

Professor Jacqueline Rowarth CNZM, CRSNZ, FNZIAHS

Jacqueline is Professor of Agribusiness at University of Waikato. She is on the Board of trustees for AGMARDT and the Kathleen Spragg Agricultural Trust. She is President of the New Zealand Grassland Association, convenes the judging panel for the Primary Farm 40 and is a judge for the National Farm Environment Awards Ambassador, the Zonta Award for women in science and the Federated Farmers Agribusiness Person of the Year. She writes weekly columns for National Business Review, and regularly for Rural News, the Waikato Times, North King Country Farmer and Primary magazine. She speaks to industry, society and school groups whenever invited, and also teaches undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Jacqueline obtained an Agricultural Science degree with first class honours in Environmental Agriculture, has a PhD in Soil Science from Massey University, worked in Plant Improvement with AgResearch for 6 years and then taught Plant Science at Lincoln University for 6 years. From 2000-2004 she was Dean of the Postgraduate Division and Director of Research at Unitec, Auckland, becoming Vice-President, Research and Development, at the beginning of 2005. From 2005 to the beginning of 2007 she was Director, Office for Environmental Programs, The University of Melbourne, and from 2002 to 2008 was a Director for the Crown Research Institute Crop and Food Research. She moved to The University of Waikato this year from Massey University where she held the Foundation Chair of Pastoral Agriculture and was Director of Massey Agriculture.

For her work in science, technology transfer and promoting awareness of the importance of research and agriculture she received the Zonta Award for excellence in science in 1994, a New Zealand Science and Technology Medal in 1997 and in 2001 was elected as a Companion of the Royal Society of NZ, recognising 'pre-eminence in the promotion of science and technology'. In 2003 she was elected as a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Agricultural Science in recognition of her contribution to agricultural science. She was also made an honorary member in acknowledgement of her contribution to the profession. In 2008 she was awarded Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Agricultural Science, and in 2009 she was given the inaugural 'Agricultural Personality of the Year Award' by the Federated Farmers of New Zealand. In 2010 she was awarded the Landcorp Communicator of the Year Award by the New Zealand Guild of Agricultural Communicators and Journalists.