

HE KUPU NĀ TE MANUKURA TACKLING THE BIG CHALLENGES



It has been a busy year, to say the least. And it is no mean feat that we were able to welcome many students back to campus and in-person learning this year, despite the unprecedented wave of COVID-19 in our Halls of Residence and the Parliamentary protests that impacted staff and students in the Pipitea campus.

The pressure on our staff has been real as they have met the challenges of dual mode teaching, the impact of inflation and rising costs, uncertainty around when borders would re-open, and the cumbersome nature of some of our processes. The University has continued to grapple with a challenging financial environment, lower-than-expected revenue, high inflation, and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We know that many of our staff and students have faced financial difficulties during the year and I would like to thank everyone for the resilience and focus they have shown.

In 2022 we marked the 125th anniversary of this wonderful institution. Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington has much to be proud of in its history, its present and its future. Building on our close connection to Wellington, I'm pleased to see our footprint visibly expanding across the region. The Living Pā will draw together mātauranga Māori and sustainable practices at the heart of the Kelburn campus and prove what can be done when we act on our values and tikanga. The National Music Centre that we are developing, together with New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) and the Wellington City Council, will be a globally-renowned creative precinct that will attract and involve people across New Zealand.

As a responsible member of society, we are committed to playing a role in leaving behind a better world for future generations. We have supported and led various initiatives towards meeting our sustainability targets, including a successful partnership with independent cafes on campus to end the use of single-use plastic cups.

The success of the philanthropic "What If" campaign, which has raised more than \$157 million over the past 10 years, is another milestone achieved during the year.

These contributions will be applied to student scholarships and hardship support, as well as supporting research and major strategic projects.

We aim to transform lives through the experiences we offer, and it has been wonderful to witness the tremendous contributions that our students have made in a range of fields. A big question for me is the impact that our work can have on the world at large. Admento and Liquium, two new companies launched with the support of Wellington UniVentures, our commercialisation arm, are visible examples of the application and relevance of the research that our staff and students undertake.

I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution made by all my colleagues on Council whose collective judgement, wisdom, and insights have helped us navigate 2022. I would also like to thank Professor Jennifer Windsor for her able leadership as Acting Vice-Chancellor for much of this year, including her efforts towards ensuring that the University was well positioned for new Vice-Chancellor Professor Nic Smith to start with us at the beginning of 2023.

John Allen
Chancellor