



2021 Lincoln University Medal

William ('Bill') Owen Harrington

The recorded history, reputation and cultural fabric of Lincoln University have been advanced meritoriously by the voluntary literary services of alumnus Bill Harrington.

Born in Otautau, Southland, Bill was selected as a Rural Field Cadet (RFC) for the 1954 intake at Lincoln College. The RFC course and award of the elite Diploma in Valuation and Farm Management shaped Bill's life.

From Lincoln, Bill was assigned to the Lands and Survey Department in Dunedin in 1959 as a Field Officer, but on completing his bond, he left the Public Service and pursued a valuation career, gaining valuer and real estate registrations.

Many opportunities unfolded, including being a visiting lecturer in Rural Valuation at Otago University; editorship of the NZ Valuers' Journal; appointment to the Land Valuation Division of the High Court of New Zealand; and being a Trustee and Farming Director for a large pastoral farming conglomerate.

Bill's loyalty to Lincoln has spanned the years since his cadetship and in 2013, in retirement, he made the first of two highly valuable documentary history

contributions to his *alma mater*. He compiled and edited the publication *Lincoln and Beyond: Memories of Student Days, Lives We Led*.

This work covers the 1954 RFC intake, the 1957 Intensive Course, and the 1958 Dip VFM year. It brings together the memories of 31 of Bill's fellow students, plus his own reminiscences, and is a record of Lincoln's role in producing field officers, farm appraisers, valuers and consultants for New Zealand's agricultural and pastoral industry.

Following this work, in 2015 Bill accepted chairmanship of Lincoln University's Rural Field Cadet History Group, after the death of founding chair Monty Monteath. Under Bill's guidance this group of dedicated alumni produced the book *Herbie's Boys: A History of the Rural Field Cadet Scheme 1941-1971*. As a project, the book 'almost took over our lives' says Bill, referring to his wife Judith and himself.

Herbie's Boys documents the training scheme that stamped Lincoln's name and reputation on the New Zealand Public Service for more than three decades, and it stands as an essential and valued record in the annals of Lincoln University.

Professor Bruce McKenzie
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell
Chancellor