



Bledisloe Medal

Penny Nelson

Penny Nelson was appointed Director-General of the Department of Conservation (DOC) in November 2021, the first woman to reach this significant Crown role.

As head of DOC, Penny oversees a dedicated staff entrusted with looking after more than 14,000 native species of flora and fauna over 8 million hectares of land, 52 marine reserves and sanctuaries, and 220 large islands.

The scope of Penny's work for New Zealand is immense. Leadership and a determination to strengthen, improve and reshape DOC so it can better protect and enhance the natural environment are forefront in her work ethic.

Penny is a Lincoln University alumna, MSc (Hons) in Resource Management and Policy, 1997.

Prior to DOC, Penny was an influential senior leader across the public and private sectors including roles as Deputy Secretary at the Ministry for the Environment, head of the Sustainable Business Council of New Zealand, and she held senior leadership roles at the Ministry of Social Development, Dairy NZ and Manaaki Whenua / Landcare Research. As Deputy Director-General of Biosecurity for the Ministry for Primary Industries Penny oversaw the management of biosecurity risks offshore, at the border, and within New Zealand preserving the integrity of our land, water and ocean resources.

In line with Lincoln University's values, Penny's career has advanced the national interest in areas such as biodiversity, biosecurity, sustainability, and environmental protection, in both the land and marine environments.

Throughout her career, Penny has encouraged businesses, government agencies and communities to recognise the link between nature and climate change. She has also helped foster understanding that New Zealand's biodiversity is special, unique and a key driver of our economy. Not only is healthy nature necessary for its own sake and for ecosystem services, it is also a provider of tourism opportunities that regional economies rely on.

As a Lincoln alumna who has worked at senior leadership levels in many nationally important land and resource related sectors, Penny has contributed greatly to the country's scientific, economic, cultural and technological domains, well earning her the award of Lincoln University's Bledisloe Medal.

The Bledisloe Medal, initiated in 1930 by the late Viscount Bledisloe, former Governor-General of New Zealand, is made to a former student or a past or current staff member of Lincoln University, who in the opinion of the Council, has made an outstanding contribution to his or her chosen field of expertise, advanced New Zealand's interests, and/or brought credit to Lincoln University.

Professor Grant Edwards
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell
Chancellor



Doctor of Commerce *Honoris Causa* Stephen Mark Smith MW

Steve Smith was Chancellor of Lincoln University from May 2016 until December 2018.

His term as Chancellor spanned arguably the most critical period in Lincoln University's modern history, when it went from the spectre of closure or merger to the reality of a nascent new future.

Leadership at this time imposed heavy responsibilities and expectations on Steve from many quarters - Government, industry stakeholders, alumni, staff, students, the New Zealand public, and the weight of history. No one wanted to see Lincoln University fail, and Steve embodied, expressed and carried their hope that it wouldn't.

The background was financial deficits and languishing enrolments. Transformative measures were recommended by a 'Transformation Board' which reported to the University Council in October 2017.

Steve was a member of that board and by the time it had completed its work he had been elected Chancellor.

On 21 November 2017 to a packed campus gathering Steve delivered the board's findings and recommendations to staff.

He described the Transformation Board's report as a 'rousing endorsement of what Lincoln should be doing'.

From that point on, Steve became the face, voice and persona of Lincoln University's transformation process.

A loyal Lincoln alumnus, Steve had passion, optimism, cheerfulness and ebullience in abundance. The staff took him to their hearts, and an atmosphere of buoyancy and hope emerged.

As Chancellor, it was Steve Smith's job, along with the University Council, to provide Lincoln's management team with an environment of stable and supportive governance to ensure that Transformation became a reality. This he did with the greatest distinction.

When Steve stepped down from the Chancellorship at the end of 2018, Lincoln University had embraced the recommended vision of being a 'top five globally ranked, specialist land-based university unleashing the power of the land to enhance lives and grow the future'.

Steve brought a remarkable portfolio of governance experience, professional development, commercial acumen and business success to the task with which he was entrusted, including study at Stanford University and acclaim in the wine industry. He was the first viticulturist in the world to receive the Master of Wine distinction.

Professor Grant Edwards
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell
Chancellor



Doctor of Science *Honoris Causa* Deborah Kennedy Gilbertson CNZM, BAgCom

Education has many definitions, but common threads are change, transformation and growth.

It's Lincoln University's core business, and it has been at the heart of alumna Deborah Gilbertson's career for more than 40 years, particularly in relation to the science and technology sectors, innovation, leadership opportunities for women, and the encouragement of cross-culturalism.

Deb, as she prefers to be known, regards her focus on education as a direct result of her own experiences as a degree student at Lincoln University where experiential learning has always been strong.

Deb graduated in 1980 and for a short while was a member of the Agricultural Economics Research Unit (AERU). Since then, her career has ranged far and wide, but in essence has been concerned with education and the flowering of personal potential for individual fulfilment and the collective betterment of society.

In the 1980s Deb established a Women in Science Network with the then DSIR, and with Lincoln University's support she helped establish the Women in Agriculture Network, which achieved a membership of 10,000 in its first decade of operation.

In the mid-1980s she ran a National Venture Capital Industry Development Workshop which led to

significant policy changes and an increase in the number of venture capital organisations. She co-founded the Wellington Venture Capital Association, and founded too the Emergent Māori Women's Leadership Programme.

In 2006 Deb established Te Kaihau Education Trust, a consultancy which grows leaders to innovate for a better world. Through Te Kaihau she was awarded a United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Award for her 'Global Enterprise Experience' contest and its impact on fostering cross-culturalism, peer leadership and social enterprise internationally.

Deb's current work includes developing graduate diplomas that aggregate micro-credentials to help emerging innovators advance their new ventures.

Deb stands particularly committed to the transformative power of science and the impact of new ventures that address the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

In all respects, and especially in relation to her abiding belief in the power for good of education, Deborah Kennedy Gilbertson is a very worthy candidate for the Lincoln University degree Doctor of Science *Honoris Causa*.

Professor Grant Edwards
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell
Chancellor



Lincoln University Medal

Lisa Choegyal MNZM

Lincoln University is proudly international in its outlook, with connections and collaborations encircling the globe. One of these connections is with Nepal.

Lincoln's connection with Nepal dates from the 1950's and is one of the university's longest on-going international ties outside of those with Britain and Australia.

For over 30 years of that time, Lincoln University has had an association with Lisa Choegyal of Kathmandu, whose career includes her role as New Zealand Honorary Consul to Nepal.

Through both her consular appointment and her activities as a sustainable tourism specialist, working in adventure tourism, conservation, trekking and mountaineering, Lisa gives unstinting support to Lincoln University and its relationship with Nepal.

Although not an alumna of Lincoln University, Lisa has long been regarded as a key member of the Lincoln University community as it has pursued teaching and research interests with institutions and agencies in Nepal.

Examples of her valued assistance include providing important introductions in Nepal for Lincoln staff as they build relationships around common interests in human capacity development and land-based education.

In particular, Lisa has had a long and productive relationship with staff of Lincoln's Department of Tourism, Sport and Society and the Faculty of Environment, Society and Design. In recent times this has included assisting Lincoln University with staff participation in celebrations around the 70th anniversary of the summiting of Sagarmatha Mount Everest.

In addition to helping Lincoln University academic staff in their associations with Nepal, Lisa has had a valued impact on the flow of Nepali students to Lincoln University, their wellbeing in New Zealand and their re-integration to life in Nepal on their return home.

Lisa co-chairs the Mingma Norbu Sherpa Memorial Scholarship Committee, which sends Nepali masters' degree students to Lincoln in partnership with WWF and the Greater Himalayas Foundation.

Throughout her long association with Lincoln University Lisa Choegyal has contributed meritorious voluntary service and support to the fabric and reputation of Lincoln University, making her a very worthy recipient of the Lincoln University Medal.

Professor Grant Edwards
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell
Chancellor



Alumni International Medal

Robert Dougall McCallum MSc, Dip P&RM

Lincoln University proudly acknowledges the outstanding scientific, technological and knowledge-advancing achievements of alumnus Robert ('Rob') Dougall McCallum.

Rob is internationally acclaimed in deep ocean exploration, philanthropic science and conservation.

After completing his Lincoln University Diploma in Parks and Recreation Management in 1986, Rob worked for the Department of Conservation, rising to the position of 'Conservator'.

He also spent four years on international secondment to the United Nations Development Programme as the Technical Lead for a rainforest conservation project in Papua New Guinea.

Switching to the world's oceanic domains, over the past 20 years Rob has become a world authority on marine exploration, particularly in relation to the Hadal Zone, the ocean below 6000 metres.

He has planned, managed and led record-breaking scientific expeditions to the deepest point in each of the world's five oceans, and all of the world's 10,000 metre-plus trenches.

He has personally dived to the deepest point on Earth (10,925 metres), the first New Zealander to do so.

Rob epitomises the Lincoln University Values of displaying Leadership, Innovation, and Integrity in the advancement of knowledge and understanding.

His expeditions have established many world firsts, broken several world records, and made major advances in engineering, technology, and human endeavour, as well as yielding discoveries in biological, chemical, geological and acoustic sciences.

The leadership shown by Rob in exploring what is considered to be the last frontier of exploration on Earth, has resulted in remarkable advances in science, fully consistent with the Lincoln University Values of Innovation and Integrity.

Rob refers appreciatively to his time at Lincoln as his 'formative years'. He now contributes to the next generation as a Trustee and Board member of four ocean-focussed charitable entities, as an industry spokesperson and consultant, and as a formal mentor to emerging explorers.

The Lincoln University Alumni International Medal is awarded to a former student or a past or current staff member of Lincoln University, who has made an outstanding contribution to their chosen field of expertise, and has brought credit to Lincoln University through achievements in a country other than New Zealand.

Professor Grant Edwards
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell
Chancellor



Alumni International Medal

Dr Ghanashyam Gurung

Dr Ghanashyam Gurung of Nepal completed degree studies in Parks and Recreation Management and Tourism Management at Lincoln University, at both bachelor's and master's levels, and a PhD at the University of Zurich. He is proud to be a Lincoln graduate and is always a willing 'ambassador' for this university.

Ghanashyam's work in Nepal is focussed on natural resources management, wildlife conservation and ecotourism.

He is the Country Representative of WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) Nepal, and WWF Snow Leopard Champion. He has over 30 years of managerial experience in participatory biodiversity conservation, and is known as the Shepherd of the Snow Leopard, 'Hiun Chituwako Gothalo'. He is named in the World Atlas list of the '12 most incredible conservation heroes saving our wildlife from extinction'.

Ghanashyam's multifaceted career in conservation has included setting up protected areas, managing multi-disciplinary projects in Conservation Areas, and supporting trans-boundary conservation landscapes. He is a respected figure in the global conservation fraternity.

Under Ghanashyam's leadership of conservation programmes for WWF Nepal, there has been significant growth in key wildlife numbers, such as tigers, and improvement in the understanding of snow leopards.

Professor Grant Edwards
Vice-Chancellor

Highlights of his leadership include managing the implementation of Nepal's first formal ecotourism project in the 1990's.

Ghanashyam's approach to making things happen extends to the next generation and he advocates strongly that Nepal's conservation efforts must be continued by the upcoming generation. Consequently, he is a great supporter of educational scholarships for the young.

He is co-chair of the Mingma Norbu Sherpa Memorial Scholarship.

As a Program Development and Support Director for WWF Nepal, Ghanashyam has been responsible for programmes and projects, raising funds, research and monitoring, managing communications and looking after cross-cutting units such as Gender and Social Inclusion, Climate/Energy, Livelihoods and Tourism.

Most recently Ghanashyam helped facilitate an MOU with Kathmandu University and Lincoln University to extend the reach of Lincoln University courses among Nepali students.

In all respects, Ghanashyam is a very worthy recipient of Lincoln University's Alumni International Medal.

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Bruce Gemmell
Chancellor



Global Science Medal

Distinguished Professor Philip Hulme FRSNZ

Distinguished Professor of Plant Biosecurity Philip Hulme, a Lincoln University staff member since 2007, is an internationally acclaimed scientist in the field of biosecurity.

Professor Hulme's primary research focus is predicting risks from alien plant invasions. It involves examining traits that underpin the success of invasive species, clarifying the main routes by which these species are introduced to a region, assessing their rates of spread, gauging the vulnerability of habitats to invasion, quantifying impacts, and predicting the potential effects of climate change on their distribution.

For a country like New Zealand, rich in agricultural and horticultural activity, indeed dependent on it economically, not to mention the passion of Kiwis for home gardening, landscape plantings, and botanical collections, it is highly important work, reaching into the heart of day-to-day life.

It is also an area of activity with immense significance globally. No border anywhere is impermeable and the quest for answers demands the highest standard of scientific rigour, honesty, integrity and discipline. The courage to defend unpopular and inconvenient findings and recommendations is another essential requirement.

Professor Hulme possesses all of these attributes.

His work, international in scope and pioneering in character, has identified and clarified fundamental

principles underpinning biological invasions as the starting point for the development of strategies to prevent, control or mitigate their impact.

Professor Hulme is recognised worldwide for his scholarship and the contributions he has made to the international body of knowledge about plant biosecurity.

Through his publication record, he is the only New Zealand-based environmental scientist recognised as a Highly Cited Researcher in each of the past 10 years. He is listed among the World's Most Influential Scientific Minds, a ranking that identifies the top 0.1 percent of researchers globally.

Professor Hulme is determined that Lincoln University should be at the heart of innovative biosecurity research in New Zealand and internationally. This was one of his motivations in establishing the Centre for One-Biosecurity Research, Analysis, and Synthesis (COBRAS), an accelerated approach to scientific discovery based on synthesis, data access and collaboration to foster a global community of researchers and stakeholders eager to solve some of the toughest biosecurity challenges.

Professor Hulme maintains strong collaborative links with European colleagues and provides scientific advice to many European bodies and an important United Nations intergovernmental agency.

Professor Grant Edwards
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell
Chancellor



Lincoln University Medal

John Edward Gould

Lincoln University upholds the principle of sustainability operationally and academically and the generations of graduates now emerging are expected to carry the concepts forward into their working careers, imbuing all they do with its importance.

Among the champions of sustainability at Lincoln University is John Edward Gould, Senior Tutor in the Department of Environmental Management.

John's personal commitment to sustainability runs deep and has been characterised by meritorious voluntary effort, qualifying him most worthily for the award of the Lincoln University Medal.

This medal acknowledges outstanding contributions to the fabric and reputation of Lincoln University through voluntary effort.

John was part of a small group who worked to revive the existence of SAGE (Sustainability Action Group for the Environment) at Lincoln University in 2017 after it had lapsed following the Christchurch earthquakes of 2010-2011.

John has been fully involved with SAGE since its revival and he has provided valuable support to founding Chair Dr Sue Jarvis, and the subsequent chairpersons over the past seven years.

John has contributed time, energy, ideas and enthusiasm to a highly commendable and appreciated level. He has 'made things happen'.

SAGE has contributed significantly to putting Lincoln University on the pathway to becoming carbon neutral and more environmentally sustainable.

Among projects and outcomes with which John has been closely involved is the Lincoln University Sustainable Transport Survey of 2018 which identified scope for a Sustainable Transport Strategy among staff and students.

SAGE's advocacy has made a significant contribution to sustainable thinking and policy making at Lincoln University. It has led, for example to the drafting of a Lincoln University Sustainability Policy and Plan; the process of switching to renewable energy sources of power (solar); and to the appointment of a Sustainability Officer.

John defers any credit to others and to members of the SAGE team with whom he has worked. This modesty notwithstanding, Lincoln University is delighted to award its Lincoln University Medal to John Edward Gould for the outstanding service he has given to the university through SAGE.

Professor Grant Edwards
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell
Chancellor



Te Whare Wānaka o Aoraki

Ngāti Moki Trophy for Māori Leadership

Professor Hirini Paerangi Matunga

Hirini's contribution to Lincoln University can be summarised in three concepts - rangatiratanga (leadership), kaiwhakahaeretanga (management), and manaakitanga (caring). He embodies and personifies all three in exemplary manner.

Hirini Paerangi Matunga (Whakapapa: Ngai Tahu, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Paerangi - Atiu, Cook Islands) joined the staff at Lincoln University in 1992 as a Senior Lecturer in Māori Studies.

He was the first Māori academic appointed to the rank of Senior Lecturer at Lincoln University and its then fledgling Centre for Māori Studies and Research.

From the start he quickly displayed the characteristics of a rangatira and kaiwhakahaere as Lincoln University began developing a bicultural identity in teaching and research.

In this nascent period of biculturalism, the early 1990s, Hirini worked closely with key figures helping to navigate the university through the identification process.

In 1999 he was appointed Director of the Centre for Māori Studies and Research, with the rank of Associate Professor (Māori and Indigenous Studies). Under his leadership the Centre evolved into the Centre for Māori and Indigenous Planning and Development.

From 2004 he became increasingly engaged in university managerial activities and was appointed to the Vice-Chancellor's Office as Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Maori and Pasifika). Roles there included responsibility for Lincoln University's Māori Development Task Force.

In 2007, Hirini was awarded a personal professorship in Māori and Indigenous Planning, the first of two professorial appointments he holds.

Within Lincoln University's Senior Leadership Team, Hirini had a close role in the formulation of the University's Whenua Strategy, engaging with Māori in the land-based sectors.

Over 2011 – 2015 he was a board member of Nga Pae o Te Maramatanga, the Centre of Research Excellence, and in 2014 – 2015 was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Communities.

From managerial roles in the Vice-Chancellor's Office, Hirini returned to teaching and research in 2015 and was appointed Lincoln University's foundation Professor of Māori and Indigenous Development, the second of his professorships.

In all his roles, Hirini has followed faithfully in the footsteps of tipuna Moki, exemplifying leadership, management and caring, thus making him a very worthy recipient of the Ngāti Moki Trophy.

Professor Grant Edwards
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell
Chancellor