



Lincoln Alumni International Medal 2020

Dr Nilo Covacevich

Dr Nilo Covacevich is one of the foremost experts in Chile on native tussock grassland production and the cultural and technological value of his work is raising the living standards of all rural people in Chile.

Chile is a developing country with a huge base of primary production of livestock, horticultural and forestry production. Dr Covacevich has been directing and contributing to the scientific research in grassland production, animal production and more recently directing horticultural research in Chile.

While Director of Magallanes Region (Southern Chile and Tierra del Fuego) Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Agropecuarias, (INIA) Experimental Station (1980-2008), he was responsible for, and contributed to, grassland research for wool and lamb production and animal health. He also lectured for ten years in pasture production and management at the University of Magallanes.

He continued as Experimental Station Director in Bernardo O'Higgins Region (2008 until retirement 2018) where he was responsible for directing the mainly horticultural research for the Central Valley of

Chile, the agricultural and horticultural heartland of much of Chile's primary produce exports.

He gained his Doctor of Philosophy from Lincoln University in 1990. There is a close connection between the work of Dr Covacevich and Lincoln University as both wish to "grow two blades of grass where one grew before but take into consideration the Earth's abundant but finite resources of nutrients and water".

In 2016 he was made a Fellow of the Chilean academy of Agricultural Science and in 2017 he was nominated by the then President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, to join the board of the University of O'Higgins.

His 25 refereed papers are a substantial achievement in light of the fact that he was directing research much of his life and not involved directly.

His work reflects well on the University, and he is well known in Chile, as is his Lincoln qualification, and he is a worthy recipient of the Lincoln Alumni International Medal 2020.

Professor Bruce McKenzie
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell
Chancellor