

# John Joseph Ryan

## Lincoln University Medal

John Ryan is a farmer, registered valuer and registered farm consultant who combines the running of a valuation and consultancy practice with the operation of a full-scale sheep and cropping farm with family members and staff at Tai Tapu.

John Ryan's contribution to rugby at Lincoln University has been in the finest tradition of voluntary service to sport. From his student days of 1968 –1972 when he was a member of the 1st Rugby XV and ultimately captain of the team, through years of coaching, to the present day as President of the Lincoln University Rugby Club, John has made an immense contribution to the sport and to generations of players. His rugby credentials are impressive. In addition to his record at Lincoln College he captained South Island Universities, New Zealand Universities, and Canterbury B.

With a Diploma in Agriculture and Diploma in Valuation and Farm Management from Lincoln College, John launched into a career as a farm consultant and valuer in Canterbury, after initially working with the Valuation Department in Invercargill and the Rural Bank in Christchurch. Professionally he has always been held in the highest esteem. Hands-on farming is also part of his life and he has a property between Lincoln and Tai Tapu.

In relation to Lincoln University rugby, John coached the Lincoln University Premier Colts team when it played as the Merlins, under the merger with the Merivale Club. He was also closely involved in fine-tuning Lincoln University's rugby scholarships programme and in getting an autonomous Lincoln University Rugby Club back on campus after the Merlins era. He represents the club in its dealings with Christchurch Metro Rugby and the Canterbury Rugby Union.

He was Master of Ceremonies at the club's centennial dinner in 1983, and in the 125th anniversary year of rugby at Lincoln University he chaired the celebrations. In addition to his rugby, John was an accomplished cricketer, representing Canterbury Country, Poverty Bay and Southland. When a student at Lincoln College, he was a member of the Lincoln College 1st Cricket XI travelling to the 1968 Easter Tournament at Massey University on the inter-island ferry Wahine when it sank in Wellington Harbour with the loss of 53 lives. In recent years when members of the team have re-convened for special matches, John has been an enthusiastic participant.

In addition to Lincoln University and student level rugby, John has contributed to the sport through coaching Waihora junior grades and Ellesmere sub-union junior grades. He is also prominent in the activities of Lincoln Rotary Club.

The award of the Lincoln University Medal acknowledges the meritorious voluntary service given by **John Joseph Ryan** to the University in sport, and particularly in rugby.