

HE KUPU NĀ TE TUMU WHAKARAE LOOKING BACK AT 2022



Presenting this review for 2022—the University’s 125th year—is a good opportunity to reflect on our progress over the past year.

The quality and relevance of the research our staff undertake here at New Zealand’s number one university for intensity of high-quality research continues to be recognised in various ways, especially in major national and international awards, and in our external research income. This has included several staff receiving 2022 Research Honours Aotearoa Awards in fields as diverse as climate change, health, plate tectonics, sustainable energy, and equity in academia. Other staff were named Ngā Ahurei hou a Te Apārangi Fellows for their distinction in research and advancement of mātauranga Māori, humanities, technology, and science. Colleagues from across the University have received prestigious grants, enabling the University to finish the year with more than \$88 million in research revenue.

Our staff have consistently made significant efforts to address challenges our students have faced in teaching and learning as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be felt in 2022. We have used this challenge as an opportunity to progress and strengthen our commitment to delivering education that transforms lives. The self-review that we undertook, as part of the sixth Academic Quality Audit, showcased the successful efforts undertaken by staff across the University to create an environment that enabled students to thrive despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, including dual course delivery methods. We have significantly advanced our technology platforms and ways of working to increase student success and satisfaction. This includes completing a multi-year, multi-pronged project that enhances admission processes, ensures students can access advice, course planning, and other services quickly and easily through one coordinated online system.

We have also introduced new systems that enhance the learning experience. For instance, we updated our web-based learning environment for all courses and introduced systematic learning design and professional support for course instructors. This work has been completed in conjunction with students as partners and formalised through a new Ngā Kīwai o te Kete—Student Engagement Framework.

More than 1,600 students and their families and whānau celebrated Graduation in December, at our first in-person ceremony since 2021. This was an important milestone for current students as well as alumni who completed their degrees during the pandemic.

Staff and students have been committed to creating an environment that is equitable, diverse, and inclusive. Towards ensuring this, another key milestone for us this year was completing a Tiriti self-review process to ensure our work across the University meets the eight principles in Te Tiriti o Waitangi statute. Implementation of some of the recommendations has commenced and all 32 recommendations will be implemented by 2025.

Finally, I take this opportunity to thank all of those who have supported the University this year, members of the University Council and the more than 3,000 academic and professional staff who work tirelessly to make this institution as successful as it is. Even in fiscally constrained times and global uncertainty, tertiary education remains a fundamental pillar of healthy societies, and the University looks forward to Professor Nic Smith leading us into the future.

Professor Jennifer Windsor
Acting Vice-Chancellor