



Ekara James Lewis Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship recognises and celebrates the life of Ekara James Lewis. Of Rakaipaka/Ngati Kahungunu descent, and one of 14 children to the Reverend Ratu and Kui Lewis, Ekara was born in 1950, and raised in Nuhaka, Hawkes Bay. For the earlier part of his working life, he worked across a wide range of sectors including – traffic officer, fisheries management, tourism, and other middle management and administration roles. In the mid 1990's he became progressively involved in community development work, along with critical aspects of youth justice and family support, particularly in the voluntary sector. This expanded quite quickly into Māori community development, centred on violence prevention, anger management and community education.

In the late 1990's he made the decision to enrol in tertiary level Māori Studies as a 'mature student'. His working life to this point had impressed upon him the critical importance of Māori policy and planning as a tool for Māori self-determination, self-empowerment and Māori community development. Initially he studied as a part time, long distance student, but then made the decision to study on the Lincoln University campus full time. On successfully completing the Bachelor of Māori Planning and Development degree in 2007, specialising in Māori policy, Māori planning and Social Development, he went on to successfully complete an Honours year in 2008. While still a student he maintained his community development emphasis as Tumuaki (President) of Te Awhioraki (the Lincoln University Māori Students Association), and a Residential Assistant in the Halls of Residence. On completion of his degree, he was appointed contract lecturer in Māori Studies and in 2009 appointed to Lincoln University as its Kaitakawaenga (Māori Outreach Coordinator). Again, his community development work continued through senior Māori leadership roles in the Tertiary Education Union (TEU) – Te Uepu, Te Toi Ahurangi, the Tiriti Partnership Group, but also TEU Lincoln Branch Vice President. In 2015 he was made a Life Member of the TEU.

One of the highlights of his career was the establishment of the Sir Turi Carroll Memorial Lecture Series, and Sir Turi Carroll Life and Legacy Workshops in 2015. These were held in his home town in Wairoa. It was indeed fitting that Ekara, a Ngati Kahungunu son of Wairoa, and Lincoln University graduate, should also organise a tribute to the life and contribution of another Ngati Kahungunu son of Wairoa and Lincoln graduate, Sir Turi Carroll (1912), over a hundred years later.

Ever cognisant of education as a life long journey, at the time of his death in 2016, Ekara had been planning to embark on his Master's degree. In 2017 he was awarded posthumously, the Ngati Moki Māori Leadership Trophy, Lincoln University's award for exemplary Māori Leadership.

The Ekara James Lewis Memorial Scholarship was established through a bequest from Ekara, to support tertiary students of Māori descent achieve their potential.

Regulations

1. Purpose

This scholarship was established in 2021 to commemorate the life and contribution to Māori community development and education of Ekara James Lewis. Its purpose is to encourage a Māori student of academic calibre and leadership potential to continue tertiary study in a programme at Lincoln University.

2. Number/Value

- 2.1 The number of scholarships awarded annually shall be decided by the Vice-Chancellor and shall comprise an amount of up to \$10,000.
- 2.2 The amount awarded shall be paid in two instalments towards tuition fees, or as a fortnightly stipend for the duration of the academic year, subject to conditions outlined in Regulation 7.
- 2.3 The scholarship is to be used for tertiary related expenses e.g. tertiary fees, accommodation, texts and other study related resources

3. Eligibility

To be eligible to hold the scholarship, applicants shall:

- 3.1. Be of NZ Māori descent, and resident in New Zealand.
- 3.2. Be a current registered student for a full time Lincoln University undergraduate or postgraduate degree
- 3.3. Have successfully completed one year of study
- 3.4. Have demonstrated leadership potential in the Māori community.

4. Selection Criteria

The criteria for selection shall be:

- 4.1. Potential or demonstrated commitment to Māori leadership and advancement within the university or extended community, and
- 4.2. Potential to complete a tertiary qualification at Lincoln University in any field.
- 4.3. Assessment of a two minute video clip provided by the applicant outlining their commitment to Māori leadership.

Note: Special consideration may be given to:
Descendants of Reverend Ratu and Kui Lewis
Descendants of Ngati Rakai Paaka
Mature Students
First in Family Students

5. Selection Committee

The scholarship is to be awarded by the selection committee, which shall comprise:

- 5.1. The Convenor of the Scholarships Committee or nominee, and
- 5.2. Not less than two Trustees of the Ekara James Lewis Memorial Scholarship Trust, and
- 5.3. A member of the Ekara James Lewis Whānau or nominee.

The selection committee may invite short listed candidates to attend an interview.

The selection committee may refrain from making an award if it finds no candidate of sufficient merit.

6. Tenure

- 6.1. The tenure of the scholarship is for one academic year.
- 6.2. The scholarship is tenable with any other scholarship, award or bursary.

7. Reviews of Progress

- 7.1. In June and November of each year, the Scholarships Office may request a report on the scholar's progress from the Kaitakawaenga Māori, or other appropriate Māori Support Coordinators.
- 7.2. A scholar is expected to have fully participated in the key aspects of the Ekara James Lewis Memorial Scholarship.
They are expected to:
 - 7.2.1 Pass all courses in each semester of their study, with the expectation of attaining a B grade average, and
 - 7.2.2 Contribute positively to Te Awhioraki (Māori Students Association) Leadership at Lincoln University.
- 7.3. If the Vice-Chancellor, at any time, is satisfied that the scholar is not diligently pursuing his or her studies; or is not complying with the conditions of the scholarship; or is not making satisfactory progress, then the Vice-Chancellor may suspend or terminate this scholarship.

8. Application

Completed applications should be lodged with the Scholarships Office by 31 March:

Email applications to: scholarships@lincoln.ac.nz