

VICTORIA  
UNIVERSITY  
WELLINGTON

TE WHARE WĀNANGA  
O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI



# 2018

## REPORT ON PHILANTHROPY

Victoria University of Wellington Foundation and  
Victoria University of Wellington

**CAPITAL  
THINKING.  
GLOBALLY  
MINDED.**

MAI I TE IHO KI TE PAE



# CONTENTS

- 
- 1**      **2018 philanthropy highlights**
- 
- 2**      **From the chair**
- 
- 3**      **From the vice-chancellor**
- 
- 4**      **Victoria University of Wellington Foundation**
- 
- 7**      **Your impact**
- 
- 20**     **Thank you to our donors**
- 
- 28**     **Thank you to our volunteers**
- 

**Looking forward** (inside back cover)

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# 2018

## PHILANTHROPY

### HIGHLIGHTS



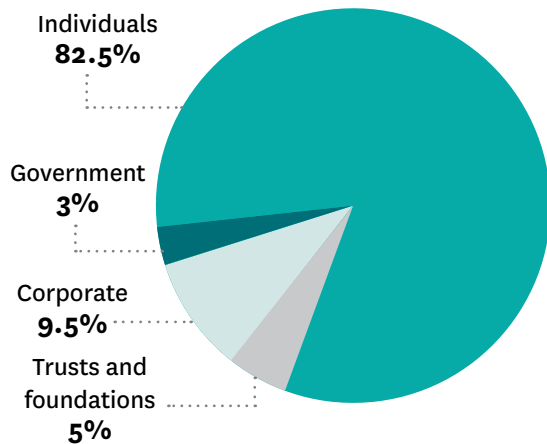
In 2018, donors gave or pledged a record

**\$32 m**

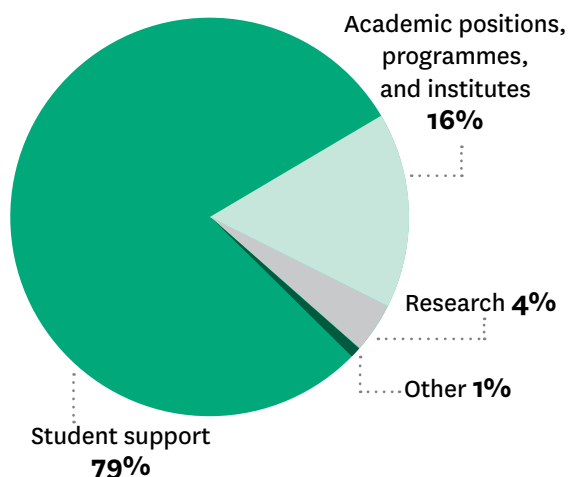
(including cash, multi-year pledges, realised bequests, and gifts-in-kind)

**743 donors**

#### Breakdown of donors



#### Donations by category



**\$1.8 m**

was raised towards Great Futures, the University's philanthropic scholarship programme, launched in 2018



**\$100,000**

raised towards alumni appeal scholarships

**\$6.1 m**

committed to national music centre



**83**

members of the Victoria Legacy Club



**312**

members of the Victoria Benefactors' Circle



**390**

alumni donors

**15**

alumni appeal scholarships offered to students for 2019



2018 was the sixth and largest **Alumni as Mentors** programme

# FROM THE CHAIR

**The Victoria University of Wellington Foundation was established nearly 30 years ago to advance knowledge through teaching and research by way of managed charitable donations to the University. The Foundation supports projects of strategic importance and helps students achieve their goals in education. Thanks to your generosity, the careful work of our predecessors and current colleagues, the Foundation has significantly advanced the aspirations of our community and the University.**

In 2018, the Foundation received \$4.6 million in donations and disbursed \$4.7 million. The Foundation's total investment funds grew to \$57.2 million by the end of 2018. Unfortunately, due to market fluctuations, most significantly during December, the Foundation saw an overall negative return on investment earnings in 2018. The board stringently monitors market conditions and I am pleased to report that we have seen a recovery in the first few months of 2019. The Foundation's investments as at 31 March 2019 were \$60.5 million. Before the market dipped in December, we had transferred our income fluctuation reserve to investments in cash and cash equivalents. This fund is to buffer the Foundation in periods of market decline so we can meet our foreseeable commitments to research, teaching, and scholarships.

Most of the Foundation's funds are endowed to ensure long-term support for these commitments, and the board takes seriously its responsibility to invest without undue risk. In 2018, the Foundation became a signatory to the United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment. You can read more about our approach to responsible investing in this report.

In addition to oversight of the Foundation's funds and investments, members of the board also lead significant philanthropic initiatives. The national music centre is an exemplar of this work. I would particularly like to acknowledge our trustee, Dame Kerry Prendergast, for her energy, commitment, and passion for this project as chair of the joint New Zealand Symphony Orchestra and Victoria University of Wellington national music centre fundraising committee.

Development of the centre has made significant progress; strengthening of the Wellington Town Hall is due to commence shortly and the University's Council recently approved the leasing of the adjoining municipal office building phase. This will provide excellent non-performance, administrative, and teaching spaces for the University's New Zealand School of Music—Te Kōkī and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.

Dame Kerry's determination and energy have led not only to \$10.4 million being pledged towards the centre by the end of 2018, but also to a strong pipeline being developed to achieve the overall joint fundraising target of \$30 million by the University and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra.



Supported by the Foundation and the Development Office, Dame Kerry's work has included hosting dinners in London and New York, as well as a successful art auction in Wellington, raising the centre's profile and national and international exposure for this transformational project. Thank you, Dame Kerry.

I would also like to acknowledge Dr Farib Sos's role as chair of Great Futures, the University's recently launched philanthropic scholarship programme. The positive impact of scholarships for students, as well as their communities and future generations, cannot be overstated. Great Futures scholarships support students not only to attend university, but also to focus on their education and take full advantage of opportunities during their degree, rather than being held back by financial difficulty.

Every year, the Foundation trustees support scholarships for students who are the first in their family to attend university—you can read more from two of these students, Reece and Laura, in this report. In 2018, the Foundation was also able to offer 70 Victoria Achiever Scholarships to school leavers who might otherwise not have been in a position to attend university. We know that scholarships change lives, and the Foundation is proud to support students to fulfil their potential through access to a university education.

I would like to thank all the trustees for their commitment and leadership in 2018. While it is always a risk to single out the contributions of individual trustees, I also want to thank our deputy chair and chair of our Campaign Committee, Leo Lonergan, and Brent Manning, who chairs the Foundation Finance, Risk, and Investment Committee. They give tirelessly of their time and expertise.

Most importantly, the Foundation's board members offer sincere thanks to all our donors and supporters and look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming year. Your contributions enable the Foundation to support the mission of the University.

We are proud of all the Foundation has achieved since its establishment and, with your ongoing support, we will continue to maximise the benefit to the University and advance knowledge, teaching, and research.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Stevens'.

**Craig Stevens**  
Foundation Chair

# FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**I am pleased to report that Victoria University of Wellington and the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation had their most successful year for philanthropy in 2018. Thanks to your generosity, the University and the Foundation received gifts and pledges totalling \$32 million. This support makes a critical difference to the University and our students and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of you.**

Donors assist us to make the impossible possible. As you will read in this report, your support provides us with the means to innovate beyond business as usual and invest in programmes for the benefit of individuals and society; from research to address major challenges such as climate change to providing the next generation of thinkers and leaders with the means to achieve their goals.

I was pleased to attend the launch of Great Futures, the University's philanthropic scholarship programme, in August and hear first-hand from some of our scholarship recipients the difference receiving this support has made to them and their families. Many of you support scholarships and your generosity ensures many more talented students, who may otherwise not be able to attend university, can access education to achieve their ambitions.

Great Futures scholarships are closely aligned with the University's strategic plan—in particular, to provide a student experience that is second to none and to secure the intellectual potential put at risk through experience of disadvantage. Scholarships have an impact well beyond financial support and demonstrate to a young person that

somebody not only cares about them, but also believes in them and has confidence in their ability to succeed.

Since the launch of Great Futures, a number of new scholarships and prizes have been established, including the Buchanan Scholarship in New Zealand History and Society, Deane Music Scholarship, Fuji Xerox Future Leaders Scholarship, GradCert TESOL Scholarship, the Kef Prasit PhD Scholarship, LexisNexis Hardship Scholarship, and L.T. McGuinness Scholarship. You can read more in this report about the significant impact these have had for some of the inaugural recipients. I know that many of you have supported scholarships over many years and we are grateful to all donors who invest in scholarships and change the lives of our students through philanthropy.

Victoria University of Wellington's vision is to be a world-leading capital city university and one of the great global-civic universities. Partnership and community engagement are at the heart of our mission and we value close involvement with the cultural and economic life of Wellington, celebrating and supporting the people and communities within our city, our region, our country, and beyond. You are our partners in this important work. Your support for transformative research programmes, to establish new academic positions and research institutes, to build library and art collections, and to host events that enable us to share our knowledge on current issues is essential to our ability to make a positive impact in the wider community.

The campaign to raise \$30 million for the planned national music centre, a new home for our New Zealand School of Music—Te Kōkī (NZSM) and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, has made significant progress in the past year, thanks to lead gifts totalling \$6 million from the T.G. Macarthy Trust and the Lottery Significant Projects Fund. We believe that once complete, the centre, based in Wellington's Te Ngākau Civic Square, will have a profound impact on music and the arts in this country. You can read more about our vision for the centre in this report.

Thank you again for your leadership and generosity over the past year. I look forward to sharing with you more stories of the impact of your support and continuing to work together to make a difference for our communities.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'G' and a long horizontal stroke.

**Professor Grant Guilford**  
Vice-Chancellor



# VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON FOUNDATION

**The Victoria University of Wellington Foundation manages philanthropic gifts to meet the strategic needs of the University.**

Since it was established in 1990, the Foundation has contributed more than \$53 million to support the University's key priorities and funds scholarships and prizes, academic positions, and research programmes. This significant contribution has been made possible through the generosity of donors and through earnings on the Foundation's endowment investments.

The Foundation is governed by an independent board of trustees that is responsible for managing donations, investing gifts to the endowment, and distributing funds in accordance with donor wishes.

The Foundation is grateful for the support of all of its donors. Gifts of all sizes truly make a difference to the University's impact on education, research, and discovery.





## INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

**Gifts made to the Foundation support the University in two ways. Many support the University's current needs and provide immediate resources to students, academics, and researchers.**

The Foundation also oversees the management and investment of the endowment and all endowed gifts. Ensuring a successful and sustainable future for the University and its students is a fundamental goal of the Foundation—a robust endowment is paramount to achieving that goal. The Foundation invests all donations that are directed by the donor to last in perpetuity. These gifts are invested in the endowment to earn annual income that is then used to provide ongoing support for the University's activities and projects as instructed by the donor.

Many of our donors choose to create endowed funds and their long-term commitment is acknowledged by naming these funds in honour of the donor or a family member.

Seven new endowed funds were established by donors in 2018. These were the Victoria University Award in Cello Performance, the Buchanan Scholarship in New Zealand History and Society, the Owen Woodhouse Memorial Lecture, the Heine Research Scholarship in Biodiversity and Environmental Technology, the Ormond Wilson Scholarship, the Athol Mann Award for Voice, and the Arnold Heine Antarctic Research Award. Their contributions bring the total number of endowed funds to 149.

As of 31 December 2018, the total value of the endowed capital was \$40.7 million. The Foundation's total investment funds were \$57.2 million, with the difference recognised predominantly as non-endowed funds.

**Go to [www.victoria.ac.nz/foundation](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/foundation) to view the Foundation's 2018 audited financial statements.**





# UNITED NATIONS PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

**In 2018, the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation became a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI), joining more than 2,300 organisations across 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.

This commitment builds on the Foundation's previous decision to refrain from direct investments in carbon-emitting fossil fuels. The Foundation trustees have stated their objective to refrain from investing in industries and organisations whose purpose does not meet generally accepted ethical standards of responsible ESG or that do not align with the values and objectives of the University. Such industries include armaments, carbon-emitting fossil fuels, gambling, tobacco, and those that do not value life. The trustees have engaged Mercer, an internationally recognised investment consultant and a fellow UNPRI signatory, to help the Foundation further align its investments with the UNPRI.

**Go to [www.unpri.org](http://www.unpri.org) for more information.**

## A LEGACY FOR TOMORROW

**A bequest is a meaningful way to create an enduring legacy and have a positive impact on the University and its students for generations to come. The Foundation and the University gratefully acknowledge the forward-thinking supporters who have already left a bequest or informed the University that they have included a gift in their will. Most bequest donors direct their gift to the endowment so that it can earn investment income that will support the University's aspirations each and every year into the future. Their gifts help build a solid foundation and ensure that the University can continue to enhance its teaching, expand its research, and support more students.**

The Foundation and the University are grateful for the opportunity to acknowledge these important donors through the Victoria Legacy Club. The University is especially honoured to acknowledge and thank the late Athol Mann, Roger Taylor, and Haydee Jacobs for their bequests received during 2018.

The Athol Mann Award for Voice is an example of a generous bequest providing ongoing support for students—in this case for voice students at the New Zealand School of Music—Te Kōki. Emeritus Professor Athol Mann, CMG, who died in November 2017, was a brilliant accountant, former dean of Victoria Business School (previously the Faculty of Commerce) and a prominent supporter of many community and arts organisations.



Athol Mann

Athol had a lifelong passion for opera and commitment to vocal studies. The Athol Mann Award for Voice will, for many years into the future, support a final-year student with preparations for auditions.

A loyal member of the Hunter Club and the Legacy Club, Athol attended the NZSM performances with enthusiasm and kindly donated his substantial collection of valued books on opera to the University Library.

Athol described leaving a bequest to the University as “an opportunity to do something for Victoria to repay what the University has done for me”.

He and his generosity will be remembered with gratitude for many years to come.

**Would you consider leaving a gift to Victoria University of Wellington in your will?**

**Contact Rosalene Fogel at [rosalene.fogel@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:rosalene.fogel@vuw.ac.nz) or +64 4 463 6030 for more information.**



# YOUR IMPACT

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Philanthropic support of the University funds life-changing scholarships, pioneering research, and excellence in teaching and learning. Read more about some of the ways philanthropy made a difference in 2018.



# NATIONAL MUSIC CENTRE

**Leadership gifts totalling \$6 million from the T.G. Macarthy Trust and the Lottery Significant Projects Fund were made towards the planned national music centre in central Wellington. This significant support follows a leadership gift of \$4 million given by the Adam Foundation in 2017.**

With a restored and strengthened Wellington Town Hall at its heart, and the redevelopment of adjacent buildings, the national music centre will be home to the University's New Zealand School of Music—Te Kōkī (NZSM) and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO). The centre will provide an excellent foundation for musical performance, education, culture, and the arts in Wellington and will strengthen New Zealand's international reputation as a major destination for arts and culture.

The national music centre is a unique collaboration between Victoria University of Wellington, the NZSO, and Wellington City Council. The partners have advanced the project significantly by entering into a formal collaboration and redevelopment agreement and Wellington City Council formally confirmed its support for the project by approving the earthquake strengthening of the Wellington Town Hall.

This is an unparalleled opportunity to transform one of New Zealand's most loved historic buildings, and



philanthropic support for the project will ensure we can deliver the vision of a world-class creative quarter in the heart of the nation's capital. Intended to have a profound impact on music and the arts in New Zealand, the centre will also provide unique professional opportunities to students from the NZSM through collaboration with the NZSO.

The fundraising campaign, led by former Wellington mayor Dame Kerry Prendergast, sees the University and the NZSO committed to raising \$30 million towards the fit-out of the national music centre. In 2018, the total funds raised reached \$10.4 million, including nearly \$35,000 raised at an art auction in support of the project, held in Wellington in August and featuring 30 artworks generously donated by leading New Zealand artists.

"The generosity and support of this exciting project, from both the community and from private philanthropists, in our lead gift phase has been so encouraging. Their belief in our vision provides a strong platform as we move to seek further philanthropic support from the wider community for the national music centre," says Dame Kerry Prendergast.

**To find out more about the national music centre, contact Jill Robinson at [jill.robinson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:jill.robinson@vuw.ac.nz) or +64 4 463 5325.**







## DENIS ADAM REMEMBERED

The University was saddened at the passing of Denis Adam, who died at the age of 94 in October 2018. Denis was a generous philanthropist and passionate arts advocate who, together with his wife Verna, made an immense contribution to Victoria University of Wellington.

Their support for the University helped establish the Adam Concert Room and the Adam Art Gallery and continues to fund the Adam Foundation Prize for Creative Writing, given to the top student in the Master of Arts in Creative Writing (poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction) programme each year at the International Institute of Modern Letters. Most recently, the Adam Foundation confirmed a significant gift towards the national music centre.

Denis Adam is greatly missed.



Wellington Town Hall



Artist's impression



# CREATING GREAT FUTURES

**Thanks to the generosity of donors, more students at Victoria University of Wellington have been awarded philanthropic scholarships and prizes to access the university education that will help them realise their ambitions.**

Great Futures, the University's recently launched philanthropic scholarship programme, supports students who face barriers to participation and achievement in tertiary education. In 2018, \$1.8 million was raised towards Great Futures, resulting in 430 students being offered philanthropic scholarships and prizes to support their studies from 2019.





## ENCOURAGING TALENT

**Financial barriers hold back many students from achieving their goals. Great Futures scholarships help overcome these barriers and cover the 'real costs of study' so students can concentrate on their education and pursue their aspirations and talents.**

Harry Fergus, from Christchurch, was awarded the inaugural L.T. McGuinness Scholarship in 2019, worth \$40,000 over three years. L.T. McGuinness set up the scholarship in 2018 in the School of Architecture to support a student undertaking a Bachelor of Building Science. Harry says the support of the scholarship has been invaluable. "This scholarship has supported me in coming to university. Throughout the summer holidays I was working seven-day weeks in order to save up."

Dan McGuinness, director at L.T. McGuinness says, "L.T. McGuinness is pleased to offer a scholarship for the Building Science degree at Victoria University of Wellington. L.T. McGuinness is a Wellington-based construction company and we believe strongly in good education and training for the future strength of the construction industry. L.T. McGuinness has a number of successful Building Science graduates from the University, all of whom are a valued part of the business."

Harry is grateful for L.T. McGuinness's support. "Receiving this scholarship has been the highlight of my life so far. It allows me to push hard through my degree, allowing me to maintain the highest grades possible without having the financial pressure. This was a worry for me before receiving the scholarship as I was prepared to juggle weekend work with a 40-hour study week. Doing this would have been almost impossible as the workload throughout the degree carries over into the weekends."

"It also allows me to live life the best I can. It is giving me the opportunity to spend my time ensuring my work is up to a quality standard, exercising, and spending time with friends and family instead of constantly working."



**"I am so thankful to L.T. McGuinness and the University for giving me this life-changing opportunity which relieves immense amounts of financial pressure."**

**Harry Fergus**  
L.T. McGuinness Scholarship  
recipient 2019



**"I was absolutely stoked when I found out I'd got the scholarship. That sealed my fate in studying Architecture—something I've always been interested in pursuing. It's up to me to ensure I'm on the top of my game for both study and sport and I'm willing to put in the hard work to get there. It's such a big relief not to worry about living costs."**

**Caleb Delany**  
Victoria University of Wellington Old Boys University Rugby Scholarship  
recipient 2018

## CREATING A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

**The Jack Jeffs Charitable Trust established the Victoria University of Wellington Old Boys University Rugby Scholarship in memory of Jack Jeffs, a former member of the University's rugby club who was a generous philanthropist and passionate about rugby and the value of education.**

This scholarship, worth \$45,000 over three years, provides support to a talented rugby player with academic talent and ambition. Caleb Delany, a promising rugby player who now plays for the Old Boys University under-21 Colts Green team, was its recipient in 2018.

Thanks to his scholarship, Caleb's rugby career is going from strength to strength, and he was awarded joint 'player of the year' for his contribution to the Colts team and the Les Mills Age Grade Player of the Year at the Wellington Rugby Community Awards.

Rhys Barlow and Richard Cathie, trustees of the Jack Jeffs Charitable Trust, describe Caleb as "an outstanding young man who has exhibited talent on the rugby field and may well represent the Premier OBU team this year, as well as passing all his papers in his first year of study."

"It is with pleasure that the trustees support high-achieving students who might not have had an opportunity to attend university without this financial support. We look forward to seeing Caleb graduate in due course to take a leadership role in both a sporting capacity and professional career."



*Reece Sullivan and Laura Wills*

## FIRST IN FAMILY

**Since 2012, the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation trustees have supported students who are the first in their family to attend university.**

Reece Sullivan, from Hastings, is studying for a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Psychology and acknowledges the difference the trustees' scholarship will make to her and her family.

Reece says, "Coming from a less privileged area, where people often face academic, financial, and social challenges, has shown me the importance of tertiary education. Receiving this award means that a huge financial pressure has been taken off me, and my family's shoulders. This gives me more time to study and work hard towards getting my Bachelor of Arts."

Laura Wills, from Upper Hutt, who also received the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation Trustees' Scholarship to commence her studies in 2019, is excited for the challenges of university and the opportunities undertaking a Bachelor of Arts will offer her. Laura's long-term goal is to work in New Zealand mental health services and she is confident her scholarship will allow her to pursue her academic goals and aspirations without being held back by financial limitations.

**"The pursuit of further education would not have been possible without this support."**

**Reece Sullivan**

Victoria University of Wellington Foundation Trustees' Scholarship recipient 2019

**"I feel incredibly privileged to immerse myself in university life without the burden of financial uncertainty weighing me down."**

**Laura Wills**

Victoria University of Wellington Foundation Trustees' Scholarship recipient 2019



## THE POWER OF BELIEF

**Great Futures scholarships provide opportunities to students who might never see higher education as part of their pathway. Philanthropic support helps to instil the message that ‘we believe in you’, empowering the recipients to believe in themselves and their aspirations. Scholarships make a difference not only to the student but also to their family and communities.**

Tomairangi Henare, who grew up in Napier, was awarded the inaugural Deane Music Scholarship, worth \$40,000 over three years, for 2019. Sir Roderick Deane and Gillian, Lady Deane, of the Deane Endowment Trust, established their scholarship as “music is one of the great joys of life and a wonderful therapy for many of us”. Gillian says, “We are privileged to be able to provide scholarship assistance to a number of students at the University’s School of Music, with a special emphasis on students with outstanding promise and students with a Māori or Pasifika background. They are the future of New Zealand. It gives us much pleasure to be able to help them achieve their goals.”

Tomai, who is studying for a Bachelor of Music, is enjoying his course so far thanks to the support of the scholarship. “Day by day, I’ve been learning new things and facing new challenges in becoming a future musician. It’s been so exciting being able to work in such a new and friendly environment studying Classical Performance and Musical Composition.

“Receiving the Deane Music Scholarship allows me to focus on my academic study this year and so far it’s been a blast.”

The scholarship has given Tomai the confidence to aim high. “With the support of the Deane Scholarship and all that has happened so far, I hope to become a great musician someday. Performing in opera, musical theatre, or even composing my own music would be a dream come true for me. There’s still a lot of work to be done for that to happen, but it could. That’s the exciting thing about studying at university. I am finally getting a sense that all this could happen and that I am on the right path, especially in a field as versatile as music.

“Thank you so much to the Deane family for your kindness and great generosity. But most of all, for believing in someone like me.”



**“The scholarship means I can afford accommodation, but most of all it has helped lessen the stress on my family and allowed me to reach my full potential whilst I learn here.”**

**Tomairangi Henare**  
Deane Music Scholarship recipient 2019

## SUPPORTING FUTURE LEADERS

**Murray McNae, who studied Zoology and Botany at Victoria University of Wellington, set up a scholarship in 2017 for students from his former secondary school, Mana College in Porirua, to pursue studies in Computer Science or Software Engineering.**

Recognising a national shortage of people coming to work in the fields of maths and science, and motivated by a desire to support students from Mana College and their future career plans, Murray knew the scholarship could make a difference to these talented young people in encouraging their ambition and helping them overcome adversity.

Each scholarship, worth \$15,000, supports a student for all three years of their degree. Murray is currently supporting students in the first, second, and third years of their degrees.

Collin Vilsoni, who is now in his third year of studying for a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Information Systems, was the first recipient. The scholarship has made a big difference in easing his financial concerns.

**For more information on how you can support students through Great Futures prizes and scholarships, contact Claire Carruthers at [claire.carruthers@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:claire.carruthers@vuw.ac.nz) or +64 4 463 5517.**



*Murray McNae, Francis Nguyen-Ly, Jackson Tume, and Collin Vilsoni*

**“In terms of future plans, the scholarship has allowed me to focus more on my university work and worry less about the financial side of things.”**

**Collin Vilsoni**

Murray McNae Scholarship recipient 2017

## TERESIA TEAIWA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP IN PACIFIC STUDIES

**The Teresia Teaiwa Memorial Scholarship was established in 2018 in honour of the late Associate Professor Teresia Teaiwa, who developed the world’s first undergraduate degree course in Pacific Studies at the University. Teresia’s wish was to establish two scholarships to support students of Pacific Studies.**

Teresia strongly believed that Pasifika scholarships make a real difference—not only do they make the University more accessible, they also increase the number of students continuing to postgraduate study. Most of all, Teresia believed scholarships reinforce the value of higher education in creating a better future for all Pacific peoples.

A target of \$280,000 was set to ensure two scholarships (one undergraduate and one postgraduate) can be offered per year far into the future. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the campaign has nearly reached its target—with \$6,500 remaining to achieve this goal. The University was pleased to award Alilia Tupou the first Teresia Teaiwa Memorial Scholarship for an undergraduate student in 2019. Alilia is in her second year at the University, studying towards a Bachelor of Arts in Pacific Studies.



**For more information about the Teresia Teaiwa Memorial Scholarship, contact Corinne Barnard at [corinne.barnard@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:corinne.barnard@vuw.ac.nz) or +64 4 463 6952.**





## TAIHONOA SCHOLARSHIPS

**Victoria University of Wellington has made a commitment to build long-term and mutually beneficial relationships with iwi and other Māori groups to increase the participation of Māori at the University. Five years ago, the University set a strategic goal to increase Māori enrolments by 1,000 students in order for the student cohort to reflect New Zealand's demographics. While Māori student numbers increased to 11.4 percent in 2018, help is still needed to attract Māori students and secure their enrolment spot.**

Established to facilitate inspiring and successful Māori pathways, Taihonoa scholarships are one key way to support increased Māori student enrolments. Taihonoa scholarships offer a unique opportunity, as Victoria University of Wellington will match dollar-for-dollar any gift made by iwi and other Māori groups. This joint funding approach will amplify any Māori scholarship gift and double the impact.

The University has also made a commitment to improve Māori student course completion rates. Already, progress has been made with completions rising from 78 percent to 81 percent, but help is needed to reach parity targets of 88 percent.

Talented Māori students are still struggling to complete their degrees because of financial pressure. Philanthropic scholarships will ensure that more Māori students can finish their studies and provide the important message that 'we believe in you'.

More than 15 new Taihonoa relationship agreements were established in 2018, taking the University's partnerships with iwi and other Māori groups to more than 60. From these agreements, a range of scholarships was offered, including the Ngāti Manawa Iwi Education Scholarships, Te Mana o Te Awa Scholarships, and Tūwharetoa Māori Trust Board Postgraduate Scholarships. The University is grateful to these iwi and other Māori groups for their support of Māori students in achieving their goals.



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH RESEARCH

## BRINGING SCIENCE TO LIFE

**Māori and Pasifika secondary school students around the country have been inspired to explore tertiary science, engineering, architecture, and design courses thanks to a \$118,642 grant from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's 'Unlocking Curious Minds' fund.**

The funding was used to support the Tuhono I te Ao (connecting the worlds) outreach programme run by Victoria University of Wellington's Āwhina group. The programme's mission is to bring together mātauranga Māori and traditional academic subjects to introduce young people to a range of disciplines and encourage them to consider university study as a viable career pathway.

Māori and Pasifika students from the University acted as mentors and role models, taking a roadshow of 24 activities to low-decile schools, including kura kaupapa Māori. Some activities were delivered in te reo Māori, which was a highlight for these schools, with students commenting that they felt included for the first time in a 'mainstream' event. Students from Victoria University of Wellington designed interactive and fun activities using equipment including an astronomy dome, 3D printers, and microscopes for testing water from local streams.

The programme reached 2,264 students and received highly positive feedback, with all the schools asking for a return visit next year. In Kaikohe, the team was delighted when a girl who took part in the 2016 visit said it had inspired her to continue with science at secondary school, with the goal of attending university.

The experience also had a significant impact on the student volunteers from the University who bonded through travelling together and have continued a close association on their return and set up study groups. They are very motivated to maintain high grades so they can continue to be part of the programme.

Āwhina hope to widen the school outreach programme in the future to include the humanities, business, and law, inspiring more Māori and Pasifika young people to consider diverse pathways and to reach their full potential through tertiary study.



Marie Cocker, Manutaki / Director (Māori), Marae o te Herenga Waka and Sashi Meanger, Director, Pasifika Student Success





## PLAY-BASED THERAPY FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS WITH AUTISM

**Funding of \$65,850 from the IHC Foundation in 2018 has allowed PhD researchers from the University's Faculty of Education to continue their Early Start Denver Model research to deliver and evaluate a New Zealand early-intervention therapy for pre-schoolers with autism. The model is an evidence-based approach developed in the United States specifically for children aged from one to five years with, or who might have, autism spectrum disorder.**

Thanks to the second round of IHC funding, researchers now have the resources to reach into the wider community, partnering with the Autism Intervention Trust, Autism New Zealand, Plunket nurses, and kindergartens to find the best ways to support children with autism and their families. This collaboration has led to the creation of a platform to deliver the programme, helping to leverage further funding for a community adviser role, training, and research assistants.

Many children can be diagnosed reliably with autism spectrum disorder before the age of two. Early signs may include a lack of eye contact, limited interest in faces, and a delay in the development of verbal and non-verbal communication. Therapists form close relationships with parents and provide strategies that help them interact with their children in new ways through fun play activities and everyday routines such as at meal times.

Researchers tested the programme by coaching parents to use the techniques or by directly providing a less intensive version of the therapy in the home and in kindergartens. In all these settings, the children showed improvements in imitation, communication, and/or engagement.

"I think the programme's fantastic and I hope that lots more parents in New Zealand have the opportunity to experience it. I've seen first-hand how much of a difference it can make and there's nothing else on offer that I've seen that comes even a tenth of the way near it. There's nothing available that's one to one and that works on a really holistic level," says a parent involved in the study.

Philanthropy can bridge the gap between research and practice so that more New Zealand families can access effective intervention in the early years.



**“The aim of the programme is to empower parents to use these strategies, so they can be comfortable and confident.”**

**Dr Hannah Waddington**  
Lecturer and researcher  
Faculty of Education





## LEADING THE WAY IN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS



**In 2016, a generous donation from Wellington philanthropist Mark Dunajtschik established the Mark Dunajtschik Chair in Sustainable Energy Systems, the first chair at the University to be funded by a single donor. Mark recognised that new, alternative energy technologies are rapidly becoming affordable and that these will be immensely disruptive to our traditional mode of centralised energy generation, transmission, and distribution. Renewable energy solutions involve using energy from a source such as wind or solar power that is not depleted when used.**

Professor Alan Brent was appointed to the role in 2017. Supporting a chair doesn't just provide an academic position; it can launch whole new areas of teaching and research. In 2018, Professor Brent led the development of a new academic programme, investigated key research priorities for New Zealand, developed national and international collaborations, and instigated projects that engage with industry and the public.

Finding renewable energy solutions is complex and requires a multidisciplinary approach. Although based in the Faculty of Engineering, the Bachelor of Science is structured so that students from a range of disciplines can take the courses; for example, in the 2019 intake, a number of the students taking courses are from the Faculty of Science, most notably the School of Geography, Environment and Earth Sciences. The establishment of the chair and associated teaching and research will make significant contributions to meet the national demand for renewable energy experts, specialist engineers, and scientists who can work with communities and industry and lead the way for designing, building, and implementing clean energy solutions in the future.

**Thanks to the establishment of the Chair, Renewable Energy Systems is now offered as a new major in the Bachelor of Science programme, commencing in the 2019 academic year. A specialisation is planned for the Bachelor of Engineering with Honours. Professor Brent has been joined by Associate Professor Ramesh Rayudu, senior lecturer Dr Jim Hinkley, and lecturer Dr Daniel Burmester, who completed his PhD in residential renewable energy systems, to deliver the programme.**

**For more information on supporting initiatives in the Faculties of Science, Engineering, and Architecture and Design, contact Em Lewis at [em.lewis@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:em.lewis@vuw.ac.nz) or +64 22 080 5566.**



## CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

Throughout 2018, a series of events and activities was held around the country to commemorate New Zealand becoming the first self-governing country in the world to give women the right to vote. The New Zealand School of Music—Te Kōkī was proud to be part of the Suffrage 125 Whakatū Wāhine national event programme with a festival, *Music From Her*, celebrating the diverse voices of women working in music.

The highlight of the festival was the Suffrage Songs Recomposed concert at the Hannah Playhouse in which nine female composers reimagined a collection of 1890s women's suffrage texts from a contemporary perspective. This project was made possible by generous support from Laura and Mary Baines who covered commissioning the nine pieces as well as production costs for the event. Their gift allowed the NZSM to showcase the historic and ongoing contribution of women in music, bringing the Suffrage Songbook to life.

The concert concluded with a special airing of *Papa Minds the Baby* (a setting of Thomas Bracken's *A Lullaby*) by singer-songwriter Channele Davis, who won a competition to gift a lullaby to Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.



## SUPPORTING WOMEN'S EDUCATION FOR 30 YEARS

Over three decades, Graduate Women Wellington has made a significant contribution to the achievement of female students at Victoria University of Wellington. In 1988, the then New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women, Wellington Branch established its first scholarships for female students. Since 1997, it has gifted more than \$735,000 in scholarships and prizes that benefit women in different spheres of learning.

Graduate Women Wellington is part of Graduate Women International—one of the world's most influential organisations for women. Among its aims are empowering women and girls through lifelong education and enabling graduate women to use their expertise to influence decision-making and effect positive change.

Graduate Women Wellington funds scholarships and awards at different levels of study and focuses on excellence and alleviating financial hardship. It supports girls who are the



first in family to attend university, as well as second-year scholarships in recognition that the second year of an undergraduate degree can be a time of financial stress. High-achieving students and graduates in musicology, composition, and primary and secondary teaching appreciate having their work recognised through prizes.

To encourage women to go on to advanced study, postgraduate and PhD scholarships support exceptional women—future leaders who will make a significant difference to the economic and social fabric of our society.



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TO OUR DONORS**

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The Victoria Benefactors' Circle was established in 2012 to acknowledge the University's most significant donors and sponsors.

Victoria Benefactors' Circle members have given private donations of \$10,000 or more during their lifetime, or organisational sponsorship totalling \$50,000 or more.

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