



# Lincoln University Alumni International Medal

## Ms Catherine (Katie) Sadleir

Katie Sadleir's high-profile career has seen her hold several ground-breaking roles in New Zealand high performance sport, before becoming the world's first general manager of women's rugby and her recent appointment as the first female Chief Executive Officer of The Commonwealth Games Federation in the United Kingdom.

Since she graduated with a Diploma in Parks and Recreation Management from Lincoln University in 1990, she has worked in pivotal leadership roles in the sport and recreation sector.

Katie led the establishment of the New Zealand Academy of Sport network in the late 1990s and drove the need for the implementation of high-performance coaching and leadership to ensure New Zealand would be competitive on the world stage.

She went on to be a Director of HSPNZ and of Sport NZ.

In 2017 she was appointed General Manager, Women's Rugby at World Rugby based in Dublin, Ireland, and was responsible for developing women's rugby globally, a challenge in a traditionally male-dominated arena, and succeeded

in growing the game in non-traditional rugby nations, illustrated by there now being 10,000 registered women playing rugby in Iran.

In her new role, Katie plays a leading role in driving the future strategic direction of the organisation from Birmingham 2022 and beyond and wants to ensure the global sporting movement is fully focused on community legacy, benefit, and impact through sport.

She has a strong sporting pedigree, is a 1986 Commonwealth Games bronze medalist in synchronised swimming, and competed in the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

She was Assistant Chef de Mission for the New Zealand team at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria and was given the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2016 New Zealand Sport and Recreation Awards, being cited as the architect of many of the systems and programmes fundamental to the high-performance sport system in New Zealand today.

**Katie Sadleir is a worthy recipient of the Lincoln University Alumni International Medal**

Professor Grant Edwards  
Vice-Chancellor

Bruce Gemmell  
Chancellor