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FERGUS LEE



GIVING BACK TO THE RURAL SECTOR writer PETER WHITE photography OLIVER LEE

ACADEMIC HIGH ACHIEVER

Growing up in the city is not always a disadvantage, if you want to study Agricultural Science at Lincoln University. **FERGUS LEE** is proof of what you can achieve, with the right outlook and a passion for the rural sector.

The 22-year-old from Auckland’s North Shore completed his Masters in Agribusiness Management earlier this year.

Fergus spent most of his school holidays working on his cousin’s farm in Wairoa, Hawke’s Bay. In his final year at Rosmini College, Fergus took Drama, Biology, Statistics, English, Religious Studies and Chemistry. He received a Future Leaders Scholarship to attend Lincoln University and began studying for a Bachelor of Agriculture degree.

Fergus only knew a few people when he arrived at Lincoln. He decided getting involved with various university clubs was a great way to make friends with like-minded people.

“My favourite was the ‘Handy Landys’, a rural volunteer club. I went with other club members on various flood clean-up trips throughout my years at Lincoln, to help farmers all over the country who had received damage from severe weather,” says Fergus.

“We went on trips from Balclutha down south, to Rai valley in Marlborough, and we were even flown up to Hawke’s Bay for a week after cyclone Gabrielle.

“It’s incredibly rewarding giving back and helping farmers through a time of adversity. It was also a lot of fun for us on the trips, and we visited some cool parts of the country.”

In his final undergraduate year, Fergus worked with other future leader scholars at Lincoln to bring 17 high school students down to Canterbury for the AgriVentures project.

“We took the students to a dairy farm, a sheep and beef farm, and various agribusinesses. The event was fully funded for the students as we had various sponsors, with PGG Wrightson and PGG Wrightson Seeds the main two. Several high school students from that trip are now studying at Lincoln.”

Fergus finished his undergraduate studies on a Lincoln University Student Exchange Programme to the prestigious University College Dublin.

“It was an incredible learning experience and the most fun I have had at university.”

He was then awarded a Prime Minister’s Agribusiness scholarship to Indonesia. Fergus spent six weeks travelling around Java with 10 other Lincoln students,

learning about Indonesia’s agriculture industry and their culture.

The next move for Fergus is to Singapore. He will shortly take up a graduate role with the Irish Food Board – Bord Bia – to expand Irish food, drink, and horticulture exports to the South East Asian region.

“I will also be studying a Masters in Global Business Practice at UCD Michael Smurfit Business school in Dublin, so exciting times ahead. Longer term, I want to be an agribusiness leader in the global setting.”

Fergus says career opportunities are excellent in all industries involved with farming and food.

“The primary sector/rural industry is the backbone of our economy and will be a major part of this country for the foreseeable future.

“If you are considering a career in the industry, try to get as much practical work as possible. Lincoln has staff dedicated to finding summer jobs for students on farms all over the country.”

KEY FACTS



- **FERGUS LEE** COMPLETED HIS **MASTERS IN AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT AT LINCOLN UNIVERSITY** EARLIER THIS YEAR.
- HE RECOMMENDS GETTING INVOLVED WITH **UNIVERSITY CLUBS TO MAKE FRIENDS WITH LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE.**
- **FERGUS** WILL SHORTLY TAKE UP A **GRADUATE ROLE WITH THE IRISH FOOD BOARD (BORD BIA),** BASED IN SINGAPORE.

ONLINE



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