

## **Noel Hickland**

### **Lincoln University Medal**

2015

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Rugby coach and Lincoln alumnus, Noel Hickland, has a long association with the University.

He received a Diploma of Horticulture in 1972 and has spent the past 12 years coaching many of our most promising young All Blacks-in-training through the Lincoln University Rugby Club.

Described in his nomination as the “godfather of Lincoln University rugby”, Noel is known as an exceptionally caring person who excels in his roles of coach and mentor, both on and off the field.

With a unique sense of empathy and integrity, he’s fully committed to the task of moulding future generations of truly great players. In order to produce well-rounded sportsmen, his coaching style focuses as much on life mentoring as the physical aspects of the sport.

Noel’s coaching history at Lincoln encompasses five years with the Lincoln University Club (Merivale) and seven years with the Lincoln University Rugby Football Club.

Under his guidance, the latter club won the Premier Colts Competition in 2011 and 2014.

The multi-talented Noel is also an experienced ‘Mr Fix-It’, having worked for the past eight years as the Franchise Owner of Exceed Christchurch East and South West, for which he won a Business Direct Award in 2013.

His role with Exceed involves repairing and upgrading windows, doors, conservatory joinery and security locks in Christchurch East, South, West and surrounding areas.

These skills come in handy for Noel’s rugby team, as the kind-hearted coach is generous enough to fix the windows and doors at their flats when necessary.

He has also put his horticulture background to good use for rugby club fundraisers, growing potatoes that his team have been able to sell amongst friends and family.

Noel’s invaluable contributions to the rugby club, and to the lives of many at Lincoln, make him a highly deserving recipient of the Lincoln University medal.