Lincoln University

Tom Lambie ONZM,
Honorary Doctorate Degree (Natural Resources)

For many years Tom Lambie has been one of the public faces of Lincoln University, speaking at numerous events and graduations, and a well-respected figure lending his experience and wisdom to many organisations.

Tom served on the Lincoln University Council for 14 years from 2002. He was Chancellor for 11 of those, retiring from the role in 2016, but this did not mean he severed his ties with the University—he is the Patron of the Alumni Association and of the Lincoln University Rugby Club.

An Environment Canterbury Commissioner since 2010, with portfolio responsibilities for Biodiversity and Biosecurity, he has a long history of leadership. Tom runs a 415 hectares dairy farm at Pleasant Point in South Canterbury, and in 1987 he became the South Canterbury Dairy Section Chairman of Federated Farmers, then Provincial Vice-President and President, National Vice-President from 1996 to 2002, and National President from 2002 to 2005.

Tom represented New Zealand on the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, becoming the Federation’s Vice-President in 2004. From 2002 he also sat on the Board of the Trade Liberalisation Network.

A member of the Advisory Committee on Official Statistics (ACOS) to the Minister of Statistics from 2009 to 2014, and Chair of the Committee from 2011 to 2014, Tom was also a Trustee of the Todd Foundation from 2002 to 2010, the Hikorangi Foundation Chairman from 2007 to 2012 and on the Motu Research & Education Foundation Board 2008 to 2011.


Full farmer ownership of the Opuha Dam was achieved in 2007 when Tom became Chair of Opuha Water Limited, a role he held from 2007-2016, and he remains a director there. He has also chaired Landcare Trust.

In the 2014 New Year Honours list, Tom was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to agriculture and in 2016 he was awarded the Lincoln University Ngāti Moki Trophy for Māori Leadership.

He gained his BAg Com from Lincoln in 1980 and came back to do a Kellogg Rural Leadership Scholar in 1995.

Lincoln University is delighted to present this well-deserved honour to Tom Lambie: the degree of Doctor of Natural Resources honoris causa.