

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

# Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2015 MINUTES

Lincoln Event Centre, Meijer Drive, Lincoln

Thursday, 23 April 2015 – 11:30am

PRESENT:

- Jo Spencer-Bower (President)
- James Nell (Vice- President)
- Executive members: Craig Williamson, Andrew O'Regan, Derrick Moot, Neil Gow, Andrew Lingard, Roy Evans
- Penny Curran (Secretary)
- 49 members of the Alumni Association

## 1. WELCOME BY PRESIDENT – JO SPENCER-BOWER

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting, and gave a particular welcome to three distinguished alumni, John Andre from South Australia, the first recipient of Lincoln University's Alumni International Medal in 2003; Professor John Morris, the 2015 recipient of the International Medal; and Professor Stephen Goldson, the 2014 Bledisloe Medal winner.

The President thanked the Association's Executive and the staff of the University's Alumni and Development Office for their work preparing the AGM material.

The President highlighted that 2014 was a very successful year and gave a detailed summary of the past year's activities of the Alumni Association including: the two major reunions - 50 Years On and the VFM Final Field Test; National Agricultural Fielddays at Mystery Creek; telephone fundraising campaign in September (over \$100,000 was pledged for scholarship support for future students); and how the 'Stay Connected' campaign is working.

## 2. APOLOGIES

In addition to Dr Andrew West and Chancellor Lambie, apologies were received from:

Sam Robinson, Neal Ibbotson, Bruce Scoggins, Glen Johnson, Bob Diprose, Ian Donald, Bruce Ross, Pita Alexander, Ross Hyland, Jock Allison, Ray Newton, Neil Taylor, Giles Rowsell, Peter Falconer, David Parker, Hanif Quazi, Nancy Lady Stewart, Simon Lee, Alan Taggart, Richard Cave, Aldous MacIvor, Peter Hook, Trevor Lyall, Derek Newman, Juanita Fahey, Warwick Catto, Vivienne Jenkinson, Fiona Lady Elworthy, Judith Hutton, Barry Parsonson, Gerard Scott, David Rendall, Patrick Aldwell, Nicoline Den Breems

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

*Moved: Jo Spencer-Bower*

*Seconded: Neil Gow*

**CARRIED**

### **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 2014 AGM**

**Motion:** *That the minutes of the AGM held on 6 June 2014 be accepted as a true and accurate record.*

*Moved: Jo Spencer-Bower*

*Seconded: Andrew Lingard*

**CARRIED**

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

*No matters arose from the minutes of 6 June 2014*

### **5. PRESENTATION OF THE 2014 ANNUAL REPORT – JO SPENCER-BOWER**

The President introduced the Report as follows:

*'This is the second year that we have produced a printed Annual Report for the Association's AGM and we hope you continue to find it a useful document. It is a reflection of our drive to professionalise our organisation and communicate effectively with members.*

*In summary, 2014 was a constructive year on many fronts. The on-campus alumni reunions and the off-campus activities involving alumni have highlighted the excellent cooperation between the Association and the University.*

*In the Annual Report you will find a record of the meetings of the Executive during the year and summaries of the visits and addresses by senior University managers. The visitors included the Chancellor, Vice Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Programmes and Student Experience) and in net result the visits greatly enhanced communications between the University and the Association.*

*The annual Strategic Planning Workshop, usually held at the beginning of the year had to be cancelled but in its place members of the Executive were invited to examine and comment on the Alumni & Development Office's Alumni Relations Plan for 2014.*

*Contact and communication with the University's Telford Division was also greatly enhanced in 2014 with the appointment of a Telford representative to the Executive, Simon Lee, and the integration of Telford alumni into the wider alumni organisation.*

*The Annual Report also records the Association's continued support of current students through its two scholarships, one for diploma students and one for degree candidates. As is recorded, Matthew Walker of South Canterbury was the diploma scholarship winner and Anna Reddish from the Waikato was the degree scholarship recipient.*

*2014 was the first full year of the operation of the MOU between the University and the Association, signed in 2013 and the new Rules. As is recorded in the Annual report, the year also saw the first telephone campaign of the new era of philanthropic giving.*

*Although not mentioned in the Annual Report, we lost a number of prominent alumni during the year including Lincoln's first woman Bachelor of Agricultural Science graduate Mary Fairmaid. But at the same time membership of the association grew and now stands at just on 36,000.*

*In summary, 2014 was a very constructive year for the Association in terms of communications with University management; connections with Telford Division; relations with current students through scholarships; and the introduction of alumni, through a telephone campaign, to the role and importance of a spirit of philanthropic giving.*

*What I said in my introduction about there being no controversies for the Association in 2014, was not strictly accurate. An external matter striking at the very heart of our ability as alumni to adequately represent the interests*

of alumni at university governance level was the Government's announcement in 2014 of a desire to cut the size of university councils. It is a very significant matter and the Association is still (2015) in the process of responding to this.

*I will now hand over to Association Treasurer James Nell to present the Financial Statements for 2014.'*

## **6. FINANCIAL REPORT – JAMES NELL**

James Nell, Alumni Association Vice-President and Treasurer, summarised the financial position of the Alumni Association. The Association is a non-profit incorporated society and has Registered Charity status.

The financial report was more of a cash flow report - where funds have come from and where they are spent - he said. This information was provided in the 2014 LUAA Annual Report.

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 2014 was \$1,503, compared with NZD \$27,662 in 2013. James advised that the profit was lower than the previous years as the portfolio had a spectacular year in 2013, and 2014 is more of a normal year. The Association had total assets valued at \$278,541, up from \$277,038 at the same time in 2013.

## **7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

All two incumbents are eligible for re-election, and the President handed over to Andrew O'Regan to chair this part of the meeting:

Andrew called for nominations for the positions below. The nominations were received and carried by those at the AGM.

**President - Jo Spencer-Bower**

**Vice President - James Nell**

### **President**

*Nominee: Jo Spencer-Bower*

Nominated by Neil Gow

Seconded by Andrew Lingard

**CARRIED**

### **Vice President**

*Nominee: James Nell*

Nominated by Andrew Lingard

Seconded by Neil Gow

**CARRIED**

There were also three nominations for the three vacancies on the Executive; Andrew Lingard (re-election), Neil Gow (re-election) and Simon Lee (completed his term as co-opted member for Lincoln-Telford). No nominations were received from the floor.

**Nominee: Andrew Lingard**

Nominated by Jo Spencer-Bower

Seconded by James Nell

All present were in favour

**CARRIED**

**Nominee: Neil Gow**

Nominated by Jo Spencer-Bower

Seconded by James Nell

All present were in favour

**CARRIED**

**Nominee: Simon Lee**

Nominated by Jo Spencer-Bower

Seconded by James Nell

All present were in favour

**CARRIED**

The President confirmed the 2015/16 Executive to be:

- Jo Spencer-Bower – President
- James Nell – Vice-President
- Craig Williamson – Immediate Past President
- Derrick Moot
- Roy Evans
- Andrew Lingard
- Andrew O’Regan
- Neil Gow
- Simon Lee

**8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

The President called for items of general business.

Neil Gow held up a number of photograph albums that were taken by Ron Blackmore, the University photographer from 1950’s to the meeting, and invited members to assist with identifying people in the photographs. Neil also mentioned that the University now had a Museum and Documentary Heritage Working Party which is ensuring that heritage items are catalogued and preserved.

Concern was raised from the floor in General Business about the Government’s move to reduce the number of members on university councils. The President advised that LUAA had made a submission to the Lincoln University Council requesting that at least one representative should be an alumnus of Lincoln University co-opted after consultation with the Alumni Executive Committee. The President agreed to update members on the outcome through the AlumniLinc newsletter following the June Council meeting.

One speaker from the floor suggested that existing legislation from the 1980’s provided an opportunity for university alumni to set up advisory groups to feed information on to university councils and the use of such groups should be explored.

It was also suggested in General Business that alumni reunions be advertised to all alumni and not just regionally as there may be alumni travelling to the areas where reunions are being held.

The President highlighted the New Year Honours List award made to a well-known alumnus and staff member Mr Richard (Dick) Lucas – Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to agriculture.

The President thanked everyone for their attendance and requested a brief break before LUAA Patron Dr Andrew West introduced the 2014 Bledisloe Medallist, Professor Stephen Goldson (who gave an address following the AGM).

**The AGM closed at 12.00 pm.**

Confirmed as a true and accurate record.

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