



Staff Profiles

Courtney GUISE

Lincoln University Bachelor of Environmental Management and Planning Student

Ian Spellerberg



Professor Ian Spellerberg (Photographer: David Hollander)

Ian Spellerberg was Professor of Nature Conservation and is now Emeritus Professor. In 1994 he was appointed as the Director of the Centre for Resource Management. He then went on to fill other various senior management roles within the university. In the early 2000's he focused on teaching and research. He has published many books, papers (including award winning papers), and popular articles. In 2008 he was awarded the Science Communicator award from the New Zealand Association of Scientists. At the same time and with support from the late Lady Isaac, he established the Isaac Centre for Nature Conservation. That Centre was

responsible for many new initiatives including the Annual State of the Nation's Environment address. He has worked with many post graduates, supervised many PhDs and taught ERST 631 Environmental Sciences in Environmental Policies and ERST 636 Perspectives of Sustainability. Ian was responsible for establishing two international and jointly taught masters programmes; the Master of International Nature Conservation (with Goettingen University in Germany) and the Master of Natural Resource Management and Ecological Engineering (with BOKU University in Vienna). He was a key figure in establishing the New Zealand Chapter of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand. He is now an Honorary Fellow of that Institute. His interests have always been in and continue to be in nature conservation and environmental sustainability. Although now semi-retired he continues to play an active role at University.

From here-on, Ian plans to continue guest lecturing, supervising, writing and editing. He will also be taking part in establishing research projects on the value of native trees in the Canterbury Plains as part of his patronage of the Ta Ara Kakariki Greenway Canterbury Trust. Ian hopes to see Lincoln University at the head of Sustainability research and studies in New Zealand. He believes the University has the opportunity, the skills, the knowledge and the resources to become the 'green' university of New Zealand. He also hopes the students at Lincoln University will benefit from their time here and take every opportunity that comes their way to improve their research and other educational skills. Ian is adamant that all graduates who become environmental practitioners must also join an environmental institute and aspire to certification. Ian has

thoroughly enjoyed his time at Lincoln University due to its close links to the “real world”, opportunities for interdisciplinary teaching and research, the international status of the University, and the University’s friendly and co-operative character.

Ton Bührs



Associate Professor Ton Bührs (Photographer: David Hollander)

Ton is currently an Associate Professor in Environmental Policy at Lincoln University. He mostly lectures postgraduate papers in Environmental Policy and Planning, International Environmental Policy and currently also a Group Case study. Ton had completed his Masters in Political and Social Sciences at the University of Amsterdam. In the Netherlands, he initially was a teacher of Social Studies and then went on to teach at The Social Academy; a Netherlands Polytechnic for social workers. Ton came over to New Zealand from the Netherlands in 1984 due to his want for change and he has never looked back. He did his PhD in Political Science at the University of Auckland while being a house-dad and a tutor. Ton’s main research interests are Environmental Policy and Politics, including New Zealand, International and Comparative Environmental Policy and Politics. In particular he is interested in the institutional aspects of

environmental policy and management. The project Ton is currently working on is an edited book on Resource Conflict in New Zealand, dealing with conflicts related to water, energy issues, mining, land use and fisheries. Ton has been at Lincoln University since 1991 and has seen many changes over the years. Originally a lecturer with the Centre for Resource Management, he is now a staff member of the Department of Environmental Management, of which he was the Head of Department until late last year. Ton is leaving Lincoln University at the end of 2013 and in 2014 he plans to retain his link with Lincoln University and continue his research and writing in areas he has not had the time to focus on as much as he would have liked to. He is also planning on balancing his intellectual efforts with some more social/community efforts and recreational activities.

Ton sees Lincoln University’s future potential in the sector of ‘Sustainable Futures’ in a variety of areas and perhaps even worldwide. The marketing in this way, Ton thinks, would allow for expansion of the University which could attract more students and staff internationally. He sees this expansion as a link to Lincoln University’s interdisciplinary and ‘real world’ orientation.

Ton’s hopes for students in the future include helping to advance a sustainable future and that they have time to think and discuss what this means. He hopes these students will be able to critically think, question socio-cultural and political-economic structures and assumptions on which current practices are based, and look beyond technological issues and solutions.