

Ivy Joan Harper, Lincoln University Medal

2013 Recipient

He aha te mea nui o te ao?

He tangata! He tangata! He tangata!

The wide-ranging, people-centred service given to Lincoln University by Ivy Harper well illustrates the sentiment expressed in this well-known whakatauki. Ivy's service has always been about the importance of 'people' and their place in a prominent and complex educational institution serving local, national and international interests.

Of Kahungunu and Tainui descent, with ancestral roots in Te Hauke (Hawke's Bay), Ivy's career at Lincoln University began with secretarial work in the Centre for Māori and Indigenous Planning and Development and commencement of a degree in Māori Planning and Development as a mature student.

This early juggling of roles – secretary and student – set a pattern which has been evident throughout her Lincoln career. Ivy has always been a multi-tasker and multi-achiever as the following list shows:

- Member of the executive of the Lincoln University Students' Association for six years
- Student President for two years
- Member of the executive of Te Awhioraki the Māori Students' Association for eight years and Tumuaki for three of these eight years
- Current Tumuaki of Te Mana Akonga, the National Māori Students' Association
- Member of the Lincoln University Council for nine years
- Inaugural winner of the Ngati Moki trophy for Māori Leadership and commitment to Māori development at Lincoln University
- Bachelor and Master's (with Distinction) degree student and graduate
- PhD candidate (current)
- Member of Selwyn District Council's Lincoln Community Committee for five years, and current chair
- Tutor in the Faculty of Environment, Society and Design.

As if each of these jobs was not sufficient in its own specified duties and tasks, Ivy has brought her own deeply rooted diligence, compassionate concern for others, flair for advocacy and commitment to Kaupapa Māori to the roles, enhancing them immeasurably through voluntary personal effort. In her combination of responsibilities, her approachability and reputation for helping others, Ivy has become one of Lincoln University's essential 'go to' people on all sorts of matters – pastoral, academic, administrative and cultural.

Ivy's work has been officially acknowledged three times by the Lincoln University Students' Association through its Blues, Golds and Green awards. In 2009 Ivy was awarded Life Membership of Te Mana Ākonga for her services to Māori students and in 2010 she received the George F Wright Cup for contributions to student life on campus. Most recently, in 2012, she received a Green Award for teaching excellence, assessed and voted for by the students themselves.

Ivy's passion for supporting students and Māori development entered the international arena this year when Ivy was accepted on the inaugural 2013 Indigenous Studies Summer Programme on

Indigenous Peoples Rights and Policy (ISSP) at Columbia University in New York where she worked with delegates from the United Nations and First Nations.

Ivy's contribution to the life and fabric of Lincoln University enriches all with whom and for whom she works and well qualifies her for the award of the Lincoln University Medal.