



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF
WELLINGTON
TE HERENGA WAKA

2021

REPORT ON PHILANTHROPY

**CAPITAL THINKING.
GLOBALLY MINDED.**
MAI I TE IHO KI TE PAE





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Cover image: Marine sponge *Crella incrustans*, photographed on the Kāpiti coast by marine ecology researchers.
Photo: Valerio Micaroni, postdoctoral researcher

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

903 donors gave or pledged a total of **\$7.2 million**

88% increase in alumni donors

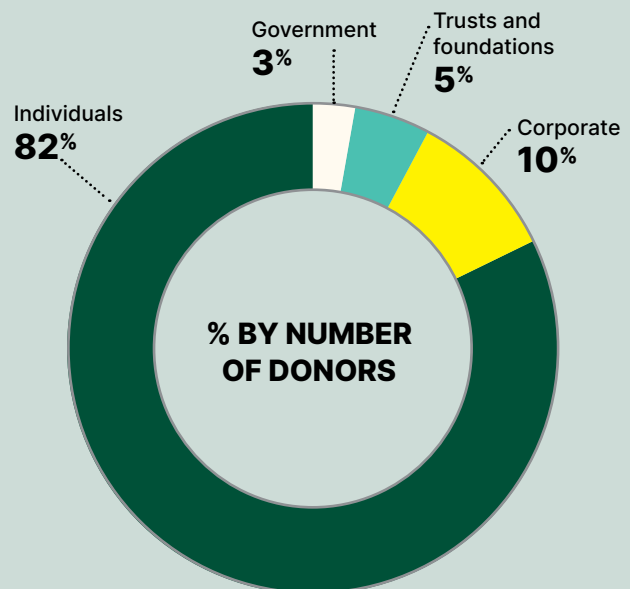
73 members of the Victoria Legacy Club

359 members of the Victoria Benefactors' Circle

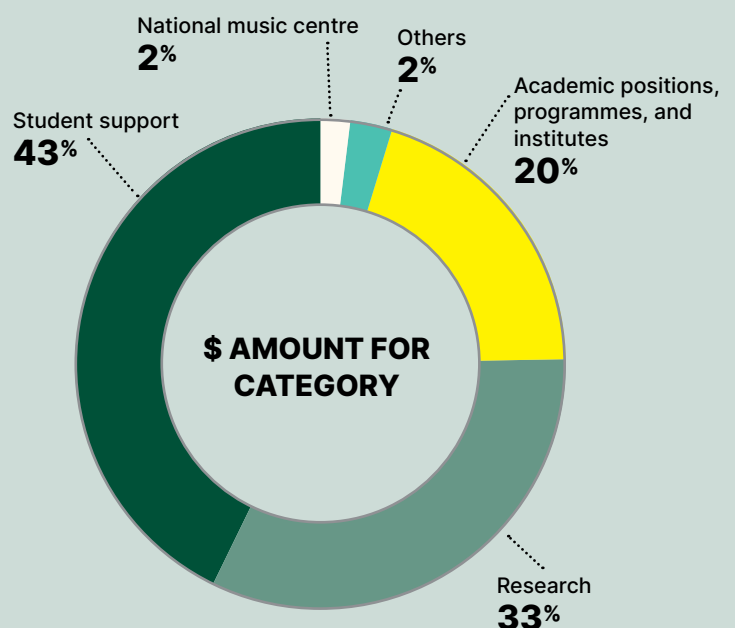
10 students were awarded alumni appeal scholarships

35 new funds were established, including **20** new scholarships

WHO ARE OUR DONORS?



WHAT DID OUR DONORS SUPPORT?



REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR

FROM THE CHAIR

This past year continued to be one of domestic and global uncertainty. Despite this, I am pleased to share the work of the Foundation, which shows that it continued to thrive. I hope you will be as pleased as we were with what the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation accomplished in 2021. Thanks to you, we've remained committed to investing in talented people, ground-breaking research, and exciting innovations. On behalf of the board of trustees, thank you for your generosity. The work of the Foundation would not be possible without you.

Established in 1990, the Foundation's vision is to advance knowledge through education and research funded by philanthropic gifts to Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington. Alongside the Foundation and the dedicated team at the Development Office, your support helps students fulfil their potential through access to a world-class university education, and advances cutting-edge research and projects that progress not only the wider vision of the University but the capital city and country too.

In 2021, the Foundation received a total of \$8.3 million in donations, of which \$4.1 million was contributed to endowed projects and \$4.2 million to non-endowed projects.

One of the key responsibilities of the board of trustees is management of the investment fund, and this is a role it takes very seriously. With much of the Foundation's funds endowed to ensure the longevity of the projects the funds support, our board ensures those funds are invested ethically and balanced between investment returns and risk. This aligns with the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment, which we were the first Australasian university foundation to join. Thanks to your generosity, and careful management by the trustees, the Foundation's total investment fund increased from \$80.6 million to \$89.7 million in 2021.

In 2021, the Foundation continued the momentum of the *What if ...?* campaign, where we focused on growing support for our five key areas of interest—creativity, environment and sustainability, health and wellbeing, innovation and entrepreneurship, and student experience. We've been inspired by the generous support you continue to give, particularly as we edge closer to meeting our campaign target of \$150 million by the end of 2022.

As ever, a key priority for the Foundation is being able to award scholarships and providing opportunities for as many people as possible to access a university education. In 2021, 20 new scholarships were established, many of which give special consideration to women and Māori and Pasifika students.



Thanks to your support, these scholarships really do change lives, helping students to cover course fees and living expenses, relieving the stress of financial worries, and giving them more time to focus on their studies. Many of these scholarships go to students from socio-economically disadvantaged homes. Without this financial support, they might not be able to receive the benefits of a university education. We never know where the next big discovery could come from, and we are proud to work alongside you in enabling as many people as possible to achieve their dreams.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow trustees for their commitment and leadership, not only through 2021 but for the duration of my chairmanship—a role I have been honoured to serve these past seven years. I'm also delighted to introduce you to our newest chair, former Wellington mayor Dame Kerry Prendergast, whose achievements not only include a long and successful life in politics, but who also currently leads the joint national music centre fundraising committee. This initiative will see a shared home for the University's New Zealand School of Music—Te Kōkī and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra across a suite of facilities in the Te Ngākau Civic Precinct.

Finally, on behalf of myself and the board, I would like to thank you, our generous donors, for your ongoing and dedicated philanthropic support. Your gifts mean so much to the people who benefit from them, and I look forward to seeing what will be achieved in the future.

Craig Stevens

Chair, Victoria University of Wellington Foundation

FROM THE KAIWHAKAKAPI TUMU WHAKARAE—ACTING VICE-CHANCELLOR

The COVID-19 pandemic's disruption of our individual and university lives continued to dominate much of 2021, but despite this ongoing uncertainty, and the need to manage a rapidly changing environment, the Foundation has continued to do inspiring work thanks to your generous support.

During times like these, your gifts towards education and research have never been more important. Thank you a great deal for your commitment to the University and our students.

Following on from the 2019 launch of the *What if ...?* philanthropic giving campaign, 2021 continued to be a year focused on growing support for projects across the five areas of business and innovation, creativity, health and wellbeing, student experience, and sustainability and the environment.

I want to point to just two initiatives where donor support has made a real difference. Ongoing and generous funding by the George Mason Charitable Trust for the marine ecology team in the School of Biological Sciences has led to their recent discovery of mass bleaching of native sponges. The significant public and academic interest in this has spurred further research on how our ecosystems are being impacted as a result of ocean warming and acidification due to climate change.

A second initiative is the evidence-based bullying prevention programme introduced to New Zealand schools, thanks to philanthropic support from the Rātā Foundation. Known as KiVa, the programme was originally developed in Finland and is based on decades of research with a specific focus on bullying prevention. Research from the Faculty of Education has shown KiVa has already reduced bullying in our primary and secondary schools by 5–10 percent. Having recognised its potential benefits, the Rātā Foundation has provided funding for the roll out of the programme in a group of Canterbury schools.

Together with you, we've also continued growing opportunities for students through scholarships that are truly life changing. In 2021, we were able to increase the number of scholarships that address inequity in our communities and workplaces. One new scholarship focused on breaking down barriers for Māori and Pasifika school leavers considering undertaking a legal degree. This initiative has brought together law faculty leadership, alumni, and the wider legal community—all committed to providing students with the opportunity to be among the next generation of leaders in our legal and justice systems.



It was also the second year of our Ngā Hoe a Kupe Pathfinder Scholarships in 2021, which are aimed at young people from under-represented groups such as Māori, Pasifika, or refugee backgrounds from secondary schools in the Wellington region. Another 12 talented students were able to take up places at the University thanks to this programme. With support from generous donors like you, we hope to be able to fund 10 full scholarships each year for the next 10 years.

Partnership and engagement are at the heart of the University's vision to be a world-leading capital city university. We are committed to further building our relationships and connections with the city's culture and economy. We want to help create a bolder, more sustainable, more diverse, and more inclusive future for the University, our students, and the wider community.

Thank you once again for your commitment to the University and the support you give to the projects close to your heart. We can only do the things we do because of you, and I look forward to being able to share more stories of transformation and change as we continue this important work together throughout the next year.

Professor Jennifer Windsor

Kaiwhakakapi Tumu Whakarae—Acting Vice-Chancellor

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON FOUNDATION

Your gifts to the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation are changing lives and transforming communities.

Thanks to your generous support, the Foundation has contributed more than \$76 million to support the University's key priorities through scholarships, prizes, academic positions, and research programmes since its establishment in 1990.

Governed by an independent board of trustees, the Foundation is responsible for managing your donations, investing gifts to the endowment portfolio, and distributing funds in accordance with donor wishes. None of this would be possible without you. Your gift—no matter the size—is making a difference.





YOUR GIFTS HELP ENSURE THE FUTURE OF OUR STUDENTS AND UNIVERSITY

The Foundation not only assists the University by supporting the current needs of students, researchers, and academics, but it also strives to ensure a successful and sustainable future for the University and its students through the endowment portfolio. Endowed gifts are carefully invested and managed to ensure resources for the University's priorities for generations to come.

When a donor advises that a donation is to last in perpetuity, the Foundation invests that donation in the endowment portfolio to earn an annual income. That annual income is then used to provide ongoing support to the University's students and projects as per the donor's wishes.

Donors often choose to create an endowed fund, and we acknowledge this commitment by naming the fund in honour of the donor or a family member. Eight new endowed funds were established in 2021. They are the:

- Ben O'Connor English-Speaking Union Award in Physics
- Graham Kelly Engineering and Computer Science Scholarships for Pasifika Students
- Kupe Scholarship Endowment Fund
- Lecretia Seales Memorial Lecture in Law Reform
- Lotte Weiss Award in Holocaust and Genocide Studies
- New Zealand School of Music Opera Award for Excellence in Performance
- Ruth and Oswald L. Kraus Innovator-in-Residence Programme
- Toorpaki Ulfat Human Rights Prize (Sukanya Das Prize in Human Rights).

By making an endowed gift, you are investing in the future of our students, teaching, and research. The Foundation's audited financial statements are available at www.wgtn.ac.nz/foundation

UNITED NATIONS PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

In 2018, the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation was the first Australasian university foundation to become a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI), joining more than 3,100 organisations around the world that have committed to these principles. As a signatory, the board of the Foundation pledges to integrate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations into its investment decisions.

The UNPRI provides an internationally accepted framework for investors such as the Foundation to manage ESG issues

in a manner consistent with improving long-term investment returns, focusing on six principles for responsible investment. The Foundation is committed to meeting and exceeding these principles while enhancing its stewardship of philanthropic donations.

To learn more about UNPRI, go to www.unpri.org

To learn about the Foundation's investment policies related to ESG and see its Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives, go to www.wgtn.ac.nz/foundation



From left: Craig Stevens, Brent Manning, and Leo Lonergan

THREE FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS HONOURED

Congratulations to three long-serving Victoria University of Wellington Foundation board members who were each honoured with a Hunter Fellowship on Tuesday 14 December 2021.

The award—one of the highest the University Council can bestow—recognises outstanding service to the University. Craig Stevens, Brent Manning, and Leo Lonergan (pictured above), all graduates of the University, have ensured the continued success and oversight of philanthropic donations and maintained the financial growth of the Foundation's investments over many years. All have done so in a purely

voluntary capacity, balancing their duties as trustees alongside their professional careers.

They have also contributed significantly to the success of the Trustees Scholarship, which offers students from disadvantaged backgrounds a three-year funded scholarship enabling them to study at university. This generous award is funded purely by the trustees.

We are extremely appreciative of these trustees and their efforts that have made a lasting contribution to the wellbeing of the University and the wider community it serves.



YOU COULD EFFECT CHANGE BEYOND YOUR LIFETIME

Once you have made provision for your loved ones, a gift in your will can be the perfect way to have a lasting effect, without impacting on your current financial needs. We are immensely grateful for every gift we receive, whether it is a specific sum or a percentage of whatever is left once you have provided for those close to you.

When you create a legacy, you continue to be part of Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington far into the future. Like legacy donor Graeme Cammick, you can help students to follow their dreams.

If you would like to have a confidential talk about leaving a gift in your will, contact Rosalene Fogel at rosalene.fogel@vuw.ac.nz or +64 4 463 6030.

Graeme Cammick's legacy empowers aspiring drummer

Jazz drummer Baileigh Sparkes is delighted to be the first recipient of the Cammick Scholarship for a student majoring in performance at the New Zealand School of Music—Te Kōkī (NZSM).

Graeme Cammick—a lifelong lover of music and regular attendee at NZSM lunchtime concerts—passed away in 2020, leaving behind a generous bequest to establish a scholarship that will alternate between supporting exceptional voice students and other instruments or composition students.

Baileigh has always been determined to fulfil her dream of being a drummer. "I remember, when I was around five, I saw a woman playing drums on a TV show and, from that moment on, I was convinced that I was meant to play drums. No matter what it took, I was going to be a drummer," she says.

Undeterred by the fact that her school didn't offer drumming as an option, she played with sticks on piles of phone books, then purchased some practice pads. After three years, her parents realised she was serious and bought a drum kit.

Baileigh says it means the world to her that, through this scholarship, she can fine-tune her skills and expand her musical knowledge.

In future, she hopes to give back to Aotearoa's music community by encouraging other young musicians, especially women and those from rural areas, to achieve their goals.



Baileigh Sparkes

YOUR PHILANTHROPY, YOUR IMPACT

WHAT IF ...?

The *What if ...?* philanthropic giving campaign was launched publicly in 2019 and asks you to imagine the change your gift can make. The campaign continued throughout 2021, increasing the opportunity for you to contribute to various programmes and projects split across five themed areas of interest: business and innovation, creativity, health and wellbeing, student experience, and sustainability and the environment.

As you will see on the following pages, the *What if ...?* campaign supports research, scholarships, and academic progress right across the University, and you are at the very heart of that.





Ngā Hoe a Kupe scholarship recipients (from left) Shekyna Lolouta, Shaniyah Munroe, Maepa Saolotoga, and Maria'e Ulutui enjoy the student fruit and vege market.

NGĀ HOE A KUPE PATHFINDER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME ENTERS ITS SECOND YEAR

With our initial cohort of Ngā Hoe a Kupe Pathfinder Scholarship recipients completing their first year of study at the University, and 12 new school leavers awarded scholarships for 2022, 2021 held many highlights for the programme.

Back in 2018, an investigative report into the inequitable distribution of scholarship funding found that high-decile secondary schools received four times the number of school-leavers' scholarships as low-decile schools. It also found these scholarships placed a high weight on extracurricular activities, disadvantaging students who needed to undertake part-time work or had additional home responsibilities.

For our university, this demonstrated a critical need for a more equitable and financially impactful approach to ensuring our underserved rangatahi could access more scholarship opportunities.

This led us to develop our Ngā Hoe a Kupe Pathfinder Scholarship programme. The holistic and wraparound-support aspects of the scholarship were co-designed with our partnering secondary schools, students, and their whānau. Our focus is on increasing the participation and success of Māori, Pasifika, and refugee-background students from our partnering schools in the Wellington region: Aotea College, Bishop Viard College, Mana College, Naenae College, Porirua College, St Bernard's College, Taita College, and Wainuiomata High School.

The scholarship's selection criteria focus on identifying students who have shown resilience and determination in overcoming adversity. Each year, workshops are held with

partnering secondary schools to help students through the application process.

The scholarship includes tuition fees, a stipend, course-related costs, accommodation in a catered hall for the first year, and a preparatory programme covering financial planning and managing workloads, stress, and other potential challenges. Whānau are invited to participate in the preparatory programme and learn how they can support their rangatahi during their academic journey.

Dianna Revell, a 2021 Ngā Hoe a Kupe Pathfinder Scholarship recipient, reflected on her first year at university and what the scholarship meant to her.

"I always had the idea that I wanted to go to university because, in my extended family, no women have ever graduated from university. I wanted to break that chain and show them that you can get a degree, no matter your circumstances," she says.

"My family is facing financial pressures, so receiving this scholarship was a huge blessing in our lives. It's allowed me to continue supporting them, while also having more time to devote to my studies and be supported in my time as a student. I'm just so grateful to be chosen as one of the 2021 scholarship recipients and how much it has changed my life."

Donors to this scholarship can be certain they are making a significant difference to the lives of these amazing young people and their whānau. Thank you to the organisations, alumni of our partnering schools, and university staff who are so generously supporting this programme.



“My whānau and I have been contemplating how to best tautoko Māori and Pasifika rangatahi who wish to study Law at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington. The kaupapa of this scholarship connected with us and other alumni from Te Herenga Waka who support this good mahi, and we’re proud to help grow the opportunities for rangatahi and their whānau to thrive and succeed.”

Tama Potaka

(Mōkai Pātea, Whanganui/Ngāti Rangi, Taranaki/Ngāruahine)
Alumnus and scholarship donor





From left: 2021 graduates in Laws and Arts Aroha Leighton (Ngāti Awa, Te Whānau-ā-Apanui) and Makuini Paulger (Ngā Rauru, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Maniapoto)

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS FOR MĀORI AND PASIFIKA SCHOOL LEAVERS

In 2021, Faculty of Law leadership, alumni, and the wider legal community came together to establish a one-of-a-kind scholarship programme to support Māori and Pasifika school leavers to pursue their dreams of obtaining a Law degree at the University.

Te ao Mārama / Le ao Malama First Light Māori and Pasifika Futures in Law Scholarship is aimed at addressing inequity in the legal system by reducing barriers faced by Māori and Pasifika students considering undertaking a Law degree. The scholarship will provide students with mentorship, social and professional support, and financial help so they can take their place among the next generation of leaders in our legal and justice system.

Thanks to the generosity and manaakitanga of our alumni and legal community, more than \$150,000 has been raised for this scholarship and we are on track to reach our next fundraising milestone of \$250,000.

Alumnus and scholarship donor Tama Potaka said, “My whānau and I have been contemplating how to best tautoko Māori and Pasifika rangatahi who wish to study Law at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington. The kaupapa of this scholarship connected with us and other alumni from Te Herenga Waka who support this good mahi, and we’re proud to help grow the opportunities for rangatahi and their whānau to thrive and succeed.”

Thank you to all who have been part of establishing this scholarship for recognising the importance of creating a more equitable legal and justice system. You are helping to ensure the next generation of Law graduates truly reflects the diversity of Aotearoa New Zealand.



PhD candidate Ben Harris (left) and James Bell, professor of Marine Biology, on the research vessel.

THE SECRET LIFE OF SPONGES

Thanks to generous support from the George Mason Charitable Trust, the marine biology team at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington's School of Biological Sciences has played a leading role in studying some of the least understood marine environments in the world.

In 2017, a significant gift from the George Mason Charitable Trust allowed PhD candidate Ben Harris to investigate sponge gardens in the Parininihi Marine Reserve under the towering White Cliffs in North Taranaki. Using a remotely operated vehicle (ROV), similar to an underwater drone, researchers could explore depths beyond the range of divers. Communities of organisms that exist in depths of 15–150 metres live in the temperate mesophotic zone, the 'twilight zone' where the water transitions from light to dark. Sponge gardens are widespread throughout New Zealand, including in Taranaki, the Poor Knights Islands, and Fiordland, but scientists know very little about them, with many of the 800 species of sponges not even named.

Ben's research went on to reveal a huge diversity of little-studied organisms and confirm the important role of sponges in providing habitats for fish and releasing carbon off which other species feed. "This work is of national relevance to marine management and conservation. And, as the links between shallow and deeper water sponges have not been considered anywhere in the world, the results have clear international significance," says Ben.

A catalyst for further research, George Mason's original gift led to nearly \$300,000 of additional funding and opportunities for new collaborations, including the marine biology team's latest research into how these ecosystems

might be impacted as a result of ocean warming and acidification due to climate change.

The researchers were shocked by their recent discovery of mass bleaching of native sponges in Fiordland. Rather than a healthy velvety brown, many sponges had turned a ghostly white. With 2021 the hottest year on record, the researchers are concerned that climate change is responsible, making this research globally important.

"Despite COVID-19 slowing down some of our plans for 2021, we made some excellent progress over the year. We took delivery of a new ROV, recruited two new PhD candidates, two Master's students, and a summer scholarship student, ran outreach sessions with schoolkids, developed new long-term collaborations with the Department of Conservation (DOC) deep reefs programme, secured seed funding for deep-reef mapping in Wellington, applied for larger Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment grants that will use the ROV, published two research articles, and established long-term deep-water reef monitoring programmes in Fiordland (funded by DOC) and at the Poor Knights Marine Reserve," reports Professor James Bell.

None of this would have been possible without George Mason translating his passion for the environment into philanthropy that makes a difference. Rather than accumulating assets, George has gained satisfaction from seeing the impact his philanthropy has made in providing study opportunities for young people and protecting the environment for the next generation. In 2019, he was named an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to conservation, philanthropy, and the community. Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington is truly grateful for the progress we have made through his far-sighted generosity.



"This work is of national relevance to marine management and conservation. And, as the links between shallow and deeper water sponges have not been considered anywhere in the world, the results have clear international significance."

Ben Harris
PhD candidate



OBU Rugby Academy 2021.

SUPPORTING STUDENT ATHLETES TO THRIVE

Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington and the Old Boys' University Rugby Football Club are fortunate to have the longstanding support of the Jack Jeffs Charitable Trust that has nurtured generations of dedicated student rugby players.

Jack Jeffs was a stalwart of the Victoria University Rugby Club from the 1930s, when he represented the club as a player, through to the late 1970s. He was passionate about rugby and the value of education and, in 1986, established the Jack Jeffs Charitable Trust that continues to support student rugby.

Old Boys' University Rugby Football Club (OBU) was formed in 1991 when Wellington College Old Boys' Football Club and Victoria University Rugby Football Club combined. It is one of New Zealand's largest senior rugby clubs competing in all divisions, with more than 250 current students and many more alumni involved.

Since 2012, the Jack Jeffs Charitable Trust has supported the OBU Rugby Academy, a partnership programme between the University and OBU focused on developing student rugby players in pursuit of academic and sporting excellence. The academy's vision is to be the leading rugby academy that serves and gives back to the community of Aotearoa. Its motto is 'In our waka we journey together, combining our love of education with our passion for rugby, leaving a legacy for the next generation.'

Under the guidance of OBU director of rugby Tomasi Palu, the academy is distinguished by its strong holistic approach and family culture focused on the mental wellbeing of the

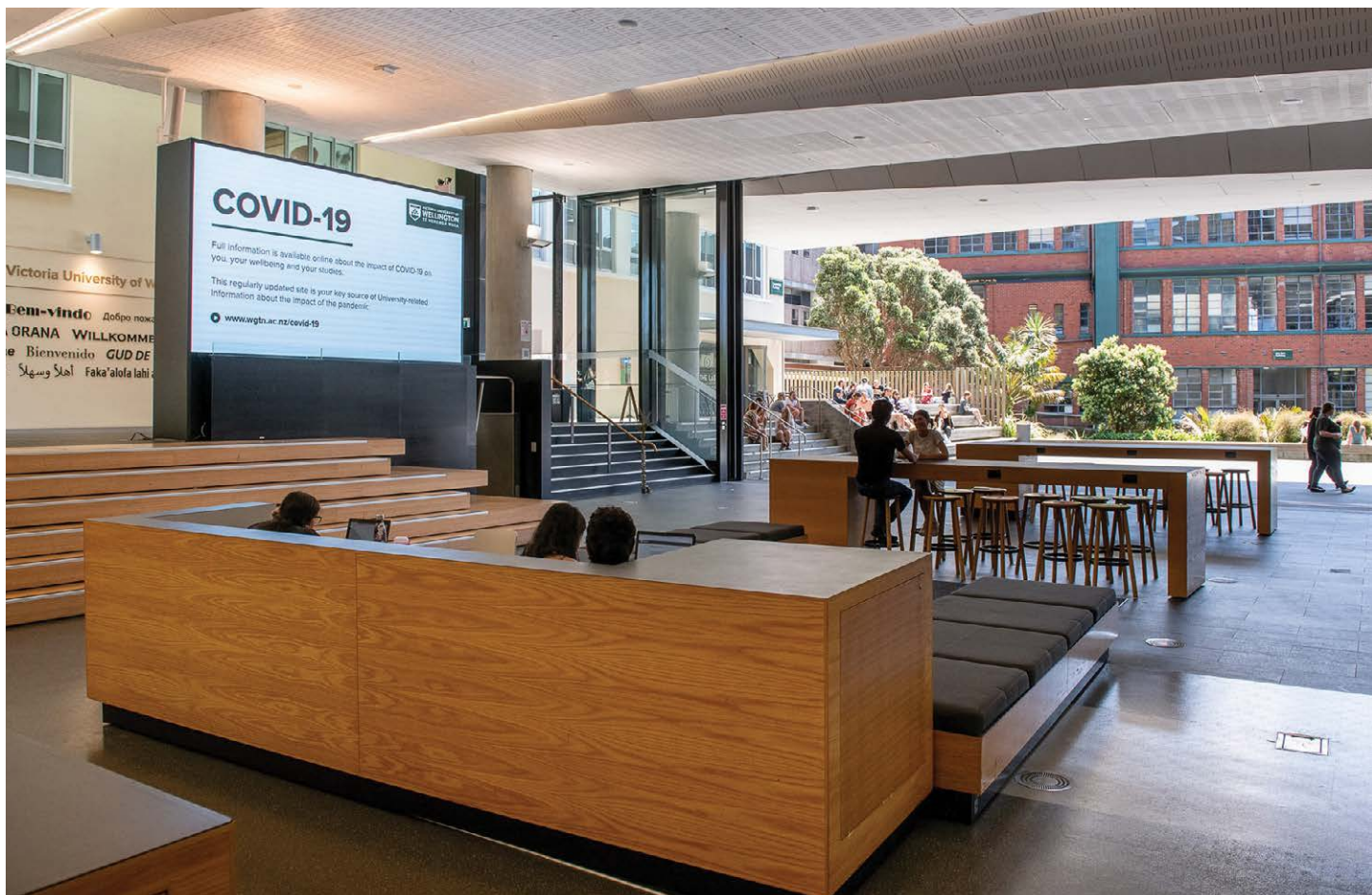
athletes. As well as strength and conditioning training and technical and tactical rugby skills, the academy offers personal development and life mentoring to build stronger, more resilient athletes. Sessions cover the transition to university student life and keeping study, sport, and personal life in balance.

In 2021, the 23 athletes who took part in the 12-week programme maintained a high performance standard while juggling the changing requirements imposed by COVID-19 restrictions. Players made impressive improvements in their testing results following hard work and discipline in the strength and conditioning programme. They also gave back to the community by helping with primary school visits and donating a bike to a charity that teaches children to ride.

Students who are dedicated to their sport face considerable challenges as they juggle their studies with the demands of intensive training and match play. As well as supporting the academy, the trust has funded scholarships to provide meaningful financial support to rugby players with academic talent and ambition.

Caleb Delany received the Old Boys' University Jack Jeffs Rugby Scholarship, which he described as "life-changing" as it helped him follow his two passions—rugby and architecture. The talented forward spent the 2021 rugby season as an injury replacement with the Hurricanes while continuing his architecture studies and has gone on to a full-time Super Rugby contract in 2022.

Thanks to the Jack Jeffs Charitable Trust's valued support, student rugby players can successfully combine their love of rugby with university study.



ALUMNI STEP UP FOR STUDENTS FACING HARDSHIP

As New Zealand entered alert level 4 in August 2021, the number of students in need of emergency financial support increased significantly and our alumni community was there to offer help.

With many students relying on part-time and casual work, the heightened alert level impacted their employment opportunities, and some were unable to meet basic necessities such as rent, electricity, and groceries.

Our alumni community, both in Aotearoa and overseas, immediately stepped up to support students disadvantaged by the heightened alert levels. Hundreds of donations were made towards our Pūtea Āwhina—Student Hardship Fund in the weeks that followed, which meant the fund was able to reach even more students.

The Fund had a 200 percent increase in applications during this time, and it was heartening to know so many people were willing to put up their hands to help students.

The circumstances of each student were different, but being able to access emergency financial help significantly improved their wellbeing at an uncertain time.

Thank you again to all who supported our Student Hardship Fund in 2021.



Shirley, Lady McKenzie and Sir Roy McKenzie.
Photo: Snowvision Foundation

TRANSFORMING AOTEAROA THROUGH PHILANTHROPY

In 2022, as the University celebrates its 125th anniversary of founding, we reflect on the continuing impact of Sir Roy McKenzie's philanthropic leadership. His generosity established enduring taonga that continue to be cherished by Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington.

Sir Roy, who died in 2007, was the son of Sir John Robert McKenzie, head of the McKenzie's retail empire that grew to 75 stores and graced the main street of almost every town. Sir Roy learned from his father the key values he'd live by for the rest of his life: that a business should share its prosperity with those who had helped make it prosperous. In 1940, Sir John set up the J.R. McKenzie Trust to receive one-third of the McKenzie's stores' annual profits each year. The trust has a long history of helping to build stronger communities, primarily through making grants to community organisations to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged New Zealanders.

Sir Roy's impact on the Deaf community

These days, we are used to sign language interpreters sharing the podium with Government ministers, but back in the 1980s, there was nowhere in New Zealand for these interpreters to

be trained. In 1985, Sir Roy McKenzie sponsored overseas training for sign language interpreters, including Associate Professor Dr Rachel McKee.

"Sir Roy hugely lifted the opportunities and capacity of the Deaf community by funding Deaf Studies Awards and Sir Roy McKenzie Deaf scholarships at Victoria University of Wellington," Rachel says. "Since 1997, scores of Deaf people have gained a unique qualification to teach New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL), moving on to educational and leadership roles that have advanced Deaf pride and wider understanding about NZSL. These awards, and other project grants, came out of the Deaf Development Fund that Sir Roy established in 1993 when he saw the barriers that Deaf people experienced. Sir Roy is the philanthropic hero who has enabled Deaf Studies to flourish at our university."

Sir Roy supported work on the *Dictionary of New Zealand Sign Language*, which, along with other research carried out at the Deaf Studies Research Unit, was influential in NZSL becoming an official language in 2006.

The impact of Sir Roy McKenzie's philanthropy has transformed New Zealand society, making it more inclusive through the increased profile and accessibility of NZSL. The Victoria University of Wellington Foundation now manages the Deaf Development Fund and will continue to promote Deaf education and NZSL into the future.



The New Zealand Sign Language sign for 'thank you'.

Far-reaching philanthropy

Many of Aotearoa's valued and established institutions owe their beginnings to Sir Roy McKenzie's far-sighted philanthropic support and encouragement in their early years. The causes he supported were many and varied and included donating the land at Anakiwa in the Marlborough Sounds to Outward Bound, establishing New Zealand's first hospice, Te Omanga, as well as Birthright, adult education, SPELD, Ngā Manu Native Reserve, and several schools for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Sir Roy was always willing to 'take a punt' on new ventures or causes that others were reluctant to fund at the time, such as preventing child abuse, Women's Refuge, and Rape Crisis. Rather than the usual filling out of forms and waiting, people seeking funding could meet with him personally to explain their need. This gave him the capacity for creative, immediate, and responsive grant making. When asked for \$1,500 to fund the first Women's Refuge, he responded, "What you really need is \$15,000 and here is a cheque!"

Early intervention

Sir Roy was a strong believer in early intervention and treatment for children with disabilities, and described it as "a bargain compared with the cost of failure". His support for the new profession of music therapy encouraged the development of this area of research and practice in special education and health. The New Zealand School of Music—Te Kōkī now offers New Zealand's only tertiary Music Therapy programme.

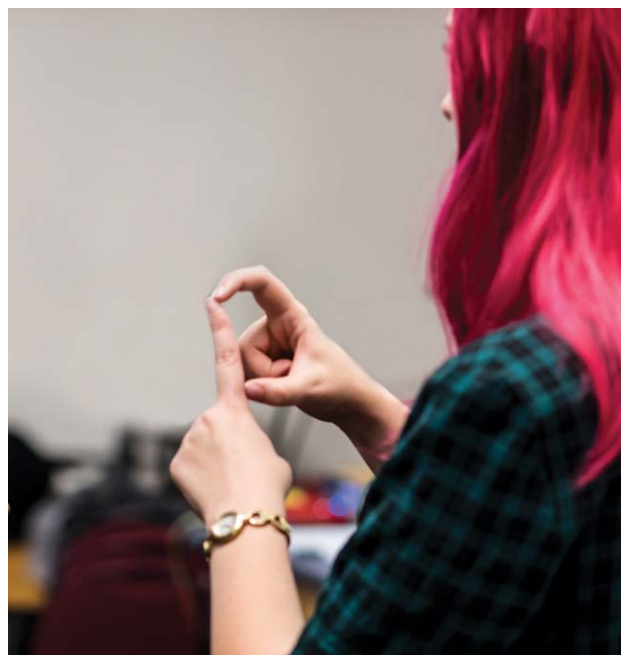
The University is proud to be home to the Awhi Rito—Roy McKenzie Centre for the Study of Families and Children, which was launched in February 2003 with the help of a personal donation from Sir Roy and Shirley, Lady McKenzie. The Centre conducts rigorous independent research into pressing issues that face whānau, families, and children. After establishing new partnerships in January 2019 with the Ministry of Social Development and Oranga Tamariki, the Centre is now based in the Wellington School of Business and Government.

A personal touch

Despite being one of New Zealand's greatest philanthropists, Sir Roy disliked the term, preferring to call himself a 'community volunteer'. However, he is an example of the true meaning of philanthropy—a love of humankind. Compassionate, sensitive, and quiet, he was renowned for his kindness and genuine feeling for people in need. Rather than just handing out money, Sir Roy took a hands-on approach to all the community organisations he funded and was once described as the "millionaire who mucked in". As such, he was proud to win the Wellingtonian of the Year Award in 2004 in the community service category.

As Sir Roy explained about his philanthropic work, "You isolate a factor, an injustice, or a need, unite with others that care, and do something about it. You live your dream."

This article uses information from Giving It All Away, a 2004 documentary produced and directed by Paul Davidson.





Lydia Whiting in the J.C. Beaglehole Room of the University Library.

PURSuing A PASSION FOR HISTORY

Master's students who want to dig deep into Aotearoa's history are now being supported through a new scholarship established in honour of an outstanding History alumna.

Close friends of alumna Annette Black, ONZM established the Annette E. Black Master's Scholarship in History in her memory. Annette had a highly successful career serving in several prominent roles for the New Zealand Law Society. So far, the scholarship has supported two students: Lydia Whiting in 2020 and Erin Ramsay in 2021.

Too often, financial barriers can mean opportunities for our History graduates to undertake more in-depth postgraduate research are out of reach. Scholarships like this enable and motivate emerging history scholars to reach their full potential.

Lydia was delighted to receive the scholarship. "From what I know of Annette, she was incredibly impactful on the community, and I must express what an honour it was to receive this scholarship in her name. I take inspiration from where she took the knowledge gained from her Master's degree in History and I hope that I, too, can eventually take those historical research skills further afield."

Since finishing her Master's degree, Lydia has been working as a historian in Te Kāhui Takutai Moana (Marine and Coastal Areas) at Te Arawhiti, the Office for Māori Crown Relations. Working closely with iwi, hapū, and whānau groups, she compiles research reports on the use and occupation of certain coastlines to find the appropriate customary marine title holders.

Erin is completing her Master's degree in 2022 and says, "During my undergraduate degree and Honours year, I developed and strengthened a love of history—specifically, of the writing and telling of history in an academic environment. There is something quite special about being able to dedicate time to uncovering the stories and realities of historical subjects and seeing how they illuminate our present world. I imagine Annette would have felt this way too.

"This year, my Master's research will focus on queer and trans historical subjects within New Zealand. As a queer person myself, I am grateful to have the opportunity to support my community's understanding of its past. A people that understands its past is a stronger people; queer people are especially aware of the need for robust communities."

Support from our generous donors has allowed talented students to follow their research interests, asking questions that add to our understanding of Aotearoa's past, and going on to use their skills to benefit the community.



PREVENTING BULLYING IN SCHOOLS

An international study has shown that New Zealand ranked second to worst in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for incidences of recurring bullying*. With the recent growth of cyberbullying making our kids even more vulnerable, eliminating bullying throughout Aotearoa is essential to increasing wellbeing in adulthood.

While some bullying prevention programmes exist, few have been scientifically proven to show they are effective in reducing bullying. An exception is KiVa, an evidence-based bullying prevention programme developed in Finland and introduced to New Zealand by Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington's Te Paewai—Wellington Univentures. Consisting of lessons, discussions, group work, and online games to promote social skills, KiVa is a whole-of-school strategy focused on three distinct groups: the bully, the victim, and bystanders.

Since 2014, KiVa has been implemented in a small number of New Zealand schools where they have seen a 22 percent average decrease in bullying after one year and a 42 percent average decrease after three years.

“One of the reasons that the KiVa bullying prevention programme works so well is because it adopts a whole-school approach to addressing bullying,” says Professor Vanessa Green of the Wellington Faculty of Education, whose research was responsible for introducing the KiVa programme to New Zealand. “In this respect, it not only seeks to ensure that all members of the school

community are committed to eliminating bullying, but that the broader community of clubs and organisations—through parent, whānau, and iwi involvement—are aware of the programme. In time, this will ensure that the underlying principles of the programme become ultimately embedded within the community.”

Having recognised the potential benefits of KiVa, Christchurch-based Rātā Foundation invested in the programme in 2021, providing funding to roll it out to a group of Canterbury schools over three years.

“We fund a range of cultural, social, environmental, and community projects that support intergenerational social change,” says Rātā Foundation chief executive Leighton Evans. “One of the best ways to achieve that change is to ensure children and young people are supported to get a great start in life—and we see KiVa playing a key role in that.”

Philanthropy can make a critical social change to our country's bullying culture and is making a lasting difference in our communities.

“The willingness of the Rātā Foundation to fund a community of schools epitomises this whole-school model and I hope this bubble will be a positive contagion and inspire other organisations to take a community approach to the elimination of bullying throughout Aotearoa,” says Professor Green.

*Education Review Office report, *Bullying Prevention and Response in New Zealand Schools*, May 2019.



Scholarship recipient Arama Tairea with Sir Lloyd Geering.

OPENING THE DOORS OF POSSIBILITY

Thanks to the generosity of more than 40 individuals and organisations, the first Sir Lloyd Geering Scholarship in Religion has been awarded to a fitting recipient, Master's student Arama Tairea.

The scholarship, which celebrates Sir Lloyd's contribution to the Religious Studies programme at the University, will promote the study of religion, as well as Sir Lloyd's legacy of prescient and progressive thinking

Arama will receive \$10,000, which will help him pursue research for his Master's thesis into contemporary understandings of religion (and non-religion) among Cook Island people in Aotearoa. He will produce an analysis of the religiosity and religious experiences of Cook Islanders in New Zealand that, until now, has been largely unexplored.

Religious Studies programme director Associate Professor Geoff Troughton says the programme is grateful to the numerous supporters who have enabled this new scholarship. "We are especially delighted with Arama's success. He is a more than worthy winner, and his important and exciting project is wonderfully aligned with the spirit and intent of the scholarship."

Arama says, "I am very humbled and honoured to be given the chance to continue Sir Lloyd Geering's legacy as the inaugural recipient of the Sir Lloyd Geering Scholarship in Religion. Like Geering, I am fascinated by contemporary religious change. I am a child of the Pacific (Cook Islands Māori), and this scholarship gives me the opportunity to hopefully provide a detailed contemporary understanding of religion and religiosity on Cook Islands Māori in New Zealand, a people who have experienced much religious change since they first started arriving in the early twentieth century."

This scholarship will open the doors of possibility for future generations and make a world of difference to students like Arama, who'll not only learn to tackle the compelling issues of their times but also do so with the fresh thinking and expansive imagination that Sir Lloyd exemplifies.

ONE MILLION REASONS TO CELEBRATE

In 2021, we celebrated Graduate Women Wellington, which has awarded more than \$1 million of scholarship support to women studying at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington through the Victoria University Foundation.

This significant milestone reflects the unwavering commitment the organisation has shown to reducing barriers to tertiary study and encouraging the next generation of women to fulfil their potential.

Graduate Women Wellington has established scholarships that support women who are first in their family to attend university, Master's students studying by thesis, PhD scholarships, and prizes for women pursuing graduate diplomas in teaching.

Madeline Bramely, a 2021 scholarship recipient, says, "I was thrilled to learn I'd received the Graduate Women Wellington Second-Year Scholarship. This generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to my community. I hope, one day, I will be able to do the same for someone else."

The organisation, originally formed in 1922, celebrates its centenary in 2022. It continues to have a significant impact far beyond its philanthropic giving. Since its founding, it has consistently encouraged women to advance their education and to use it for worthwhile public service.

Graduate Women Wellington not only supports students through scholarships, but also plays a special role during one of the most significant moments of a student's academic journey—graduation.

Our graduands, who walk proudly in Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington graduation parades and across the stage at the Michael Fowler Centre, all have their gowns, trenchers, and hoods carefully chosen and looked after by the incredible volunteers at Graduate Women Wellington.

We acknowledge and thank Graduate Women Wellington for its continued leadership in empowering women through education.



Catherine Dunning, manager of Graduate Women Wellington's academic dress hire service, GradGear, prepares hoods for the graduation ceremonies.

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