

Robert (Bob) Lester Engelbrecht

Lincoln University Medal

Robert (Bob) Engelbrecht of Ashburton is a doyen of the New Zealand farm management consulting and rural valuation professions.

His contributions, leadership and exemplary practice in both fields have been wide, deep and enduring and he has always been an outstanding example for others of his generation and for new practitioners entering the professions.

Bob established one of the first private rural consulting practices in New Zealand and his stature within the profession has been acknowledged with Fellowships of the New Zealand Institute of Primary Industry Management, formerly the NZ Society of Farm Management, and the New Zealand Property Institute, formerly the New Zealand Institute of Valuers.

After schooling in North Canterbury and a number of years farming in the Oxford area, Bob entered Lincoln College at the start of 1964 and completed a Diploma of Agriculture with Distinction in 1965 and a Diploma of Valuation and Farm Management with Honours in 1966. He won the College Gold Medal in both of these years and also won a number of challenge cups for top marks in particular subjects. In his working career, Bob became the founding director and partner of the farm management consulting company Engelbrecht, Royds, Tavendale and Co, and subsequently established Bob Engelbrecht Consultancy Ltd.

He returned to study at Lincoln College in 1985 as a member of the Kellogg Rural Leadership Course and did his Kellogg research project on irrigation development in Canterbury. The forecasts he made in this research paper have proved very accurate. Back in 1978 he had been a pioneer of the New Zealand Irrigation Association and in 1986 he was made its first Honorary Member in recognition of his service. He went on to be Chairman of Irrigation New Zealand after the association re-branded in 2004.

In the more than 40 years that Bob has been involved in farm management consulting and rural valuation he has made an immense contribution to New Zealand agriculture and in particular to his home district of Central Canterbury, through his work with farmers and associated servicing industries.

His farm management skills are reflected in the quality of the hundreds of farmers in Canterbury he has advised. His input has had a huge influence on the high

productivity and development of Canterbury agriculture and it has always reflected and built on the fundamental principles acquired in his education at Lincoln College. He is a Life Member of the Lincoln University Alumni Association and has given sterling service as a member of the executive and as a president. He was awarded a Lincoln University 125th Anniversary Medal in 2003 for his contributions to the association, his support of University field trips and his advocacy for the University in Central Canterbury.

The Lincoln University Medal now being awarded acknowledges Bob's meritorious voluntary service to Lincoln University and support for its fabric and reputation, which have been on-going throughout the years. He has always been this University's "Ambassador in Ashburton", loyally, reliably and energetically representing and advancing its interests in his home domain and environs.