



**MARCUS
OLDHAM**

We mean business.

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RE: New Principal appointed at Marcus Oldham College

As previously communicated, Simon Livingstone is retiring at the end of this year after twenty-four years working for the College of which nineteen of those years were as Principal. What a mighty job he has done.

After an extensive search assisted by many alumni, and interviewing twenty-seven applicants in the last few months, it is our pleasure to announce Andrew Baker as the sixth Principal of Marcus Oldham College starting 1 January 2022. Many of you will know Andrew; he is currently the Director of both the Agriculture and Agribusiness courses and is an outstanding individual who, like many at Marcus Oldham, did not come from a traditional academic background (Summary CV is available [here](#)).

It makes us particularly proud that Andrew is an internal appointment. It is impressive that after an extensive global search and after subjecting the final candidates to four different rounds of formal interviews plus independent psychometric and intelligence tests, the best candidate was from within. This has many obvious advantages and materially less risk than an outside appointment, but more importantly, ensures Marcus Oldham's unique entrepreneurial and learning culture will live on.

New Management Structure

The College has grown materially over the last twenty years and to ensure it progressively evolves and excels in all core functions, the College has created a second Deputy Principal role which will be responsible for Culture and Development. This new structure will not be implemented until after the current Principal retires at the end of this calendar year. However, in practice, the College responsibilities will be split across three core executives being a Principal and two Deputy Principals.

Although the Principal is ultimately the responsible executive, below is a summary of the new structure and core responsibilities effective 1 January 2022.

Andrew Baker - Principal (academic programs, academic staff, accreditations, and course development)

Tony McMeel - Deputy Principal Finance and Commercial (finance function, building maintenance and capex, land development)

Elizabeth Gubbins - Deputy Principal Development and Culture (responsible for all functions outside of finance and academic programs). Staff reporting to this role will include foundation, scholarships and alumni, marketing, administration and student residential services. Elizabeth is an external appointment and will start her new role on 4 January 2022.



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Chairman of Council

After twenty-two years as a Council member and fourteen as Chairman, Mr Bruce Wilson is also retiring as Chairman at the end of this calendar year. Rob McGavin is Chairman Elect and will officially take over as Chairman in line with Andrew's start date. Recently, Robert Riordan resigned from the position of Deputy Chair of the Council after fourteen years of outstanding service and James Bufton has filled this position.

On behalf of the entire Marcus Oldham community, we would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank current staff, students and parents for their patience and understanding during these frustrating and difficult COVID-19 times. We appreciate the current situation is far from ideal and not what everyone signed up for. Not only is this a difficult learning environment for many students, but incredible lecturing staff are also wearing the burden in delivering the curriculum in ever-changing and restrictive circumstances.

On behalf of the College Council, staff, alumni, and the greater Marcus Oldham community, it is appropriate at this time, to congratulate Andrew Baker on his appointment and to wish him well. It is also important to reflect on the outstanding part Simon Livingstone has played in the pre-eminent reputation and position the College enjoys today. This is reflected in record student enrolments and wait lists. For one person to give so much for so long to Marcus Oldham speaks for itself. We sincerely thank Simon, his wife Helen, and their son Nick, for their contribution to Marcus Oldham and wish them all the best for their journey ahead.

We trust the College community will support Andrew, his wife Catherine, and their three children, in making a great College even greater, as we set the course to become a University College in the medium term.

Kind regards

Bruce Wilson

Chairman

Rob McGavin

Chairman Elect