



Margaret has made a phenomenal contribution to the community

- Chair - Centre for Reproductive Medicine, Christchurch Board (1997–2007)
- Founding Member – Chair of the Board of Osteoporosis New Zealand (1998–2004)
- Member of the Christchurch Symphony Board (2002–2004)
- Inaugural Board member of the Biosciences Policy Institute (2003–2004)
- Chair of Inaugural Board of the Mental Health and Addiction Research Institute (2003–2005)
- Elected to the Council of the Royal Society of NZ with responsibility for the Education and Technology portfolio (2006–2010)
- Vice-President Royal Society of NZ – Science and Technology Education and Public Awareness (2008–2010)
- Patron and Trustee of Rutherford's Den (2009–)
- Board Member and Deputy Chair of Science Alive Trust Board (2009–)
- Trustee of the Christchurch Arts Centre (2010–)
- Member of the Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Board (2012–)
- Coordinator of Music Interests in the Christchurch Rebuild (2012–)
- Vice-President of the Civic Music Council (2013–)
- Chair of the Antarctic Endeavour Christchurch (2013–)

The Honourable Margaret Austin CNZM

1954 Bachelor of Science in Botany and Zoology, UC

1954 Diploma of Teaching, College of Education, UC

2006 DSc(*honoris causa*) Lincoln University

Margaret has had many accomplishments and achievements in her long career following her graduation from UC. Her roles have included Deputy Principal (Riccarton High School), Member of Parliament (including Minister of Research Science and Technology, Internal Affairs, Arts and Culture), and Chancellor of Lincoln University.

During her time as Minister of Research Science and Technology, and Chair of Education and Science Select Committee she invigorated the science system through structural changes. This was recognized in 1994 by her being awarded the New Zealand Royal Society Silver Medal for contributions to Science and Science Education.

In 1999 Margaret was appointed Chair of the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO, and between 2003–2007 she was President of Chairs of UNESCO National Commissions World Wide. For five years from 2005 she acted as a consultant to the Director General of UNESCO to assist with National Commissions, especially in the Pacific and SE Asia.

Margaret led the Tekapo Starlight Project which resulted in the International Dark Sky Association awarding the Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve Gold Status, just one of five in the world. The reserve includes UC's Mt John Observatory at Tekapo, Twizel and Aoraki-Mt Cook village.

