Wilson, the degree of Doctor of Natural Resources honoris causa.

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Professor Bruce McKenzie
Vice-Chancellor

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Bruce Gemmell
Chancellor