

Lincoln University

David Clark, Lincoln University Medal

2012 Recipient

Until his retirement in February 2012, David Clark was a Principal Scientist with DairyNZ; an organisation he had been employed with for 19 years under its previous names of DRC and Dexcel. This combined with his previous positions means he has given nearly 40 years of service to agricultural science in New Zealand.

As a Principal Scientist with DairyNZ, Mr Clark occupied a senior career position in the organisation with the appointment made on the basis of his sustained achievements, scientific status and leadership skills.

Mr Clark has been an outstanding servant of New Zealand's pastoral industries; particularly dairying. His career in dairy research has been of singular importance to New Zealand, well qualifying him, through his links with Lincoln University, for the award of a Lincoln University Medal.

Lincoln University, itself a leader in agricultural science and dairying, has been enriched in high measure by its association with Mr Clark and has benefitted significantly from his wisdom, counsel and scientific research.

He has been a collaborator over many years as the University has developed and pursued its own contributions to the New Zealand dairy industry and entered various partnerships to advance this work.

The most prominent current expression of Mr Clark's association with Lincoln University lies in Phase 2 of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's Pastoral 21 programme. Pastoral 21 is a collaboration of dairying interests and the Ministry aims at boosting dairy farm productivity while lessening environmental impacts. Phase 2 has three themes, one of which, *Next Generation Dairy Systems*, involves Lincoln University and its key scientists including; the University's Professor of Dairy Production, Dr Grant Edwards.

Notably, Mr Clark was closely involved with the initial design of the Pastoral 21 programme and was a regional leader within Phase 2.

Knowledge generated by Mr Clark's research supports farmer choices and has been central in the development of agricultural management tools created to help farmers examine ways to optimise production and minimise environmental impacts. He has constantly investigated innovative ways to allow farmers flexibility in their management styles; developing farm systems to fit different attitudes within the industry through recognising that one size does not fit all. His once-a-day milking work – explored at Lincoln University on the labour relation side in the research of Dr Rupert Tipples – is an example of this.

For his contributions to the dairy industry in general, and specifically for his long and valuable associations with Lincoln University, Mr Clark is well deserving of the acknowledgement that comes with the award of a Lincoln University Medal.