



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF  
**WELLINGTON**  
TE HERENGA WAKA

**2022**

# **TE PŪRONGO A TE KURA TANGATA** **REPORT ON PHILANTHROPY**



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











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Cover image: Alumni Appeal Scholarship recipients Zinza Goertzen and Sulma Encarnacion Wilson.

# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

**954** donors gave or pledged a total of **\$14.4 million**

**485** alumni gave \$1.3 million

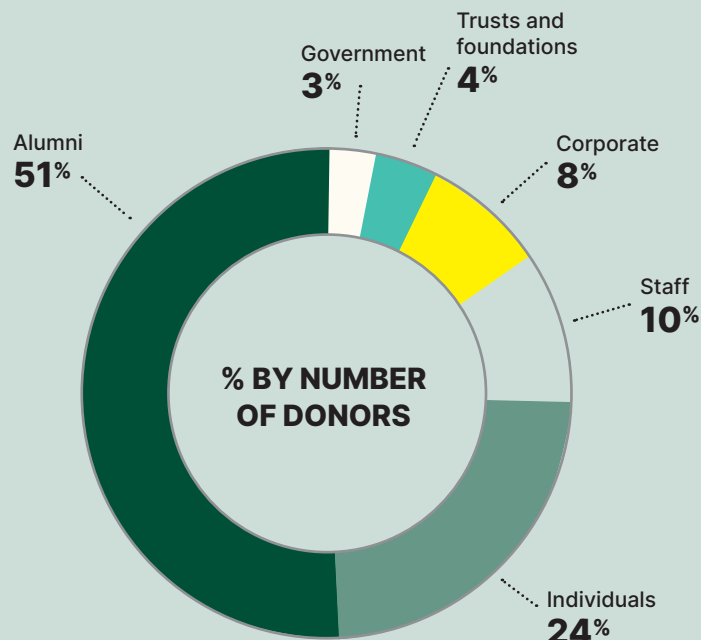
**113** members of the Victoria Legacy Club

**408** members of the Victoria Benefactors' Circle

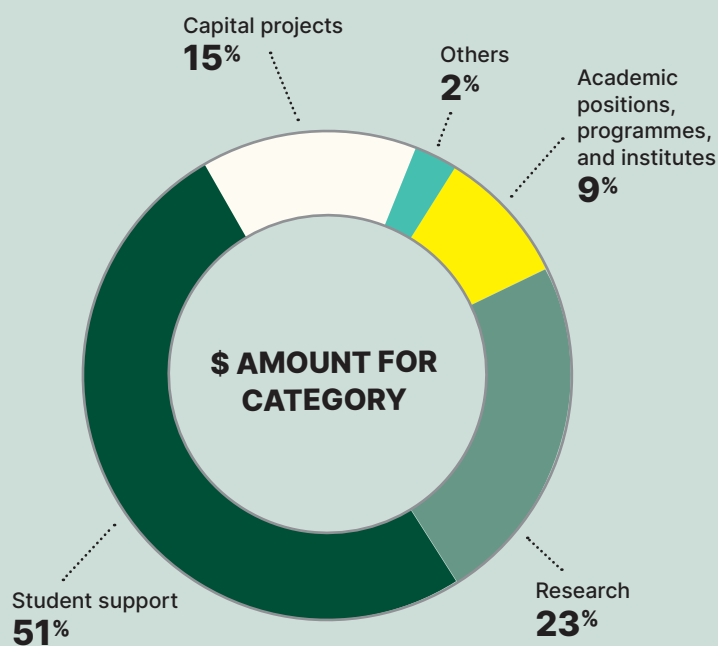
**14** students were awarded Alumni Appeal Scholarships

**28** new funds were established, including **12** new scholarships

## WHO ARE OUR DONORS?



## WHAT DID OUR DONORS SUPPORT?



# REFLECTIONS ON THE YEAR

## FROM THE CHAIR

In 2022, we celebrated the 125th anniversary of the founding of our university and the end of the *What if ...?* fundraising campaign. Thanks to you, by the end of December, the campaign had raised a total of \$158 million from more than 13,000 gifts, exceeding our target of \$150 million.

It's fair to say that when we launched the public phase of this ambitious campaign in 2019, we did not foresee having to battle the headwinds of a global pandemic, let alone the impact this would have on everything from our mental wellbeing and finances to the workplace and student experience.

We are deeply grateful to the many caring people who believe in the potential of our students and the difference our research makes. Student support was stronger than ever in 2022, with generous gifts made to the Student Hardship Fund and Alumni Appeal Scholarships, as well as countless hours of mentoring provided through our Alumni as Mentors programme. Our world-leading research—in areas as varied as marine conservation, public policy, and understanding neurodegenerative diseases such as multiple sclerosis—has all been advanced because of the combined generosity of our donors.

The Foundation raised a total of \$14.4 million in philanthropic donations in 2022 from 954 donors. It goes without saying that the year was another one of disruption and uncertainty as many people in our community continued to feel the impacts of COVID-19, as well as a number of other geopolitical events and crises. The Foundation was not immune from the resulting global fluctuations in investment funds. However, our endowment capital funds remain strong, with all our scholarship and prize endowments maintaining enough income to cover all awards.

Despite these financial challenges—or perhaps because of them—you, our generous donors, really stepped up to provide support that makes growing student success, groundbreaking research, and community engagement possible.

Students tell us that it means the world to them to be able to focus on their studies, reduce financial worries for themselves and their whānau, and make the most of their time at university. It also boosts their confidence, showing them that a whole community of people is behind them, believing in them, and supporting their aspirations. Many would have struggled to continue their studies without this help. In 2022, we were happy to establish 28 new funds, including 12 new scholarships, and to award alumni appeal scholarships to 14 students.



We also welcomed 12 recipients of Ngā Hoe a Kupe Pathfinder Scholarships from eight participating schools in the second year of this partnership with Wellington secondary schools. It was great to see the alumni community of St Bernard's College in Lower Hutt generously donate so their school could join the programme.

Some of our students today are receiving assistance from funds that were endowed many years ago. Sarah Anne Rhodes—whose story is outlined on page 15—could not have imagined when she donated £10,000 to the University in 1914 'for the education of women' that she would be assisting women in 2022 to undertake postgraduate studies in fields as diverse as Indian languages, fisheries management, and coastal wetlands. Such is the power of bequests to continue to do good after your lifetime.

As chair of the national music centre fundraising campaign, I am immensely grateful for your ongoing support, which has raised \$21 million towards our target of \$30 million. I am delighted that the former Ilott Theatre in the Wellington Town Hall will be named the Lloyd Morrison Theatre following a donation from Infratil, Morrison & Co and the Lloyd Morrison Trust. Lloyd was a passionate Wellingtonian, a great supporter of the arts, and one of New Zealand's truly inspirational people.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow trustees for their commitment and leadership this past year.

Together, we thank you, our kind and generous donors, for your ongoing philanthropic support. Your gifts do not go unnoticed and make a real difference to the people who benefit from them.

**Dame Kerry Prendergast, CNZM, DNZM**  
Chair, Victoria University of Wellington Foundation



## FROM THE TUMU WHAKARAE— VICE-CHANCELLOR

Since my appointment as Vice-Chancellor of Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, I have been progressively humbled as I have learnt more about the 125-year legacy of this university, and it is a great honour to lead the next chapter for our community.

I would like to thank Professor Jennifer Windsor for her leadership as Vice-Chancellor in 2022. Despite another challenging year, we continued to uphold our commitment to creating a bolder, more sustainable, more diverse, and more inclusive future for the University, our students, and the wider community.

During my visits with staff and supporters before officially beginning the role in January 2023, I was impressed with the level of enthusiasm and support that the University enjoys from its donors and stakeholders. Over the course of my own career, I have seen the immense impact that philanthropy can have, and I was delighted to see the *What if ...?* campaign exceed its \$150 million target in 2022, empowering a decade of student success and world-leading research.

I was also impressed to learn of a culture of philanthropy extending across the entire university community. When Ukraine was invaded in February 2022, staff and alumni came together in a gesture of academic solidarity, raising \$25,000 so that at least one displaced Ukrainian scholar could continue their research at the University of Warsaw in Poland.

I want to highlight a few areas where donor support has made a real difference, not only to areas of research but also within our communities. Generous funding by the Allan and Joyce Ballantyne Medical Trust for a PhD scholarship in maternal health has created the opportunity for transformative research that will address inequities faced by whānau accessing health and social services, in particular hapū (pregnant) whānau.

Your support has also made a significant impact on initiatives such as our Alumni Appeal Scholarships, Student Hardship Fund, and tree-planting programme Growing our Future—all of which are donated by our alumni community. The latter collaborative project, run alongside Wellington City Council, has resulted in more than 6,550 trees being planted in efforts to restore Wellington's indigenous biodiversity and help offset carbon dioxide emissions. This reforested 11-hectare



block of land in Ohariu Valley will become a carbon sink and contribute to creating an ecological corridor for native birds and other species.

As a community, our reason for existing and mission is more important than it has ever been. I've previously shared that the University is under increasing financial pressure and, unfortunately, we've had to make some hard choices in order to ensure our long-term sustainability. However, given the talent of our staff and students, the quality of our teaching and research, and the advantages that come from our location in Wellington, I am confident—with you alongside—that we will adapt and thrive in the future. I am looking forward to being part of that and to continuing to serve the University's community. Thank you once again for your commitment to Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington.

**Professor Nic Smith**  
Tumu Whakarae—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 \$90 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.

## 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](http://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](http://www.wgtn.ac.nz/foundation)







## GIFTING FOR THE FUTURE

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. Nine new endowed funds were established in 2022. They are the:

- Dan and Una Chan and Laywood and Joyce Chan Residency at Wai-te-ata Press

- Jim and Barbara Milburn Scholarship in English and the Jim and Barbara Milburn Scholarship in History
- Lydia Wevers Scholarship in New Zealand Studies
- Māori and Pasifika Futures in Law Scholarship Endowment Fund
- NZSM Award in Woodwind Performance
- Prebble Prize
- Professor Helen Tippet Award in Architecture, Building Science, or Business
- Visiting Professor in Classical Studies
- William Austin Award in Drama.

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 on the website at [www.wgtn.ac.nz/foundation](http://www.wgtn.ac.nz/foundation)



## YOU CAN MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE

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 thought about 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 David Eade, you can help students to unlock their full potential.

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](mailto:rosalene.fogel@vuw.ac.nz) or +64 4 463 6030.

### Surprise legacy to support aspiring pianists

When David Eade died in August 2022 at the age of 86, he left a remarkable gift in his will to the New Zealand School of Music—Te Kōkī (NZSM). A passionate and talented pianist himself, David's gift established three piano scholarships: one for undergraduate students, one for postgraduate students, and the third for international students. It is expected the first cohort of scholarship recipients will be welcomed in 2024.

In keeping with David's wishes, the scholarships have been developed in consultation with renowned pianist Diedre Irons, alongside NZSM head of Piano Studies Dr Jian Liu.

A celebrated concert pianist, chamber musician, and educator, Dr Liu is the founding pianist of the school's Te Kōkī Trio and a leading contributor to piano performance and pedagogy in Aotearoa.

Dr Liu says an endowment of this size is exceedingly rare, especially for a specific instrument.



*A pianist playing at the New Zealand School of Music—Te Kōkī.*

"We are incredibly thankful to receive such an extraordinary gift. The scholarships open up the entire world for New Zealand piano students and will attract top international talent. David's legacy will have a lasting impact on the New Zealand piano landscape for years to come."

Martin Dodge, David's nephew and closest family member, is also delighted that the scholarship has come to fruition.

"David was a bit like an older brother to me. We've always been close. He never would have imagined at the time he made his will that his gift would support so many students. He'd be delighted."

### A life of music, travel, and service

Born in Feilding, David and his sister learnt piano as children. They were devout Baptists, so on Sundays they were only allowed to play hymns. David trained as a primary school teacher specialising in music and taught at Scots College in Wellington for a time.

David was a talented pianist who could possibly have had a career as a concert pianist. He received an offer to train as a professional pianist at the Royal College of Music in London but instead chose to take up a role as a private music tutor in Bermuda. Through contacts he made there, he went to a similar job in New York, but when that fell through, he was offered a role at the United Nations editing scientific and industrial research papers.

He travelled extensively, working for the UN in Geneva and attending musical summer schools at Oxford. Passionate about flying, David held a private pilot's licence and treated himself to a trip from London to New York on the Concorde to celebrate his retirement.

David was fond of Wellington and hoped to settle in the city on his return but couldn't find the type of property he wanted. Instead, he purchased a secluded farmlet in Feilding with beautiful views. He brought back a grand piano from New York and refurbished it. Although he played occasionally at soirees for friends and neighbours, he often played alone, enjoying the challenge of the technical aspects of playing piano. Eventually, David purchased neighbouring properties so he could play into the night without disturbing anyone and so that he wouldn't be annoyed by barking dogs.

In the early 2000s, David briefly sponsored a prize at the New Zealand Kāpiti Coast International Piano competition. He keenly followed the career of Michael Houston, attended many concerts, and was interested in New Zealand's classical music scene.

NZSM manutaki—director Sally Jane Norman says she is grateful for David's philanthropic support, adding that his bequest will provide opportunities both domestically and internationally.

"The David Eade bequest opens up significant opportunities in an area where our School already enjoys a strong national and international reputation under Dr Jian Liu's leadership. We greatly appreciate the enthusiastic support of renowned pianist and former Te Kōkī teacher Diedre Irons in establishing these scholarships," she says.





# YOUR PHILANTHROPY, YOUR IMPACT

## A DECADE OF SUCCESS

In 2022, we celebrated 10 years since the launch of the *What if ...?* campaign, enabling real, local change by providing support to students and increasing research capability. Thanks to our very generous donor community, \$158 million was raised from more than 13,000 gifts, exceeding the initial goal of \$150 million.

The subsequent public launch of the campaign in 2019 marked the beginning of our journey to meaningfully increase the impact of philanthropy at Victoria University of Wellington. Together with our supporters, we developed our fundraising campaign, *What if ...?* and asked:

- *what if ...* we could increase the impact of scholarships?
- *what if ...* we could unlock even more research potential?
- *what if ...* we could partner with passionate individuals and organisations to realise our shared goals for New Zealand's future?

In asking people to imagine the change their gift could make, donors were given an opportunity 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.

Over the past decade, generous gifts have enabled us to drive advancements in these five key areas, helping to support thousands of students through scholarships and awards and facilitating countless voluntary hours of mentoring. Donors have supported 49 academic-related positions in subjects ranging from breast cancer research

to environmental law, and our world-leading research in areas including marine conservation, public policy, and understanding neurodegenerative diseases such as multiple sclerosis have all been advanced.

To celebrate the end of our *What if ...?* campaign in the same year as the University's 125th anniversary was truly special. Scholarships that were established at the time of the University's founding are still being awarded and making a difference to this very day. Over the past 10 years, 94 endowments have been generously established, meaning when our university celebrates another 125 years, your support will continue to be part of our story.

Vice-Chancellor Nic Smith says the campaign's success reflects the extraordinary generosity and commitment of those who have donated. "Thanks to you, I know many students have the opportunity to study and reach their full potential, ground-breaking research has been unlocked, and academic programmes enhanced. Each of you has enabled us to do things that simply wouldn't have happened without you."

This generosity has persisted even in the face of a number of global challenges, as steadfast support was extended to students experiencing financial hardship in the aftermath of COVID-19 lockdowns. The collective effort of the campaign meant the University's Student Hardship Fund was able to reach even further and support more students facing unforeseen challenges to beginning their studies.

Whether it be the cost-of-living crisis, a worldwide pandemic, or, in recent times, one severe weather event after another, the kindness of our supporters has never wavered.

Thank you for making everything we do possible.



## FAMILY LEGACY SUPPORTS MATERNAL HEALTH HUB

Through the generosity of the Allan and Joyce Ballantyne Medical Trust, and in partnership with the University's Te Tātai Hauora o Hine—National Centre for Women's Health Research Aotearoa, a PhD scholarship in maternal health was established in 2022.

The trust, which is named after its original settlers, Allan and Joyce Ballantyne, has long been a supporter of addressing health inequity through medical research.

Ngaire Sparkes, a PhD candidate and emerging maternal health researcher, was delighted to be the scholarship's recipient, and to be able to fulfil her dream of contributing to Māori wellbeing.

"After years of working in social services and iwi roles, I have experienced first-hand the different struggles endured by our whānau because of systemic and structural inequities," explains Ngaire.

"While working at the Centre and undertaking my Master's thesis, I became inspired by the transformative potential of research to help address these inequities and facilitate better outcomes for our whānau."

Established in 2005, the Centre has a proud tradition of research into health issues relevant to New Zealand women, particularly wāhine Māori, and is committed to tackling disparities in maternal care and outcomes.

"We were captivated to learn details of the Centre's work, in particular the implementation of a new hub service for pregnant people and their whānau, which Ngaire's research is focused on," explains Jonathon Hull, chair of the Ballantyne Medical Trust.



*Joyce Ballantyne and Dr Allan Ballantyne with baby, 1960.  
Photo supplied by Hawke's Bay Knowledge Bank.*

**"I became inspired by the transformative potential of research to help address these inequities and facilitate better outcomes for our whānau."**

**Ngaire Sparkes**



The scholarship will help to fund Ngaire's research into exploring the experience for hapū whānau, as key informants, to help shape antenatal care pathways that better suit their needs and aspirations.

"We're really looking forward to seeing the results of Ngaire's research into the outcomes of the hub service," says Jonathon.

Designed by the Centre's researchers and Ngāti Toa Rangatira, in collaboration with health agency Te Whatu Ora, the hapū whānau hub service—Te Puna Wairua—provides care, services, and wraparound support for pregnant people and their whānau.

Victoria University of Wellington's Professor Beverley Lawton (Ngāti Porou) says her top priority is to ensure iwi lead the way so local whānau design the service and use it, because it reflects their identity and meets their needs.

This includes Ngāti Toa Rangatira providing the facility and driving the kaupapa, with midwifery support on site throughout the week for any wāhine who drop in, to help them find a lead maternity carer and/or introduce them to a visiting secondary care specialist.

As part of the wraparound support, Professor Lawton says dental care, transport to the hub or to hospital, medications, and some general practice appointments will be funded. Eventually, when the postnatal service is in place, it will be extended to provide accommodation for new parents and their newborn babies. There they will receive additional support, such as for lactation and mental health.

"The primary objective is to see fewer women presenting later in pregnancy for engagement with maternity services," says Professor Lawton.

With Aotearoa New Zealand's current maternal healthcare system not meeting the needs of wāhine Māori, the hub will lead life-changing and system-changing research into maternal care.

Jonathon says Allan and Joyce would be tremendously proud to witness the impact the trust continues to have, thanks in huge part to the sale of their historic home, Stoneycroft, in Hastings, which was bought by the Hastings District Council after Joyce's death in 2003.

**"The primary objective is to see fewer women presenting later in pregnancy for engagement with maternity services."**

**Professor Beverley Lawton**



*Ngaire Sparkes*

"In 1995, Joyce established a covenant on the house with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust," explains Jonathon.

This bound future owners to not damage or alter the property or allow detrimental activity.

"But by the time she had died, the house was in quite a state. She was a formidable lady, but quite elderly by this time," says Jonathon.

"So the trust set about selling the home and having it restored. That's where the council came in. They did a fantastic job, including refurnishing the rooms with Allan and Joyce's effects. It's like stepping into the 1950s."

Today Stoneycroft is also home to the Knowledge Bank, a non-profit organisation working to preserve the past for the future by digitising the biographies, film, pictures, and oral histories of Hawke's Bay.

It is also home to the Lily Baker Library, which includes a collection of important records accumulated by Hawke's Bay genealogists.

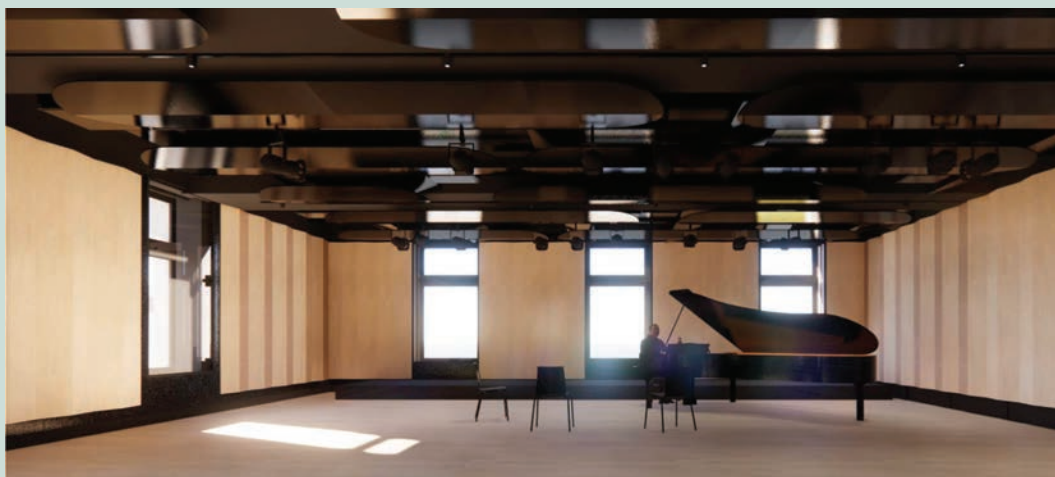
"Both Stoneycroft and the beneficiaries of the trust showcase Allan and Joyce's legacy, particularly in their contributions to medicine. Allan was a well-regarded doctor and Joyce an X-ray technician," says Jonathon.

"It's suspected that's why she couldn't have children, because of the radiation. But they counted a number of godchildren, including my father, who were all named the original trustees of their estate.

"It's since become a bit of a family affair with myself taking over for my father as chair and my sister a trustee too."

An enormous thank you to the Ballantyne Medical Trust for their generous support for equitable antenatal care in Aotearoa New Zealand. Together with the trust, we eagerly await Ngaire's findings and honour the enduring legacy of Allan and Joyce.





*Athfield Architects' renderings of the Lloyd Morrison Theatre and Wellington Town Hall.*

## A GENEROUS BOOST FOR A VIBRANT ARTS FACILITY

Thanks to a generous gift from Morrison & Co, Infratil, and the Lloyd Morrison Trust, donations in support of the national music centre reached \$21 million in 2022.

The joint donation will see the former Ilott Theatre in the Wellington Town Hall named the Lloyd Morrison Theatre in memory of Lloyd Morrison, Infratil founder and passionate Wellingtonian. The theatre will be a premier venue for music on the corner of Wakefield Street and Michael Fowler Lane, and include a foyer, practice rooms, a recording suite, in-house sound and lighting, and a performance space with up to 200 seats.

Chair of the national music centre fundraising campaign Dame Kerry Prendergast thanked the donors for their generous support. "I am delighted that this prominent space in the Wellington Town Hall will take the name of one of Wellington and New Zealand's truly inspirational people.

"Lloyd was a great friend to me personally, to Wellington, and to the arts in general. The generous support from Morrison & Co, Infratil, and the Lloyd Morrison Trust will provide a fitting legacy for Lloyd. I thank them most sincerely

for their contribution to the project. It takes the total raised to \$21 million of our \$30 million target."

As a collaboration between the University, the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO), and the Wellington City Council, the centre will be based around a resilient and redeveloped Wellington Town Hall.

When the Town Hall reopens, it will be a national space for musical innovation and collaboration and will be the only facility in New Zealand with world-class acoustics and state-of-the-art orchestral sound recording facilities. This is expected to strengthen New Zealand's post-production film industry, as well as provide increased live digital broadcast opportunities for the whole country.

The NZSM's director, Professor Sally Jane Norman, says the gift is fitting and one of great significance. "The national music centre is an exciting initiative that will provide a vibrant community facility, along with a home for the NZSO and New Zealand School of Music—Te Kōkī, New Zealand's top-ranked music school. I'm looking forward to introducing NZSM students to the Lloyd Morrison Theatre."

# GROWING OUR FUTURE ONE TREE AT A TIME

In 2022, the University's tree-planting programme, Growing Our Future, entered its second year. Thanks to the support of hundreds of donors, we are—from the roots up—growing a greener and cleaner future for our city.

Launched in 2021 in collaboration with Wellington City Council, Growing Our Future is dedicated to reforesting an 11-hectare block of land in Ohariu Valley. As the forest develops, the carbon captured in the trees and soil will help offset the University's carbon dioxide emissions, helping to restore the ecological values of the capital's outer green belt, reduce the city's climate impact, and ultimately create a new carbon sink for the city.

Thousands of reforestation projects exist throughout New Zealand, but only a small percentage of these are being formally monitored. That's what makes Growing our Future so special. Our researchers have established permanent plots where data is being collected. This will allow us to build up a picture of how the forest develops over time. We are collecting baseline data on tree species, density and vitality, native and non-native animals, soil pH, nitrogen, and carbon levels.

## What's the impact?

Our reforestation project will have many benefits, including:

- carbon sequestration
- opportunities for applied research and teaching
- extension of Wellington's Outer Green Belt
- growing public access to forested areas and walking tracks
- opportunities for students, staff, and alumni to work together.



*Becky Parmenter, a summer scholarship student, setting up a permanent vegetation plot at the Ohariu Valley site.*

## Your support

Planting more native trees is an important action we can all take to tackle climate change. Since its inception, supporters, staff, students, and alumni have all been key contributors to the project, planting more than 6,550 trees, with a target of 23,000. Every bit of support, whether helping plant or chipping in the cost of a tree, gets us one step closer to reaching our goal of reforesting this site and improving our environment.

Thank you to our generous donors for your belief and support in this initiative and for your commitment to sustainability.







## CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF OUR UNIVERSITY

Victoria University of Wellington marked an important milestone in 2022: 125 years since its founding. As part of the anniversary celebrations, we proudly shared stories of some of the people who have helped to shape the University's history.

Like you, their generosity has made a profound impact on our institution and the world at large.

In this special section of our Foundation report, we invite you to step back in time and learn more about the stories that make up our rich history.

From a compassionate Wellingtonian who established a groundbreaking scholarship for women to a Holocaust survivor who inspired a prestigious award and a philanthropic trust that helped shape the legacy of a beloved rugby club—these stories are testament to the enduring spirit of giving and its transformative potential.

*Full versions of the stories provided can be viewed at [125.wgtn.ac.nz/stories](https://125.wgtn.ac.nz/stories)*



## Scholarship highlights changing roles of women

A century later, a scholarship that broke down barriers for women continues to empower generations of female scholars.

Awarded annually, the Sarah Anne Rhodes Research Scholarship was first established in 1914 through a generous gift left in Sarah Anne Rhodes's will. It is offered every year to women who want to carry out postgraduate study at Victoria University of Wellington.

Because the scholarship is endowed, the value has grown significantly over the years, and in 2022, three talented students—Feryl Badiani, Hiromi Beran, and Olya Albot—were able to receive a scholarship.

For her PhD research in Psychology, Feryl collected data in three different languages in three parts of India, examining why Hinduism thrives across various Indian linguistic communities. Hiromi embarked on a Master's degree in Marine Biology, hoping to help countries with real-world conservation and fisheries management. Olya, in research towards her PhD in Geology, is studying the impacts of sea-level rise on Aotearoa's little-understood coastal wetlands.

### A charitable life

The scholarship's namesake and benefactor, Sarah Anne Moorhouse, arrived in New Zealand in 1859, aged 22, and became one of the wealthiest residents of Wellington through her marriage to William Barnard Rhodes, 30 years her senior.

William built a grand house known as 'The Grange' on Wadestown hill and Sarah Anne continued to live there for many years after William's death in 1878. She enjoyed charitable works, donating generously of her time and money to the city and the church. She was president of the District Nursing Guild of St John, Wellington and was made a Lady of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, the first New Zealand woman to be appointed into an Order of Knighthood.

Sarah Anne donated many items to the city of Wellington, including its mayoral chain, the hour bell of the Post Office tower clock, and an ornamental brass lectern topped by an eagle at Old St Paul's church. When she died in 1914, aged 77, she left £10,000 from her substantial estate to 'the Victoria University Wellington' to be applied "for the education of women as my trustees in their discretion shall think fit".

The trustees at the time saw fit to use it for "the teaching, or promoting the knowledge, of home or domestic science among the women of New Zealand at, or in connection or association with, the said College and its activities". One of the trustees was Sarah's nephew Colonel John Studholme, an eager campaigner for home science, who was largely responsible for setting up the domestic science school at Otago University.



*The lectern at Old St Paul's, donated by Sarah Anne Rhodes.*

This likely led to the original decision for the money to cover scholarships in home science, which considerably narrowed the opportunities for women. In some quarters at the time, there was a backlash to the higher education of women, with some preferring that they stuck to 'feminine'-type subjects.

Professor J.C. Beaglehole later bemoaned that the use of the large bequest had been "turned over to the instruction of farmers' wives in diet and dressmaking—which, however admirable in itself, had no real connection with the work of a university".

Some did use the scholarships to undertake scientific research, including Dr Vera Walker (née Rader) who studied nutrition in England and never returned to New Zealand. She worked in the field of vitamin metabolism in London and obtained a PhD in 1926. After having a family, she completed a medical degree and had a distinguished career until the age of 81, including pioneering study on the role of allergies in migraines and asthma.

Thankfully, today there is greater equity and support for women to pursue a range of academic disciplines. The scholarship has evolved from a prevailing focus on domestic science to supporting women carrying out postgraduate research in a number of scientific fields.

We are grateful that Sarah Anne Rhodes's bequest made more than 100 years ago is creating opportunities for women to this day.





*Lotte Weiss holds her concentration camp identification photos, taken in Auschwitz, 20 June 1942. Sydney Jewish Museum Collection, photograph by Katherine Griffiths.*

## Lotte Weiss Award honours survivor

It has been 90 years since the beginning of the Holocaust era—the systematic, state-sponsored murder of six million European Jews by the Nazi regime and their collaborators.

Holocaust survivor Lotte Weiss's incredible story of resilience has become a profound source of inspiration for a prestigious and deeply meaningful award at Victoria University of Wellington.

When Lotte died in 2021, aged 97, her beloved sons John and Gary, both alumni of the University, created the Lotte Weiss Award in Holocaust and Genocide Studies in her honour. The award, which has been endowed, recognises an excellent piece of work relating to the Holocaust, Jewish history, migration or refugee experiences, or genocide studies.

In a joint statement by John and Gary, they say, "The magnitude of the tragic Jewish experience of the Holocaust is correctly described as a unique event in its scale and mobilisation of the political system to fulfil its evil vision.

"However, many minorities continue to face persecution and potential genocide, and the dedication of the University and other educational institutes to identifying emerging dangers is vital work indeed."

In 2022, the award was presented to Hannah Clark, who conducted postgraduate research focusing on the experiences of children of Holocaust survivors in New Zealand. Through her research and documentation, Hannah aims to ensure that the understanding of the Holocaust remains alive and gains deeper significance.

### A story of survival

Lotte Frankl had a happy childhood in Bratislava, in the former Czechoslovakia, with parents Ignatz and Bertha, sisters Lilly, Erika, and Renee, and brothers Karl Bernhard and Morris. However, storm clouds were gathering. By 1933, they heard frightening reports about the ill treatment of Jews in Germany and Jewish refugees began arriving in Czechoslovakia.

In 1939, Slovakia became an independent state and, gradually, the family's freedoms were eroded. They were forced to move to a small flat in a Jewish area and wear a yellow Star of David on their clothing. On 22 March 1942, 18-year-old Lotte and her two sisters were deported in cattle wagons with a thousand other girls. When Lotte saw the infamous sign over the gate to Auschwitz, 'Arbeit macht frei' (work sets you free), she suspected they had arrived in hell.

Lotte endured having her head shaved, the number 2065 tattooed on her left arm, and 12-hour days of hard labour, not to mention hunger, thirst, fatigue, and the freezing conditions, and she felt constantly hopeless, but was grateful to at least be with her sisters.

As the war progressed, she moved camps many times. Lotte narrowly escaped death on many occasions by turns of fate that she regarded as miracles. On one occasion, a guard singled her out when she helped her sisters with their digging, and told her to report to the 'punishment camp', from which they knew no one ever returned. Twenty girls were loaded into a black van but there was no room for Lotte as the twenty-first, so she was able to escape and return to her sisters.

Eventually, both her sisters became ill with typhus and collapsed. They were taken from the hospital to the gas chamber, a fact Lotte realised when she saw their numbered uniforms being reissued.

Lotte's father had once told her that a time might come when people would suffer so much they would envy those already dead—and she then found herself in this position. She was alone, hungry, ill, and wondered how she could continue.



### A second life

Finally, in May 1945, Lotte was liberated from Theresienstadt by the Russians, ending 38 months of pain, misery, loss, and hopelessness. She returned to Bratislava to live with her uncle and aunt, but struggled with strong emotions. She was shocked to find others reluctant to talk about, or even believe, her experiences. During this time, Lotte met her future husband, Alfred (Ali) Weiss, and his brother Leo, who were fellow survivors and, with some difficulty, they managed to emigrate to New Zealand for a new start.

Lotte and Ali established a button factory and went on to have two sons. She was proud and grateful to be part of a big, loving family again, which she described as “my life”, and which eventually grew to include six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Lotte began to tell her story on radio and television and, in 2003, wrote her autobiography, *My Two Lives*, to mark the sixty-first anniversary of her arrival at Auschwitz. She had an incredible memory for details and related every shocking event in a matter-of-fact way.

After Ali's death, Lotte moved to Sydney, where her sons had settled. She volunteered at the Sydney Jewish Museum, where she found it helped to talk about her experiences.

### Holocaust awareness

Although Lotte barely survived physically and mentally, her story is ultimately one of optimism and hope, thanks to her incredible determination not to give up and her coming to the belief that most people are decent.

There are now whole generations who have had no personal experience of war or understanding of the magnitude of the Holocaust. We are grateful to Lotte's family for sharing their mother's incredible story of survival and ensuring that, through continued scholarship, these events are never forgotten.

Source: *My Two Lives* by Lotte Weiss, Sydney Jewish Museum 2003.

Kelburn Campus, circa 1950s.







*Rugby team 1905. Back row: H.W. King, A.H. Kitching, F.A. de la Mare, E.F. Simpson, A. Cooper, G.G. Smith. Middle row: A Tudhope, F.G. Thompson, H.H. Ostler, T.A. Hunter (captain), G.V. Bogle. Front row: T.E.Y. Seddon, J. Patrick, I. Davey, W. Gillanders. Absent: A. Wilson, J.H. Goulding.*

## Rugby and study: a winning combination

The generosity of supporters and a holistic approach to the game have set the Old Boys' University Rugby Football Club (OBU) apart for generations.

With more than 200 seasons behind it, the club is renowned for its style of play, sense of spirit, and extraordinary support of student players who, thanks to the Jack Jeffs Charitable Trust, are able to combine a love of rugby with university study.

### Early days

The competition and camaraderie of the game of rugby has been part of the university experience almost from the start.

In 1903, a group of students resolved that "a Victoria College Football Club be formed" with Professor George von Zedlitz as its first president. The club saw dizzying highs and devastating lows over the years as its fortunes fluctuated. It was a struggle to maintain membership during two World Wars—in 1915, the club lost nearly all players of military age, and German-born Professor von Zedlitz was dismissed from his post by an Act of Parliament.

During its first 50 years, the club was well supported by academic staff, including the principal (Vice-Chancellor), Dr Jim Williams. Professor Edwin Boyd Wilson, Chair of

Modern Languages in the 1920s, was also a dedicated supporter. Along with professors Barney Murphy and Harry Kirk, he took turns as club patron, president, and vice-president, and at times even coached.

'Boyd' was a passionate footballer and founder of the university tramping club. He was short, slight, energetic, and extroverted with a husky, authoritative voice. According to Professor J.C. Beaglehole, his "superabundant and terrifying energies boiled over in every outdoor activity known to man". He was even seen to revive the players on a particularly cold day with his home-grown vegetable wine.

The field that bears his name was opened in 1958, along with the architecturally designed club rooms and gymnasium, following a six-year fundraising effort. Boyd Wilson contributed both financially and physically, even helping to dig the foundations so the club could enjoy superior facilities and train in wet or dry conditions.

### The 'golden years'

In hindsight, the 1920s and 1950s can be seen as 'golden years' for the club. In those days, excited crowds flocked to watch games at Athletic Park with attendances of 12,000 people not uncommon. In 1929, Victoria College Club was the first to win the Wellington Rugby Football Union's premier trophy honouring the union's fiftieth jubilee, the Jubilee Cup.

As founding member Professor Tommy Hunter once famously pronounced, “Rugby is more than a partial impact of blind atoms—it is a game of brains.” This also had its downside—a university coach once remarked that he was trying to coach “15 geniuses who all had different ideas about how to play the game and quite often played that way”. The club once had a future Supreme Court judge and a Queen’s Counsel ordered off the field for the way in which they were airing their opinions about the game, the opposition, and the referee.

### Spirited competition

Jack Ruru (Ngāti Porou) was already a Māori All Black when he came to the College aged 18 in 1931. A brilliant centre regarded as a certainty for the All Blacks’ tour of Britain in 1935, he died tragically in 1934 following a tackle during a match in Rotorua. Funds were raised for a specially carved trophy in his memory—the Jackie Ruru Shield.

Known as ‘the Ruru’, the shield was originally awarded to the winner of the annual match between Weir House and the ‘rest of the College’. When Weir House ceased to field a team, it was resurrected as a challenge trophy for the club’s social teams. The Ruru is held with great pride and challenges are played with tremendous spirit.

### Nurturing talent through the OBU Rugby Academy

Under the guidance of OBU director of rugby Tomasi Palu, the OBU Rugby Academy—a partnership programme between the University and OBU—has expanded on the

club’s holistic approach and family culture, focusing 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.

Since 2012, the Jack Jeffs Charitable Trust has helped to grow the academy and support 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 trust to support worthy causes, including student education.

Talented forward Caleb Delany received the Old Boys’ University Jack Jeffs Rugby Scholarship in 2018, which he described as “life-changing”. It helped him follow his two passions—rugby and architecture. Caleb spent the 2021 rugby season as an injury replacement with the Hurricanes while continuing his architecture studies and went on to a full-time Super Rugby contract in 2022.

Thanks to the enthusiastic members of OBU, and through the support of the Jack Jeffs Charitable Trust and other sponsors, student rugby players continue to successfully combine their love of rugby with university study.

Information from *Victoria University of Wellington Rugby Football Club: The Story of the Green and Golds 1902–1987* by John Anderson.

A Chemistry  
lecture,  
circa 1963





# NEW PRIZE FOR EMERGING ARTISTS

In 2022, Wellington identity and philanthropist Chris Parkin, CNZM partnered with the Adam Art Gallery Te Pātaka Toi to create the Parkin New Art Prize. Over the next three years, the Prize will fund a work by an emerging New Zealand artist to be added to Ngā Puhipuhi o Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington Art Collection.

The University's art collection has grown to become a nationally significant collection of modern and contemporary New Zealand art. Numbering more than 600 items, the collection was formed over many years through the support of staff, artists, and the generosity of people like Chris.

"Chris is a long-time supporter of the arts in Wellington, and we are so pleased he has come on board. This is a real opportunity to support and highlight up-and-coming artists," says Adam Art Gallery director Christina Barton.

Chris is well known as the former owner of the Museum Hotel, which was moved across the road on railway tracks to make way for Te Papa Tongarewa in 1993. He describes the project that earned him the title of Wellingtonian of the Year as "the most fun I've ever had working".

The hotel is still home to some of his extensive private art collection comprising more than 150 contemporary New Zealand artworks. Chris says he selected them by 'spur of the moment' decisions because the pieces caught his eye. He credits the University's art collection as having been highly influential over his becoming an art collector and the type of art he collects. While studying Science and Commerce in the 1970s, he was attracted to the large, bold, and colourful works of the era by artists such as Colin McCahon, Ian Scott, Michael Smithers, and Brent Wong.

Chris's generosity extends beyond his support of emerging artists. We are grateful for his founding gift to the national music centre, which includes commissioning an artwork for the Wellington Town Hall. In 2011, Chris received the Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the arts and business, and his leadership and philanthropy were recognised at the 2020 Wellingtonian of the Year Awards when he received the 2020 Philanthropy Showcase award.

We are delighted that Chris's gift will both support and encourage a new artist and enhance the University's art collection.



New acquisition to the Ngā Puhipuhi o Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington Collection, Chris Corson-Scott's *A Poet Writing Before the Falls and Freezing Works, Mātāura* (2016).



Chris Parkin

**"Chris is a long-time supporter of the arts in Wellington, and we are so pleased he has come on board. This is a real opportunity to support and highlight up-and-coming artists."**

**Adam Art Gallery director Christina Barton**



*Jim Guo features in compositing and motion graphics using The Foundry's Nuke software.*

## OPENING DOORS TO CREATIVITY

Thanks to Wētā FX's generous support, young New Zealanders now have greater access to the film industry. Each year, the visual effects company supports one student to study for a Master of Design Technology (MDT), a programme that enables students to take part in real-world projects and industry practicums, learning skills such as 3D animation, compositing, lighting, and visual effects simulation.

Known for its culture of creativity and innovation—from Gollum to Caesar the ape, Middle Earth to Pandora—the studio has created some of the most memorable characters and worlds of the past 20 years.

In 2022, Bachelor of Design Innovation student Jim Guo was awarded the scholarship, granting him the extraordinary opportunity to learn from leading industry experts.

Jim, whose passion for animation and visual effects began while he was studying fine arts in China, worked for nine years as a photojournalist and videographer, then decided to make the move to New Zealand in 2017 to pursue his goal of working in the digital animation industry.

Keen to continue his studies in animation, Jim was attracted to the MDT for a variety of reasons. "The MDT is the only one of its kind in New Zealand and is mainly focused on computer-generated content and visual effects. It also gives you the opportunity to learn from leading industry experts at Wētā FX and work alongside them on visual-effects orders from Hollywood studios, which is amazing."

Receiving the scholarship has made a huge difference financially for Jim, and the support he received from Wētā FX was equally important.

"I really appreciate receiving the MDT Scholarship as it means I can cover my living expenses and costs, but I also want to acknowledge how much encouragement and motivation Wētā FX has given me. It has reinforced that I made the right decision in pursuing a career in animation and visual effects."

Beyond financial support, Wētā FX takes an active role in shaping the educational experience of these students. By providing practical exposure at Te Iho ki Motukairangi—the Miramar Creative Centre, the studio ensures that students gain real-world insights and expertise from industry professionals. Through guest lectures, critical feedback, and mentoring, the studio creates a seamless bridge between academia and the professional film world, enabling students to delve deeper into the art and technology of visual effects.

We are incredibly thankful to the team at Wētā FX, whose legacy of creating iconic characters and immersive worlds resonates with its vision of empowering creativity. By sharing its wealth of knowledge and expertise, the studio sits at the forefront of nurturing a new generation of talented artists and fostering a vibrant film community in New Zealand.



# NEW SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2022

- Apsara Wimalasiri Memorial Scholarship for Sri Lankan Students
- En-Abyme Postgraduate Scholarship in Interior Architecture
- Glenys Wood Memorial Scholarship
- Italian Award
- Jim and Barbara Milburn Scholarship in English and Jim and Barbara Milburn Scholarship in History
- Library and Information Services Scholarship Grants
- Lydia Wevers Scholarship in New Zealand Studies
- National Centre for Women's Health Research Aotearoa PhD Scholarship in Qualitative Maternal Health Research
- New Zealand Institute of Economic Research Scholarship in Māori Economics
- Partners Life Actuarial Scholarship
- Student Support Fund
- Tae Whakemua—Reaching Forward—The Johnson Group Scholarship





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Benefactors' Circle members have given private donations of \$10,000 or more during their lifetime, or organisational sponsorship totaling \$40,000 or more.

For more information about the Victoria Benefactors' Circle, contact [development-office@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:development-office@vuw.ac.nz)

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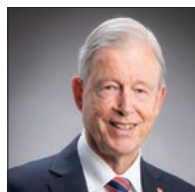
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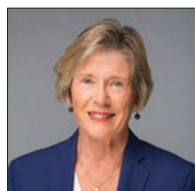
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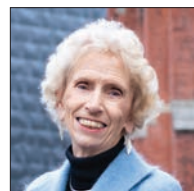
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- James Aldridge, research and data adviser
- Eve Backhaus, senior communications and marketing adviser
- Tamara Baker, campaigns adviser
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