

Bledisloe Medal

Peter James McBride

Lincoln University's Bledisloe Medal, instituted in 1930, acknowledges outstanding career contributions by former students, or past or current staff members, whose work has brought credit to the university and advanced New Zealand's interests.

The career of alumnus Peter James McBride fulfils those requirements with distinction.

As Chair of the Board of Directors of dairy industry giant Fonterra, Peter heads the governance of New Zealand's largest exporter of dairy products and one of the largest dairy exporters in the world. Through Fonterra, Peter is certainly advancing New Zealand's interests and as a Lincoln alumnus, Postgraduate Diploma in Commerce 2009, he is clearly bringing credit to this university.

Peter was elected Chair of Fonterra in 2020, after two years on the Board of Directors. It is a high-profile commercial position for which he is well qualified, having won the New Zealand Herald Chairperson of the Year Award in 2018, when he headed the board of another major Kiwi enterprise, Zespri International.

Peter grew up on a dairy farm near Te Aroha, before the family moved into kiwifruit in Te Puke. He holds a Horticulture degree from Massey but is also a 2002 graduate of the Lincoln-based Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme.

Peter's leadership ability was clearly evident during the kiwifruit PSA crisis from 2010 which had the potential to decimate the New Zealand Kiwifruit industry. It was demonstrated too when he oversaw changes to the capital structures of Zespri and Fonterra.

On the management side, as distinct from governance, Peter is Chief Executive Officer of Trinity Lands Ltd, a dairy and kiwifruit operation based largely in Waikato. Trinity operates over 20 dairy farms and distributes profits to charity-based shareholders and local communities, focussing on essential social and emergency services.

Peter is a Chartered Fellow of the NZ Institute of Directors, a member of the NZ China Council and a past member of the NZ International Business Forum.

In 2018 he was awarded Horticulture NZ's Bledisloe Cup for leadership. Now Lincoln University is proud to award him its prestigious Bledisloe Medal.