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Applied research and extension services are an important part of Lincoln University's culture and the Land Environment and People Research Centre (LEaP) sees the publication of *LUPR* as bringing life to this Lincoln approach. The University was ranked No. 1 in the area of "architecture, design and planning" in the most recent Performance Based Research Fund assessment of all tertiary education providers in New Zealand and it offers the only professionally accredited undergraduate planning programme in the South Island. Environmental management and planning is

represented in several research themes in LEaP and we are pleased to facilitate the Lincoln University Planning Association in developing and promoting applied research and building connections between students, researchers and the wider community of professionals and people interested in planning. I expect *LUPR* will develop as a key means of communicating research findings of relevance to the planning field in the South Island and beyond over coming years. I hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as I did.

Susanne Becken
