

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

# Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2017 MINUTES

Stewart Building – Stewart 1 (S1), Lincoln University  
Thursday, 27 April 2017 – 12:00 Noon

PRESENT:

- James Nell (President)
- Andrew O'Regan (Vice-President)
- Executive members: Roy Evans, Andrew Owen, Andrew Lingard
- Penny Curran (Secretary)
- 35 members of the Alumni Association

## 1. WELCOME BY PRESIDENT – JAMES NELL

The President welcomed everyone including the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Council Member's and Honorary Fellow(s) Derek Newman and Bob Engelbrecht to the 2017 meeting. It was noted that the Lincoln University Alumni Association (LUAA) was incorporated on 13 April 1938 which presumably made it the 78th Annual General Meeting.

The President commented that the LUAA broadly exists to support the University and Alumni relationships, with over 38,000 alumni worldwide. We often talk about the 'Lincoln family' and that's no idle claim. Bonds among alumni are exceptionally strong, and these bonds are expressed through attendance at reunions, social gatherings all over the world and a willingness to provide philanthropic support for student scholarships and other undertakings.

As a publicly funded tertiary teaching and research institution, Lincoln University continues to evolve in order to meet ever-changing national and international needs.

The University's large body of alumni represented through the LUAA and its Executive, has become an increasingly important voice at the University's interface with friends, supporters and the public.

The President also spoke about how the University in 2016 has moved forward through 'fitness' and 'transformation' processes towards a new era of financial health and sustainability. 'Fitness' is about improving organisational culture and performance, including improved financial planning. 'Transformation' is about identifying and moving towards appropriate configurations for the University in structural and relationship terms. The President acknowledged that none of this happened without a degree of disruption and pain at times.

The LUAA Executive has been involved with the evolutionary process occurring at Lincoln University in 2016 and advised they had enjoyed the positive relationship with Chancellor Tony Hall and Vice-Chancellor Professor Robin Pollard; including that the Executive were heartened by the words of the Vice-Chancellor towards the end of the year when he referred to the three pillars of the University being students, staff and alumni.

The Executive has also been working with the Lincoln Foundation to foster closer ties with an organisation with similar goals to LUAA. The LUAA recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Foundation - this outlines the areas of common interest and opportunities to assist each other.

The LUAA awarded two scholarships during the year totalling \$12,500. The LUAA degree scholarship was awarded to Kate Monteath who was present at the meeting to talk about herself and her course of studies. The LUAA diploma scholarship was awarded to Mitchell Hoare, who is from Te Kuiti, and will graduate Diploma of Farm Management 2017 as the top student of his course.

The President acknowledged that the year cannot be summarised with noting Neil Gow's passing in June last year. Neil was an Honorary Fellow of the Association and member of the Executive when he died. He was a fountain of knowledge about all matters Lincoln. He could aptly be called "Mr Lincoln". The Executive certainly misses Neil's institutional knowledge of people, history of the University and thoughtful insights. Neil's family initiated the Neil Gow Memorial Scholarship Fund, which is managed with the Association's investments, and we hope to award the first scholarship later this year.

The President thanked the Executive members for their work during the year and also note the fantastic support they received from Penny Curran, Ian Collins, Anisha Thomas and Naomi Wilde of the Alumni and Development Office.

## **2. APOLOGIES**

In addition to Vice-Chancellor Professor Robin Pollard and Patron Tom Lambie, apologies were received from:

Jock Allison, Rengasamy Balasubramaniam, John Barclay, Terry Donaldson, Graham Dunbar, Margaret Evans, Sharon Forbes, Michael Gould, William Graham, Bill Harrington, Don McKinnon, John Nimmo, Elizabeth Norton, Deborah Paterson, David Rendall, David Reynolds, Richard Riddell, Gerard Scott, Deryck Shaw, Jo Spencer-Bower, Neil Taylor, David Todd, Robert Wyn-Williams

**Motion:** *That the above apologies be accepted.*

*Moved: James Nell*

*Seconded: Andrew O'Regan*

**CARRIED**

## **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 2016 AGM**

**Motion:** *That the minutes of the AGM held on 7 April 2016 be accepted as a true and accurate record.*

*Moved: James Nell*

*Seconded: Pat Campbell*

**CARRIED**

## **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

*No matters arose from the minutes of 7 April 2016*

## **5. PRESENTATION OF THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT – JAMES NELL**

The President introduced the Report as follows:

This is the fourth year in modern times that the Alumni Association has had a printed Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for distribution to members at the AGM and you will have received your copy for 2016 as you entered the meeting today.

Annual Reports are a record of your Association's activities and finances over 12-monthly periods, January to December, and we hope that members find them informative. As an incorporated society, the Association is bound by statute to produce such a document.

## **6. FINANCIAL REPORT – ROY EVANS**

As Association Treasurer Jo Spencer- Bower gave her apologies, Executive Committee member Roy Evans spoke to the Financial Statements for 2016. Roy Evans summarised the financial position of the Alumni Association and pointed out to the meeting that full financial statements were available.

The Association helps to fund one degree scholarship (\$7,500) and one diploma scholarship (\$5,000), a total of NZD \$12,500 annually. The net operating profit in 2016 was -\$2,187, compared with NZD -\$12,793 in 2015. The Association had total assets valued at \$256,743, down from \$266,399 at the same time in 2015.

Roy also advised that the New Zealand Assets Management fund had reduced over the past year with a below average return (average was 4.6% over the past 5 years). The Annual Giving campaign funds received for 2016 was \$12,500. Roy also mentioned that LUAA would like to increase their fundraising (via the Alumni and Development Office) so if anyone is interested should talk with anyone on the Committee and they would help to facilitate it. Roy gave an example of a 1% bequest as a starting point.

Roy Evans to move that the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2016 be adopted.

Moved by: Roy Evans

Seconded by: Errol Costello

CARRIED

## **7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS – JAMES NELL**

James Nell advised that the Executive is served by eight elected volunteers and Penny Curran as the Alumni and Development Officer is appointed by the University. The elected members serve a term of two years and Andrew Lingard retired by rotation at the meeting and had offered himself for re-election. As there were no other nominations Andrew Lingard was re-elected on to the 2017/2018 Executive.

**The President confirmed the 2017/18 Executive to be:**

President – James Nell

Vice-President – Andrew O'Regan

Jo Spencer-Bower – Immediate Past President

Roy Evans

Andrew Lingard

Sharon Forbes

Andrew Owen

Kahlia Fryer

## 8. GENERAL BUSINESS

The President called for items of general business.

### **Andrew MacFarlane – Update on Council member appointment**

Andrew (Andy) MacFarlane gave an update on the appointment of a new Council member on the Lincoln University Council that took place last year. Andy advised that the Sub Committee which consisted of Andy MacFarlane, Linda Tame, Tony Hall and Neil Gow looked for someone that could become the future Chancellor of Lincoln University. The late Neil Gow was heavily involved in the process up until the final stages where they got down to four outstanding candidates. Alumnus Steve Smith was selected (originally from Ashburton and studied Diploma in Field Technology 1984) – Steve is from the wine industry, he formed Craggie Range in Hawke’s Bay, and is a brand management expert. Steve has been on the Council since 2016 and will be taking over from Chancellor Tony Hall next month.

### **Sue Allan – Living Heritage Website**

Sue Allan introduced herself including that she is an alumnus but she also works at Lincoln University in research archives for Library, Teaching and Learning (LTL) area at Lincoln University. Sue advised that she wanted to raise awareness about the Living Heritage website. She advised that the site is an online curation including all college magazines, events, graduation handbooks, photos and other heritage material – all of which is searchable. Sue requested that LUAA (along with members) to consider partnering with them as they need help to preserve the history of Lincoln.

### **Update on the Lincoln University Foundation (as the Alumni Representative) – Derek Newman**

Derek Newman gave an update on the LU Foundation. Derek advised that he has been the alumni representative on the Lincoln University Foundation Trustees (Foundation) for twenty plus years. He advised that the Lincoln University Foundation Trustees also include: Ben Todhunter (Chair), Barry Brook, Tricia Macfarlane, Chancellor Tony Hall, and Vice-Chancellor Professor Robin Pollard.

Derek Newman advised that the Lincoln University Foundation has over \$4 million in funds and earns about \$250k a year. In the past the LUF they have applied funds to South Island Farmer of the Year Awards (SIFOY) and travel awards but recently they questioned what the funds should be used for. It was widely announced last year they had made the difficult decision to withdraw from the SIFOY and to use the funds in other ways. Derek also advised that the LUF may inherit some unworkable trusts from Lincoln University (some with purposes that cannot be used anymore) so that they can be better applied and invested.

Derek advised that after all these years that the time had come to step aside and that LUF needed to look at someone with other skills with a particular focus on finance. Derek’s last meeting is on 22 May and LUAA will appoint a new trustee as the alumni representative on the LUF.

### **2016 LUAA Degree Scholarship Recipient – Kate Monteath**

Kate Monteath informed the meeting that she was the third generation in her family to attend Lincoln, and that she was graduating the next day with a Bachelor of Science with a major in Ecology and Conservation. The LUAA scholarship funds allowed Kate to do a number of things including attending both a short course in Japan and the New Zealand Ecological Society conference but also allowed her to concentrate on her studies. Kate gave a heartfelt thank you to the LUAA and members and advised that she was very grateful for the scholarship. Kate is now doing her Masters in Soil Science and Ecology.

The President thanked everyone for their attendance and advised that the lunch would follow in Te Kete Ika from 1:00pm, including an address by Brian Hedley, 2017 Alumni International Medal recipient.

### **The AGM closed at 12:41pm**

Confirmed as a true and accurate record.

President:..... Date:.....