



Hello

from the Alumni Office

2007 certainly has moved rapidly through the months, and my good intentions to improve communication from the office has been somewhat sidetracked with the increased number of events on the Alumni calendar.

I am hoping to have more information on the website, and value your ideas and suggestions as well. A number of new initiatives are underway, and we hope to see these rolled out throughout New Zealand from 2008. The new regional emails will see graduates around the world being kept informed of alumni gatherings closer to home, and profiles of graduates in their area.

Cheers and I hope to see you all at one Alumni Gathering each year.

Sarah

Key Dates

July

- Wed 18 Wairarapa Gathering (Masterton)
- Mon 23 Business Breakfast (Wellington)
- Tues 24 Tuesday Lunch Club (Chch)
- Fri 27 South Canterbury Gathering (Timaru)

August

- Friday 3 Southland Gathering (Invercargill)
- Thurs 9 Business Breakfast (Auckland),
- Thurs 23 Business Breakfast (Invercargill)
- Fri 24 Old Rivals Dinner (Christchurch)
- Sat 25 LA Brooks Trophy, Lincoln Ag vs Massey Ag (Lincoln University)
- Tues 28 Tuesday Lunch Club (Ashburton)

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Lincoln University
Alumni
Association

Presidents Report

It seems hard to believe it is almost nine months since our Alumni's 100th AGM, being the time that I took over as President from Mr Lincoln (Neil Gow). Neil retired from Lincoln in April 2006 after almost 50 years association with the University, both as a student and as a lecturer. Quite a unique achievement. In August 2006 a surprise "This is Your Life" was held at Jade Stadium (where else for Neil) to recognise his long association and achievements with the University. Former Alumni colleagues, old rugby and bowling friends, and family all turned up to reminisce with Neil.

In May 2006 Lincoln Rugby Club celebrated their 125th reunion with the main event being a dinner held at the Wigram Air Museum where former club members from each decade gave rousing speeches on their times and memories from playing rugby at Lincoln. No one will forget Andy Owens' entertaining commentary on some of his team mates' antics both on and off the field.

The reunion reminded us all of the important part that the rugby club plays in the lives of Lincoln students. It is therefore very pleasing to hear that from 2007 all Lincoln University rugby scholarship players will be required to play in the first place for the Merivale-Lincoln University club. For the local Canterbury Alumni it will be great to see a more even playing field with some of the player strength being removed from two or three of the financially strong town clubs.

Sarah Currie, our Alumni manager, and the executive have been working hard over the last few months to provide a range of activities to meet the needs of our Alumni. With Alumni in excess of 20,000, our goal is to be able to provide all Alumni, irrespective of age and location, at least one Alumni activity that they are able to attend each year to meet. In particular the executive have been focusing on catering for more events for the younger members to bring

them back in to the fold at an earlier age. Some of the initiatives that are being undertaken include the entering of Lincoln touch teams (The Lincoln Rams) in touch competitions throughout NZ and Australia. A Lincoln team challenge has been set up in the Telecom Virtual Rugby competition to allow Alumni to compete against each other in the Super 14 picks.

At a Canterbury level recognising that over 5,000 Alumni are Canterbury based, some new initiatives have been undertaken including the Tuesday lunch club (TLC) for pre-1970 Alumni which is being held on a monthly basis in different centres throughout Canterbury. In order that you can keep in touch with Alumni activities for the coming year you should refer to the enclosed calendar of events in the Alumni News for the remainder of the year.

Considerable efforts have been made in the last year to update our database. Given the large number of Alumni this is no easy feat. Thank you to all those Alumni that have responded to Sarah's queries to update the database but note that we still have 8,000 Alumni that we do not have full details.

Going forward, we are developing the website so that eventually this will become the prime source of information on what Alumni activities are doing and also a means of updating your database details.

Rome wasn't built in a day!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sarah, our very energetic Alumni manager, the executive, branch representatives, and many of the other Alumni that take time out to make a contribution towards our association.

All the very best for 2007 and may we see a Lincoln student lead the All Blacks home with the Web Ellis trophy.

Mike Medicott

Lincoln University Alumni Association President



Bledisloe Medal and Lincoln Alumni International Medal

As Chancellor of Lincoln University one of the most enjoyable jobs I have is chairing the Bledisloe Medal Committee. The purpose of the committee is to assess nominations and recommend to the Lincoln University Council annual recipients of the Bledisloe Medal and Lincoln Alumni International Medal.

The Bledisloe Medal was initiated in 1930 by Lord Bledisloe, Governor-General of New Zealand 1930-35.

Lord Bledisloe came to New Zealand with a strong understanding of the importance of education and agriculture to a country's economic and social wellbeing.

Eton and Oxford educated, he was a lawyer before becoming an MP in 1910. He served as the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Food in 1916 and Chairman of the Commission on Sugar Supply 1917-19.

He also had an association with the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, on which Lincoln University was modelled, along with Canada's University of Guelph, Ontario, and the agricultural departments of Cornell and Tokyo universities.

The Bledisloe Medal is awarded to a former student or past or current staff member of Lincoln University, who, in the opinion of the Council, has made an outstanding contribution in his or her field, advanced New Zealand's interests and/or brought credit to Lincoln University.

Every year we call for nominations and consider the achievements of the nominees and the value they have added to the economic, scientific, cultural or technological interests of the nation through their

work. The recipients are of the highest calibre and their achievements reflect positively on the University's reputation.

Over the past 77 years a wide range of people have been recipients of the Bledisloe Medal. Researchers, businessmen, farmers, government officials and academics have all been honored. Hudson, McCaskill, Calder, Stewart, Elworthy, Trotter, Palmer, Walker, Horn, Taylor, Allison and Whineray are some of the distinguished names on the roll of recipients.

As originally conceived, the Bledisloe Medal covered achievements by all students, both domestic and international. However, in recent years, in recognition of the growth of the body of Lincoln alumni worldwide it was decided that the Bledisloe Medal would be confined to recipients within New Zealand and a second medal established specifically for alumni resident in other countries.

First presented in 2003, the Lincoln Alumni International Medal is awarded to a former student or past or current staff member of Lincoln University who, in the opinion of the Council has made an outstanding contribution in his or her chosen field and has brought credit to Lincoln University through their achievement in a country other than New Zealand.

We always welcome looking for new nominations for these two awards. The Bledisloe committee meets in September each year. If you know of anyone from here in New Zealand or around the world who would meet the criteria for either award, the Lincoln University Alumni Association would be pleased to hear from you.

The spirit in which the Bledisloe Medal was established 77 years ago is as relevant today as it was then. Lord Bledisloe recognized the importance of education and agriculture to New Zealand as a nation. Now the International Medal extends that recognition into a global context, acknowledging the importance of education to the economic, environmental and social well-being of the world at large.

Tom Lambie

Chancellor

Lincoln University

Call for 2008 Nominations

Lincoln University Council is seeking nominations for the Bledisloe and International Medal 2008.

The Bledisloe Medal and the Lincoln University International Alumni Medal are awarded to former students or past or current staff members of Lincoln University who, in the opinion of Council, have made an outstanding contribution in their careers and brought credit to Lincoln University.

Applications close 24th August. For all criteria and nomination details check out the Alumni website www.lincoln.ac.nz/alumni

Grantley Judge

Council Secretary

Lincoln recognises Kiwi resources and values with honorary doctorate awards

The 2007 Graduation ceremony saw the presentation of the University's Bledisloe and International Alumni medals.

The Bledisloe Medal, first awarded in 1930, has gone to 1965 Lincoln MAgrSc(Hons) graduate Dr Bruce Scoggins whose career as a medical research physiologist and health research administrator spans four decades. For 15 years, until his retirement last December, he was Chief Executive of the Health Research Council of New Zealand.

The International Alumni Medal was awarded to another MAgrSc graduate (1968) Don Lawson of Victoria, Australia, for his contributions to the Australian beef industry, in which he is a leading figure. Don founded Ythanbrae Angus, a family owned and managed Angus seedstock operation in the hills at Yea in north-east Victoria. It is one of the largest Angus seedstock operations in Australia.

Legendary New Zealand golfer Sir Bob Charles and top New Zealand businesswoman Peri Drysdale

are Lincoln University's 2007 honorary doctorate recipients.

The citation for the award to Sir Bob Charles draws attention to a number of strands in his career which interweave with the activities of Lincoln University. In addition to Golf being one of the six sports represented in Lincoln University's Sports Scholarship programme, there is the golfer's close connection with agriculture. For the past 35 years farming has operated a mixed farming unit at Oxford where the focus is on sheep and deer.

The long combination of golf and farming means that for the bulk of his life Sir Bob has earned his living outdoors

As the citation says: "The 'outdoors' environment in New Zealand is that great natural resource which has traditionally helped define Kiwis, and it is seen clearly in the life of Sir Bob."

Peri Drysdale's citation notes that as a significant education provider in the Commerce area Lincoln University "takes a keen interest in the business world and applauds its champions".

Peri Drysdale is the Chief Executive of a family owned and operated Christchurch clothing and homewear company Untouched World and was the founder of its parent company Snowy Peak Ltd, established in 1981. The lifestyle brand Untouched World and the parent company's knitwear brands Merinomink and Snowy Peak sell internationally.

For her contribution to New Zealand's manufacturing and export industries Peri was awarded an MBE in 1992. In 1992 she was named South Island Business Woman of the Year and last year she was named North and South magazine's New Zealander of the Year. Also last year her company received the Ethical Governance category prize in the Deloitte/Management magazine Top 200 Awards.

Wellington Business Breakfast - 23 July 2007, with guest speaker Peri Drysdale.

Auckland Business Breakfast - 9 August 2007, with guest speaker Bruce Scoggins.

caught on camera!



John Allen
125th Rugby celebrations, May



Garden Party!



Old Rivals Dinner



1957 Dip-1 dinner



Old Rivals Dinner
Palmerston North



Rueben Hopcraft in London 2006



Michael Anderson
Hamilton Xmas lunch



Lew Morgan at the Fieldays



Alana Harrison
IT helpdesk



Bruce & Shirley Grinlinton



Roger Lough 125th Rugby celebrations



Joape Waqabaca - Fiji 2006



1957 Dip-1 dinner

Class Reunions around the branches

1957/59 Degree Class Reunion

Martinborough was the scene of the recent get-together of eight of the original fourteen members of the 1957/9 Degree class.

Members, and many wives, gathered at the home of Hiatt and Barbara Cox for a BBQ lunch on Monday 27 November last, and then toured the local wine growing district. This included a brief presentation and wine tasting at Escarpment vineyard hosted by winemaker Larry McKenna. An excellent dinner with local wines was held at the Est Bar and Café. Inevitably the evening culminated in wild story telling from times long past.

Tuesday morning involved an entertaining and informative visit to Stonehenge Aotearoa (a recently completed 'stone circle' based on Stonehenge in England but built to incorporate the realities of the southern skies and the reliance of early Maori on the stars for navigation and time keeping), followed by a relaxed lunch under the trees at Gladstone Vineyard.

Present were Robin and Pam Plummer (Thames), Evan and Isobelle Sherrard, (Auckland), Dick Lucas, (Christchurch), Alan Nordmeyer, (Woodend), Lyn and Gill Kingsbury, (Rakaia), Eric and Raelene Etwel, (Christchurch), Bill and Pauline Whitmore, (Christchurch), Ru and Heather Davis, (Hastings) and Hiatt and Barbara Cox, (Martinborough). John Butel, Alan Coleman and Chin How Soo who had died were remembered. Ani Arope, (Malaysia), Karim Zain Mohamed, (Malaysia) and Karl Kelland were unable to attend.



Late 1940's Reunion

Dunedin 2006

Our group is made up of two Dip Ag courses from 1947/48/48. We have always met together since our first reunion at the Clarendon Hotel about 50 years ago. We now meet every two years and this year were able to visit Ivermay Research Station where we learned of their work on the genetics in breeding, deer farming and possum control.

A visit to Eion Johnson's lavender farm nearby, demonstrated growing, harvesting and oil distillation. The following day we went to Macraes goldmine, lunched at Stanley's hotel and then caught the terrain to Dunedin on the Middlemarch line. We are meeting next in 2008 in the Central Canterbury area and look forward to more catching up and sharing our memories.

Thanks to Bill Corbett

The 1956 VFM Graduates including the 1952 RFC group held a get together in Rotorua 27-29 November 2006.

Those present were: David Burnett, Owen Costley, Ross Calderwood, Jim Currie, Sam Denford, Morrie Holland, Don Kennedy, Ian Lyall, Aldous McIvor, David Nuttall, Andrew Pettitt, Terry Spring and Tim Wall. Other VFM visitors for dinner were David Janett, Graham Tate and Alan Wilson. The gathering was organised by Sam Denford, included a trip down memory lane, district tour and farm visit along with local public and private entertainment. A good time was had by all, and our thoughts were also with those group members who had passed on or unable to travel - Thanks to David Burnett

Lincoln Alumni Dinner - Friday 10 November 2006 Melbourne



The annual election of office bearers for the Melbourne branch of the Lincoln Alumni has traditionally been a rather brief affair. This year was no exception. However, it did lack the traditional cry of ... "All those in favour of Keith Graham remaining President, Secretary and Treasurer?", closely followed by a unanimous, hearty cheer.

So it was that after 27 years of loyal service in organising the annual Lincoln dinner, Keith Graham officially stepped down. In his retirement address Keith reflected on the years past, explaining that he kind of stumbled into the role back around 1979 without a well thought out "exit strategy" ... much like George W. Bush in Iraq.

By popular consensus, long time attendee at the dinners, Robert Latimer, (1987) takes up the role and will be 74 years of age when his time to step down comes around, if Keith's impressive example is followed.

This year's dinner, (held as usual on the first Friday after the Melbourne Cup), was well attended, with the Castle Hotel, North Melbourne proving to be a successful choice as the new venue. The dinner was great, the discussion was lively and the speaker, Jack Holden (Senior policy analyst, Greenhouse Policy Unit, Dept of Sustainability & Environment) was entertaining and informative as he explained the mechanics of Carbon Trading and the effects of global warming.

Many thanks to Sarah Currie, the Alumni manager from Lincoln, for making the journey from New Zealand and for the best wishes passed on by Vice Chancellor, Roger Field. It was great to see such a large number of spouses in attendance this year, along with some newer faces, including Katrina Williams who won the prize as the most recent graduate in attendance, 2004. Michael Hay won the "other award", coming in with a year of 1954.

For those wishing to plan ahead, the 2007 Melbourne Lincoln Alumni dinner will be held on Friday 9 November, at the Castle Hotel, North Melbourne. Contact Robert Latimer on (03) 9870 3918 for more details and to pass on old photographs for inclusion in next year's slide show.

From the Alumni Managers Inbox.....

Sarah,

A very big thank you for the excellence on the arrangements you made for the visit for the 1957 VFM Diplomates to the campus last Thursday.

From the quality of the scones and cream and the calibre of the staff making the welcome speech; from the very professional way Errol organised the stimulating discussion at the dairy farm; from the excellence of the lunch provided including the attentive care of the refectory staff; from Neil Gow's self sacrificing effort to travel out and show us the technological advances of the library and finally from David Hollander's very skilled marshalling of somewhat reluctant geriatrics for a series of photos, we came away most impressed by what Lincoln has achieved in the past fifty years and how well it has set itself up for the future.

Our group has been very cohesive, gathering together every five years, until recently when we decided meeting every two years was prudent given some falling off in health. I think this is the first time we have included a visit to Lincoln as part of our reunion activity. We all hope that we can repeat the occasion on our 60th anniversary gathering in 2017.

Please convey our appreciation to all involved and a very special thanks to yourself.

On behalf of the 1957 VFM diplomates and their spouses

With warmest regards

Graham Tate



Another reunion to visit campus a 1957 class

1960 – 1962 Dip Ag Dip VFM Reunion

Thirty one members assembled in Whangarei for our biennial reunion in April 2006 for a five day bus tour through Northland. Our thanks go to Brian and Shirley Royds for their organisation, entertainment and hospitality. Our bus driver provided local historical and current knowledge, especially about the real estate developments of the North. The socialisation of the gathering was again enjoyed by all, including our Australian classmates and it is proposed to hold our next reunion in April/May 2008 based out of Wellington.

Our itinerary included visits to the Oil Refinery, Kauri Museum, dairy farm, boat trips and a local winery. The buried Mercedes was the highlight on the Ninety Mile beach outing before heading to Cape Reinga. Our travels also included Kerikeri, Waitangi, Russell and then studying the economics of a 1000 milking goat farm just before arriving back in Whangarei to bolster the numbers for the annual Northland group reunion.

Contributed by Evan Williams.

The Wellington Christmas Luncheon, held in late November was as usual, a most enjoyable occasion. About forty alumni attended and there were 16 apologies. We were pleased to welcome Prof Roger Field, Neil Gow, and Sarah Currie from Lincoln. Other special guests included Malcolm Cameron, Past Chancellor and former Director General of Agriculture, and Past Vice Chancellor Prof Bruce Ross. John Nimmo proposed a toast to absent and departed friends, after which Neil Taylor proposed the toast to The University. In reply, Roger Field discussed recent developments at Lincoln and brought us up to date. A similar function is planned for next year.



Upcoming Reunions

October 2007

1957 VFM (Fielding)

Labour Weekend (Lincoln/Christchurch)

1967 Dip 1

All 1987 starts

2008

1968 Wahine Cricket Team

1966 Dip Ag - 1968 VFM (Christchurch)

If your class is holding a reunion in the next year or two or more, please forward all the details to me, as I am trying to keep track of them all!



1961 VFM class

Obituaries

David Wilson Ives ED, CPAg, B.Sc., M.Ag. Sci(Hons)MNZIAS - 1939-2007

A chance encounter at a Christchurch pub was the catalyst for a life long career for Dave in agricultural and economic development which had considerable benefits for countless smallholders, in many countries, especially Malaysia, Indonesia, and more recently, East Timor.

Educated at Waimate High School, Dave graduated from Canterbury University (1960) in Geology, and taught Chemistry at his old school until a pint or several with ex Haka Party mate Tony Hooper convinced Dave he knew as much about soils as he did about rocks. Russell Dick, the retired Surveyor-General of New Zealand was collecting a team for a UN survey of an enormous area of land in Sabah (British North Borneo in 1962), known as the Labuk Valley Project, and Tony Hooper was one of the first recruits. Dave Ives was employed as a soil specialist. This contract was followed in 1965 by a detailed soil survey of South East Pahang, for the Malaysian government under Colombo Plan funding.

As a geologist with no formal agricultural education, Dave enrolled at Lincoln University in 1967 and under the guidance of Prof Walker, he embarked on a M.Ag Science in Soils, completing this in 1969 with First Class Honours. He played for and coached the iconic "Flying Zubriks" whilst at Lincoln. Taking short breaks from Soil Bureau DSIR, he continued to participate in various land use evaluation and project preparation missions starting with Sumba, Sumbawa and Sulawesi – the eastern islands of Indonesia, mapping soils of Tonga and Singapore.

The value of his working life was explained by Marty Hanratty of USAID (ex Jakarta and Washington, currently in Baghdad): "David was a consummate development professional and his work in Java, Kalimantan, Sulawesi and Timor have changed the way the Indonesian government and others design and implement programmes to improve the lives of the poor in the Third World."

Concurrently with his working and family life, Dave enjoyed a secondary career in the Territorial Army, culminating as Lieutenant Colonel Ives, CO of 3rd Auckland and Northland Battalion 1978-1982, receiving the Efficiency Decoration.

In 2003 his working life switched from overseas to local with election to the Geraldine Community Board, the South Canterbury Lines Trust, and as RSA Vice President.

He is survived by his wife Loris, daughter Annabel and son Duncan. The family contact is loris@merino-lace.co.nz

Roy Alexander Harrison: 1918-2006

Roy Harrison was born in Auckland in 1918 and held degrees from Auckland and Victoria universities including a DSc. He served in the army during the Second World War and in 1946 began a 25-year career as an entomologist with the Plant Diseases Division of the DSIR. He came to Lincoln College as a Senior Lecturer in Entomology in 1961, was appointed foundation Professor of Entomology in 1969 and retired in 1979. Roy died in Amberley on 18 June 2006.

The composition of his DSc thesis presented the two major research streams of his lifetime research - the taxonomy of Diptera and economic entomology, principally with Diptera.

Roy was a foundation member of the Entomological Society of New Zealand and served as its President from 1959-61. His most long-lasting contribution to the Society is the 21st Anniversary Research Fund.

More than \$50,000 has been distributed over the past 25 years to support entomological research in New Zealand. For his services to the Society he was made an Honorary Member in 1980.

A significant contribution was the effort and resources that Roy put into the Entomology Department's insect collection. As well as his personal collecting, he led and participated in annual departmental collecting trips to many parts of the country. The specimens from these expeditions form the basis of what is now the Entomology Research Museum at Lincoln University, one of New Zealand's more important insect collections.

Roy also took a full part in the undergraduate teaching responsibilities of the department, teaching zoology and entomology from undergraduate diploma to final year degree. He was a stimulating and innovative teacher and a very good administrator who ran a very efficient department. His major taxonomic contribution, a 382-page revision of the Acalypterate Diptera of New Zealand in 1959, is still a major reference source.

His contribution to entomology was not limited to New Zealand. He took part in a Medical Research Council expedition to Samoa to investigate the transmission of yaws by flies and was invited to a WHO seminar in India.

Following his retirement from Lincoln, he remained active in economic entomology through the company RAHADL Associates and also active in dipteran taxonomy.

William ('Bill') Laing

Bill Laing, the founding editor of the Lincoln students' newspaper/magazine Caclin died in Auckland on 3 September 2006, aged 83.

Bill was born in Roxburgh on 8 June 1924 and after secondary education at Dunedin's Otago Boys' High School he came to Lincoln College and graduated Bachelor of Agricultural Science in 1946 and Master of Agricultural Science (Hons) in 1948.

For his MAgSc he produced a notable thesis The Role of Goats in New Zealand and outside of study he was awarded a New Zealand Universities Blue in soccer. He captained the Lincoln College soccer team, playing at centre forward. The team was runner-up in the Christchurch competition in 1945.

During his student years Bill was a keen athlete with a particular reputation as a race walker. Fellow student, soccer Blue and athlete Doug Davies of Auckland recalls that when Bill was training "many of the staff came outside just to watch him practice his famous rolling heels and swinging arms technique." Bill was also an accomplished violinist, noted for his rendition of the popular Second World War song "Blue Smoke Goes Drifting By". He was Vice-President of the Student Executive in 1944.

From Lincoln Bill joined the Department of Agriculture in Fiji where he married, lived and worked for many years, mainly as an agricultural consultant for the New Zealand and British governments. He also worked for the Department of Agriculture in Samoa and the Solomon Islands. He returned to New Zealand to live in the 1970s, residing in Auckland.

Obituaries

Jack Simpson

Jack Simpson was born in Christchurch on 14 January 1922 and had his schooling at Redcliffs Primary School and Christchurch Technical College. He left school at 15 and went to work in the wool industry but when the Second World War intervened he joined the army, initially, then switched to the air force. He trained as a bomber pilot and served in Europe flying Lancasters with 195 Squadron. He continued in the wool trade after the war then in 1951 took up a position at Lincoln College as an Instructor in Wool Handling.

Simpson and the man he succeeded, JH Drake, are described in Dr Ian Blair's college history *The Seed They Sowed* as "practical men, excellent instructors, well-known throughout the industry and highly regarded as personalities by students and other wool men".

From his initial position as an Instructor in Wool Handling for students on the Diploma in Agriculture course Jack eventually reached the rank of Senior Lecturer, teaching at degree course level. His main area of teaching was, however, the Diploma in Wool Technology course, and he was closely associated with it from 1975 until he retired in the mid-1980s.

Fellow lecturer Dr Pat Campbell says the course was intensive and highly successful.

Jack served on the Association of University Teachers for many years and is remembered as an effective advocate. Outside of the classroom he was a stalwart and long-serving coach of the Lincoln College rugby club.

As a bomber pilot during the war years Jack flew a full tour of 30 operations showing skill and steadiness in surviving many anti-aircraft barrages on raids into Germany. He and his long-serving crew were a solid unit, and one later remarked about a particularly sticky incident that "if it wasn't for Jack we wouldn't have got home". After his "tour" he served with Transport Command flying Dakotas.

A Lincoln staff member who was a mate and contemporary of Jack's, tells a wartime story that sums him up perfectly.

An English RAF type serving alongside Jack and the New Zealand aircrews in Bomber Command was so impressed with the cheerful camaraderie and rock solid reliability of the colonial airmen that he was overheard saying to a fellow Pom: "Gee, I wish I had been a Kiwi. All the Kiwis are such bloody good blokes!"

All who knew him will agree that Jack Simpson was certainly one of life's "bloody good blokes".

Graham Thomson

Graham Thomson was born in Dunedin on 22 July 1919. He was a student at Lincoln College at the outbreak of the Second World War, served in the Royal New Zealand Naval Volunteer Reserve during the war as a gunnery control officer, and after discharge qualified in veterinary science at Edinburgh University. He was appointed Lecturer in Veterinary Science at Lincoln College in 1950 and served through to 1975, retiring as Reader and Head of Department. Graham died in Christchurch on 19 July 2006.

Former Animal and Veterinary Sciences colleague and good mate Vern Clark remembers his friend as a gentleman, humble, hard working and at times really funny.

He was one of Lincoln's most effective lecturers, in a difficult subject, and was regarded with great affection and respect by his students, says Vern. They would have eaten out of his hands.

As Head of the Lincoln College Veterinary Practice, Graham established strong links with farmer clients, providing professional service of a high order and earning respect for his work and ability to communicate "best practice" in a down-to-earth practical manner. The strong support base he established increased access to local farms for teaching and research by other staff.

Little known were Graham's achievements in experimental or developmental surgery. He put a great deal of time and expertise into animal surgery allowing other Lincoln scientists in turn, such as nutritionists and biochemists, to advance their research.

Probably the greatest group to benefit from his attributes and ability to communicate and share knowledge were the students, particularly the Diploma classes. His no nonsense use of everyday language, coupled with his humour and personalised "turns of phrase", earned respect and attention.

On occasions of sharing demonstrations, tutorials or lectures the empathy between Graham and the students was something unique.

Over the years he manoeuvred the Veterinary Science course to one of practical animal health, a move successfully accepted by students.

Scientifically his name will always be associated with important research in post-lambing lameness in sheep, pregnancy toxemia in ewes, the disorder known as "ill thrift" and stock problems associated with selenium deficiency.

(Thanks to Vern Clark for the above material, taken from his eulogy for Graham.)

William (Bill) Thompson

Thompson – William John of Waimoana Station, died suddenly and unexpectedly on his Wairarapa farm on 13th November 2006. A M.Agr Sci in Plant Science graduate in 1968 and a talented athlete who represented Canterbury (1963/64) and NZ Universities (1963-67) in rugby, Bill was an enthusiast for life in all its dimensions. He used his degree professionally as an agronomist for the Canterbury Malting Company in tandem with that other Lincoln identity Jim Malcolm. As a farmer and barley grower in his own right he was a founding member and director of the Canterbury Export Barley Company which later became Cropmark. For a number of years he imparted his knowledge and experience as a tutor to Diploma of Agriculture students. In order to ensure that time did not hang heavily on his hands he spent 18 years on the Waiwera County Council and 12 years on the Canterbury United Council and took more than a passing interest in the affairs of the National Party. In all these arenas was an ardent advocate of all things rural.

In 1991 he and Lynn decided to take up the challenge of farming a seaside property in the Wairarapa rather than the lakeside one at Motukarara. He did not however give up his passions for recreational shooting or tennis, nor his love for travel and adventure. Indeed at the time of his death he had just returned from helping two pilots mates relive their younger flying days in Borneo.

For more than 40 years one thing was never in doubt, Bill's absolute love of and dedication to Lynn and later their children Deborah, Lewis, Amanda, Lara and Charlotte. For those whose lives were touched by Bill, particularly those who were with him at the LURFC 125th, our enduring memory will be of a multi-talented man, a very loyal mate and an enthusiast for life.

Also remembered by family, friends and colleagues are:

- W.R (Bill) Hudson
- Ken Bryan (1968 - 72 B.Ag Sci)
- Euan (Digger) Davies
- Debbie Tawse - Debbie started Celebrity Speakers (NZ) Ltd in 1989, and developed it to become New Zealand's foremost speaking bureau and provides speakers and entertainers to corporate and social functions. Debbie was a strong supporter of events in Auckland and will be missed by all who know her. Debbie passed away in December 2006

A Glimpse of whats available online @ www.lincoln.ac.nz/alumni

- Practical Work and Field Trips

- Where in the World are Lincoln Alumni

- Summer holidays in Antarctica

- Alumni at Sea

- Study Abroad

- Decade review

