

# 2010

## Donald, I.

(1958-59) DipAgr (Distinction), DipVFM



Ian Donald's association with the business world has significantly advanced the interests of New Zealand's land-based industries.

In a career spanning 25 years with Fletcher Challenge Limited, New Zealand's largest public company of its day, and with its predecessor Challenge Corporation Ltd, Ian held many senior positions.

At Canterbury Agricultural College Ian completed a Diploma in Agriculture with Distinction in 1958 and followed it with a Diploma in Valuation and Farm Management, winning the Gold Medal for his year. He subsequently added a Bachelor of Commerce from Victoria University to these, along with professional accounting qualifications.

Ian began his business career with the Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP) in 1960 as a Pastoral Inspector/Valuer involved in mortgage lending in rural New Zealand and as an Investment Officer and Property Development Executive in Australia.

In 1972, he joined Challenge Corporation Ltd. From 1972 to 1974 he was Chief Financial Officer, and from 1975 to 1977 Assistant General Manager and Director,

Wrightson NMA, with responsibility, at various times, for trading, merchandising, rural lending, livestock and wool.

In 1977 he was appointed to the Board of Challenge Corporation with responsibility for the manufacturing and motor vehicle assembly and distribution subsidiaries. In 1982, after the merger of Challenge Corporation, Fletcher Holdings and Tasman Pulp and Paper Limited, he became the Executive Director responsible for the Rural and Trading Sector, which included being Chairman of Wrightson NMA and Wrightson Farmers Finance and a director of Southland Frozen Meat.

The giant corporate enterprise of Fletcher Challenge Limited, led by another Lincoln University alumnus and Bledisloe Medallist, Sir Ronald Trotter, stamped its mark on New Zealand's rural economy and national prosperity through agribusiness trading, merchandising, rural lending, livestock and wool marketing, process engineering, agricultural machinery manufacturing, property, forestry and timber processing. It was an exciting commercial era and Ian was at the centre of it.

From 1985 to 1992 his career took him to Canada as CEO of Crown Forest Industries and, following the acquisition of British Columbia Forest Products, CEO of the combined companies, renamed Fletcher Challenge Canada Ltd, then one of the largest integrated forest products companies in Canada.

Back in New Zealand in 1992, he was appointed Chief Financial Officer of Fletcher Challenge Limited, based in Auckland.

Since retirement in 1997 he has been a professional director with a variety of commercial interests. He served five years as Chair of the Crown Research Institute, Landcare Research, and nine years as a Lincoln University Council member.