



## Doctor of Commerce *Honoris Causa* Stephen Mark Smith MW

Steve Smith was Chancellor of Lincoln University from May 2016 until December 2018.

His term as Chancellor spanned arguably the most critical period in Lincoln University's modern history, when it went from the spectre of closure or merger to the reality of a nascent new future.

Leadership at this time imposed heavy responsibilities and expectations on Steve from many quarters - Government, industry stakeholders, alumni, staff, students, the New Zealand public, and the weight of history. No one wanted to see Lincoln University fail, and Steve embodied, expressed and carried their hope that it wouldn't.

The background was financial deficits and languishing enrolments. Transformative measures were recommended by a 'Transformation Board' which reported to the University Council in October 2017.

Steve was a member of that board and by the time it had completed its work he had been elected Chancellor.

On 21 November 2017 to a packed campus gathering Steve delivered the board's findings and recommendations to staff.

He described the Transformation Board's report as a 'rousing endorsement of what Lincoln should be doing'.

From that point on, Steve became the face, voice and persona of Lincoln University's transformation process.

A loyal Lincoln alumnus, Steve had passion, optimism, cheerfulness and ebullience in abundance. The staff took him to their hearts, and an atmosphere of buoyancy and hope emerged.

As Chancellor, it was Steve Smith's job, along with the University Council, to provide Lincoln's management team with an environment of stable and supportive governance to ensure that Transformation became a reality. This he did with the greatest distinction.

When Steve stepped down from the Chancellorship at the end of 2018, Lincoln University had embraced the recommended vision of being a 'top five globally ranked, specialist land-based university unleashing the power of the land to enhance lives and grow the future'.

**Steve brought a remarkable portfolio of governance experience, professional development, commercial acumen and business success to the task with which he was entrusted, including study at Stanford University and acclaim in the wine industry. He was the first viticulturist in the world to receive the Master of Wine distinction.**

Professor Grant Edwards  
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell  
Chancellor