



# Lincoln University

## Doctor of Science honoris causa 2020

### James Alexander Douglas CNZM

In his more than 40 years as an agronomic scientist for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), and Crop & Food Research, Jim's work ranged across a diverse field, culminating in him becoming one of the most widely experienced agronomic scientists in New Zealand in both agriculture and horticulture.

His long career is inspirational to future generations of agronomic scientists in agriculture and horticulture in terms of highlighting the breadth and opportunity to grow and diversify New Zealand's land-based industries.

Jim graduated from Lincoln College with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science degree in 1962 and his Master of Agricultural Science in 1964.

At Ruakura Research Centre he developed and ran comprehensive statistically-based procedures to evaluate DSIR crop and pasture breeding lines and new cultivars. His own research was directed at maize and squash production, pasture species evaluation for grass grub resistance and the use of lucerne in the pumice country.

From the mid-1980s he established and led a national new crops programme based on international market

research on new Asian vegetables, medicinal plants and plant extracts, culinary herbs, essential oils, and edible fungi.

Programmes were developed to cover these areas with his own work covering production research in a multitude of new crops some of which were, wasabi, yacon, goldenseal, konjac, Japanese taro, licorice and arnica. His research continued within this programme until his retirement from Crop and Food Research in 2006.

For his lifetime work Jim was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2007. Previously he was honoured with being made a Fellow of the NZ Society of Horticultural Science in 1996 and receiving a Certificate of Achievement in Agronomy from the Agronomy Society of NZ in 1997.

**Lincoln University is delighted to present this well-deserved honour to James Alexander Douglas, the degree of Doctor of Science honoris causa.**

Professor Bruce McKenzie  
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell  
Chancellor