

Lincoln University

Don McFarlane, MNZM, JP

Bledisloe Medal

2016

Don McFarlane's belief in cooperative schemes which benefit the local community, as well as regionally and nationally, and his long record of leadership in the agricultural sector in South Canterbury make him a deserving recipient of Lincoln University's Bledisloe Medal.

Don, his wife Di and son Hamish farm 700ha near Temuka. He was a Kellogg scholar at Lincoln as well as a Nuffield scholar in 1981, studying crop management, irrigation, co-op marketing, and resource planning in the United Kingdom, Israel, and the United States.

He has gone on to providing mentoring and training for young leaders, citing a responsibility to develop the next generation.

As chairman of CRT he was instrumental in growing it to a South Island wide organisation, which increased its revenue from \$50m to \$1.25b, and then merging it with Farmlands to form a nationwide cooperative.

Don is Deputy Chair of Farmlands, and has directorships with the New Zealand Honey Co-operative and Runanga owned Moeraki Investments. He is Chairman of agriculture machinery manufacturer Duncan/Clough and was an inaugural director of the NZ Blackcurrant Cooperative, Chairman of Aoraki Business Development Board and South Canterbury Federated Farmers President.

He has also contributed significantly to the development of sustainable irrigation in South Canterbury as a Director of the Opuha Dam project, Director of Rangitata South, and Chairman of the South Canterbury Irrigation Trust as well as the Hunter Downs Irrigation Scheme, which will have environmental benefits as well as irrigate up to 30,000-hectares.

Currently he is involved in the community as a Director of Presbyterian Support South Canterbury, and finds time to act as a Justice of the Peace.

More than 50 years as a prominent and active leader in the South Canterbury agricultural sector earned him a Queen's Birthday Honour in 2015. He was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to agriculture and the community.

Don is described in his nomination for this medal as a quiet, behind the scenes leader, who excels in bringing people and ideas together, and adept at creating enthusiasm, passion, and drive.

He says his passion lies in agriculture innovation and development especially the value of water and irrigation, having been involved in the development of all three South Canterbury irrigation schemes.

He has always found South Canterbury a positive community and a place where "things get done".

His outstanding achievements, and contribution to his community, make him a worthy recipient of the 2016 Bledisloe Medal.