



Alumni International Medal

Robert Dougall McCallum MSc, Dip P&RM

Lincoln University proudly acknowledges the outstanding scientific, technological and knowledge-advancing achievements of alumnus Robert ('Rob') Dougall McCallum.

Rob is internationally acclaimed in deep ocean exploration, philanthropic science and conservation.

After completing his Lincoln University Diploma in Parks and Recreation Management in 1986, Rob worked for the Department of Conservation, rising to the position of 'Conservator'.

He also spent four years on international secondment to the United Nations Development Programme as the Technical Lead for a rainforest conservation project in Papua New Guinea.

Switching to the world's oceanic domains, over the past 20 years Rob has become a world authority on marine exploration, particularly in relation to the Hadal Zone, the ocean below 6000 metres.

He has planned, managed and led record-breaking scientific expeditions to the deepest point in each of the world's five oceans, and all of the world's 10,000 metre-plus trenches.

He has personally dived to the deepest point on Earth (10,925 metres), the first New Zealander to do so.

Rob epitomises the Lincoln University Values of displaying Leadership, Innovation, and Integrity in the advancement of knowledge and understanding.

His expeditions have established many world firsts, broken several world records, and made major advances in engineering, technology, and human endeavour, as well as yielding discoveries in biological, chemical, geological and acoustic sciences.

The leadership shown by Rob in exploring what is considered to be the last frontier of exploration on Earth, has resulted in remarkable advances in science, fully consistent with the Lincoln University Values of Innovation and Integrity.

Rob refers appreciatively to his time at Lincoln as his 'formative years'. He now contributes to the next generation as a Trustee and Board member of four ocean-focussed charitable entities, as an industry spokesperson and consultant, and as a formal mentor to emerging explorers.

The Lincoln University Alumni International Medal is awarded to a former student or a past or current staff member of Lincoln University, who has made an outstanding contribution to their chosen field of expertise, and has brought credit to Lincoln University through achievements in a country other than New Zealand.

Professor Grant Edwards
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell
Chancellor