

Lincoln University

Neil John Craig ONZM 2018 Bledisloe Medal

Neil Craig's connection as an alumnus of the University is well known and his success and reputation has reflected well on the University.

He has a strong alignment to the Agribusiness and Commerce aims and interests of Lincoln University. His company, Craigs Investment Partners (Craigs), has contributed to Lincoln through the sponsorship of alumni events for the last two years including those in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin in 2017, and Neil himself is assisting with the development of the University's fundraising strategy.

Neil has a B.Ag Com (Economics) from Lincoln and founded Craig & Co. Ltd (now Craigs) in 1984 in Whakatane. Through a series of acquisitions, he built the company into a full service investment business with a national presence and 17 branch offices throughout New Zealand. It is 50% owned by staff and 50% owned by Deutsche Bank, and Neil retains the role of Executive Chair. Craigs also owns 50% of Wilsons, an Australian stockbroking business.

Neil's contribution to the development of a successful Stock Exchange and the wider New Zealand Capital Markets is well acknowledged within the investment industry. He helped establish and grow the local Tauranga economic development agency Priority One, and championed the establishment and development in Tauranga of one of New Zealand's largest angel investor groups, Enterprise Angels. He is Chair of NZX-listed Comvita Ltd and a former director of Mighty River Power and the NZ Stock Exchange. He is a Director of AGInvest Ltd and a number of agriculture and kiwifruit family based businesses.

He was instrumental in the re-development of the Bay Oval Cricket ground in Tauranga, which has since hosted international matches, and is a current Trustee. He is also on the Board of New Zealand Cricket.

He was a Trustee of Waipuna Hospice in Tauranga for 10 years and, for eight years from 2009, Craig's Investment Partners formed a partnership with Hospice New Zealand to support all 29 Hospices throughout the country. Neil helped establish, and has been an advisor for, the philanthropic Acorn Foundation since 2003.

From 2017, Craigs Investment Partners has been a national sponsor alongside Tindall Foundation, of the Community Trust Foundation, aimed at rolling out philanthropic Community Trusts throughout New Zealand, along the Acorn model. He has also been personally involved in philanthropic work in Vanuatu relating to the growing of sandalwood.

Neil was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2016 for services to business and philanthropy.

In forming one of New Zealand's largest investment advisory firms, Neil has significantly advanced New Zealand's interests through agribusiness and commerce, and is a worthy recipient of this year's Bledisloe medal.

Lincoln University is delighted to award Neil Craig the Bledisloe Medal for 2018.