The gift of knowledge

Pass on the basket of knowledge
Kete o te mātauranga
Tūkua te

The Development Manager—Planned Giving
Development Office
Victoria University of Wellington
PO Box 600
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

Free Phone: 0800 VIC LEGACY (0800 842 534)
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MAKING A BEQUEST TO VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

Tuku a te kete o te mātauranga ki ngā uri wha katupu.
Supporting Victoria University

The name of Victoria University of Wellington is synonymous with quality, tradition and innovation. The University was founded in 1899 by four pioneering professors who promoted the highest standards of scholarship.

Since then, Victoria University has provided generations of New Zealanders with a foundation on which to build their professional careers and achieve their personal goals.

From Nobel Prize winners to Governors-General and from artists, architects, writers and musicians to scientists, teachers, lawyers, librarians and accountants, many of our graduates remember Victoria as the place where their careers began.

As a centre for research, Victoria has often led the country, and sometimes the world, in the search for discoveries in a wide range of fields. Our teaching seeks to meet the needs of students and those of the wider community, and to foster the exploration and discovery of new ideas and knowledge.

Increasingly, Victoria looks to private support in the form of donations and bequests to maintain and grow its reputation, and to attract and retain the very best academic staff and students.

A bequest in your will offers you the opportunity to leave a lasting gift to Victoria that will make a real difference to future generations of students and staff.

The Victoria University of Wellington Foundation

The Victoria University of Wellington Foundation, established in 1990, is managed by the University’s Development Office. The Foundation is a charitable trust registered with the New Zealand Charities Commission (registration number CC 10288), whose aim is to raise private funds, in the form of bequests, donations and sponsorships, for priority projects at the University which could not otherwise be funded. Donations to the Foundation are eligible for a charitable gift taxation rebate.
A History of Giving

Since its early days, Victoria University has benefited from the support of generous donors, both during their lifetimes and through bequests. For example, in 1926, Wellington timber merchant William Weir left a bequest to establish a student hall of residence. Since 1932 Weir House has been home to generations of new students at Victoria. This tradition of giving continues today.

Ian Longstaff 1931–2010

Ian Longstaff graduated from Victoria with a BCA in 1947. He was a resident of Weir House and maintained a great affection for Weir all his life.

In 2004, Ian established the Weir House Alumni Scholarship. Its purpose is to assist first-year students with accommodation costs at Weir House, particularly those whose financial circumstances might otherwise prevent them from studying at Victoria.

Ian’s subsequent bequest ensured that the scholarship will be maintained for future generations of Weir students.

Darren Zhang, recipient of the Weir House Alumni Scholarship.

Darren Zhang came to Victoria from Auckland to study for a degree in International Law. He is making the most of his time at Victoria, as a Weir House resident and an active participant in the Victoria International Leadership Programme. He is also a UNICEF New Zealand youth ambassador.

“I am infinitely grateful for Ian Longstaff’s generosity. Growing up in a financially disadvantaged, single-parent home, receiving the Weir House Alumni Scholarship made all the difference in enabling me to study at Victoria. I really value being a member of the community at Weir and I know the friendships made will last a lifetime.”
Another generous donor to Victoria University was economist and policy advisor Sir Frank Holmes. Sir Frank taught at Victoria from 1952 to 1967 as a lecturer and then as Macarthy Professor of Economics, returning from 1970 to 1977 as a Professor of Money and Finance. He was a founder of the Institute of Policy Studies at Victoria, and also established, through the Victoria University Foundation, the Holmes Prize in Public Policy.

Sir Frank received an honorary doctorate from Victoria in 2004.

“My father, Sir Frank Holmes, had a long and illustrious association with Victoria University, including the University’s Institute of Policy Studies, which he helped establish. In recognition of his significant contribution to Victoria University and to public policy in New Zealand, and in accordance with his wishes, our family has established the Sir Frank Holmes Visiting Fellowship in Policy Studies at Victoria.”

— Ross Holmes

Making a Bequest

Why make a will?

A will is a legal document that can help safeguard the future of the people and the causes you most cherish. It records exactly how you wish your assets and possessions to be distributed after your death. The preparation of a will brings peace of mind, knowing that your affairs are in order.

What is a bequest?

A bequest is a gift in a will. It is a thoughtful way for you to support loved ones and causes in the future without impacting on your financial needs during your lifetime. After meeting the needs of your family, we encourage you to remember Victoria University with a bequest. All bequests, whether modest or more significant, are valued highly by Victoria.

Who makes a bequest?

Victoria has received bequests from alumni and their families, from former staff members and their families, and from people in the wider community. The one thing they all have in common is they recognise the significant contribution that the University makes to New Zealand’s educational, economic and social well-being.

Their gifts have supported prizes and scholarships, teaching, research and the Library.
What are the different types of bequests?
There are several options for leaving a gift in your will, including:

- the residue of your estate (what remains after all other gifts and costs have been deducted)
- a percentage of your estate
- a specific sum of money
- a particular asset, such as property, works of art, shares or an insurance policy.

What will your bequest be used for?
Untied gifts, which are invested in the Victoria Endowment Fund, are especially valuable as they assist Victoria to maintain its long-term financial security and independence.

Alternatively, you may choose to specify a purpose for your gift, such as for a scholarship in your name or in honour of a loved one, for the Library, or for a research programme.

A non-endowed gift will be fully disbursed to a nominated project over a period of time agreed with you.

An endowed gift will ensure the project continues in perpetuity, with only the interest income disbursed and the capital remaining untouched.

Seeking advice
Development Office staff are available to provide advice and to apply your bequest according to your wishes. All discussions are treated in strict confidence.

We strongly recommend that you seek the advice of a lawyer, the Public Trust or a trustee company in the drafting of a new will or a codicil (attachment) to an existing will. These professionals will give you the help you need to ensure your wishes are fully met.

We also encourage you to discuss your bequest ideas with your family.
Suggested wording

Please refer to the card, *How to Make a Bequest to Victoria University*, which is in the pocket inside the back cover of this brochure. The card contains suggested wording that you and your lawyer can use when planning your bequest.

Accountability

The Victoria University Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees, comprising officers of the University Council—the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor—and successful Victoria graduates and supporters. The trustees are custodians of all gifts received and are responsible for ensuring all funds held in trust are prudently invested and disbursed.

The Foundation is managed by an Executive Director. Staff monitor projects to ensure they are implemented in accordance with donors’ wishes.

No administrative charges are made to donors or their estates.

Recognition:
The Victoria Legacy Club

The Victoria Legacy Club was established by the Victoria University Foundation to acknowledge and thank those who have told us of their intention to leave a gift in their will to Victoria.

Do let us know if you plan to include Victoria University in your will so that we can thank you and invite you to join the Legacy Club. A simple way to notify us of your intentions is to complete and return the enclosed *Bequest Pledge Card* in the reply-paid envelope supplied.

Legacy Club members are invited to University and Foundation events, including an annual Legacy Club function. These events are opportunities for members to meet others who have made similar provision for Victoria in their wills, and to keep in touch with what is happening at Victoria.

There is no fee or obligation associated with joining the Legacy Club.
Some current members of the Victoria Legacy Club

Dr Geraldine McDonald CNZM

In 1944 Geraldine McDonald enrolled at Victoria University College where she developed an enduring interest in research. She has had a long association with Victoria as a student, research associate, supervisor of doctoral theses, on the inaugural board of the Stout Research Centre and as a member of staff.

Victoria granted her an honorary doctorate in 1993.

“As a student and a former member of staff I have always felt grateful to Victoria. A bequest seemed appropriate. I know that institutions change and that from time to time different needs arise. Therefore I decided to make my gift untied so that Victoria can decide how best to use it.”

Sahra Grinham and Dennis Chippindale

Sahra Grinham and Dennis Chippindale met at Victoria University in the 1980s when Sahra was on staff and Dennis was studying for his Architecture degree. Sahra later completed a BA in Art History and Classics. They have both maintained their Victoria connections, with Dennis working on a range of architectural projects at the University and Sahra serving as a trustee of the Victoria University Foundation.

“Victoria has been an important place for us, so when we decided to make a bequest we felt very confident that the University was the right choice. We wanted to make sure our gift would have a lasting legacy under the care of a solid organisation—a safe pair of hands.”
After 20 years of high school teaching Sheena became interested in counselling, which led to an MA (Applied) at Victoria University and a new and stimulating career in both practising and teaching psychotherapy, as well as career counselling.

“I have always been a strong advocate of the power and benefits of education and believe in the importance of helping students achieve their potential. Leaving a gift to Victoria University to establish a scholarship for a part-time postgraduate student will help me to actively fulfil this belief.”

Dr Sheena Hudson

Sheena Hudson completed a BA in Scotland, as one of the first graduates of the Open University. She taught in schools in Scotland and England before emigrating to New Zealand in 1974.

The foresight and generosity of these and other Legacy Club members will provide wonderful opportunities for future students and staff at Victoria.

Other recent bequest pledges will support:

- The Architecture and Design Library
- The New Zealand School of Music
- The Antarctic Research Centre
- Philosophy research projects
- Postgraduate scholarships in Classics, History and English.

There are many opportunities for support at Victoria. We can assist you to tailor your bequest to your area of special interest.
Thank you

Victoria University is enormously appreciative of all donors who support the University through leaving gifts in their wills.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of making a gift in your will to Victoria University, please contact us—see back cover for contact details.

We are happy to return calls from outside Wellington. All enquiries will be treated in strict confidence.

Alternatively, you may complete and return the Bequest Pledge Card in the enclosed reply-paid envelope.
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I am thinking of leaving a bequest to the Victoria University Foundation.

☐ Please contact me to discuss this.

☐ Please send me information about making a bequest to the Victoria University Foundation.

Please complete your contact details on the reverse of this card.

OR

I plan to leave a bequest to the Victoria University Foundation.

☐ I intend to make a bequest to the Victoria University Foundation.

☐ I have already made provision in my will for a bequest to the Victoria University Foundation as follows.

☐ The residue of my estate

☐ % of my residuary estate

☐ $

☐ Other assets (eg. property, shares, insurance policy)

The approximate value of the bequest is: ____________ (optional)

Please tell us how you would like your bequest to be used.

☐ This is an untied bequest to the Victoria University Foundation.

☐ This bequest is for the purpose of: ____________________________

This information will be held in confidential files at the Victoria University Foundation.

Thank you for letting us know about your bequest plans. We would like to keep you up to date with developments at the University and the Foundation so please complete your contact details on the reverse of this card.
Contact Details (Please print)

☐ Dr ☐ Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Ms

First names: __________________________________________

Surname: __________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Telephone: __________ Email: ________________________

Have you graduated from Victoria University? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name at graduation (if different): __________________________

Signature: __________________ Date: ________________

Please return to:

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How to make a bequest to
THE VICTORIA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

If you do not have a will, the guide below will help your lawyer to incorporate a bequest clause in your planned will.

If you already have a will, the guide below will help your lawyer to prepare a codicil to reflect any changes you would like to make.

The following is the suggested wording (delete as appropriate):

‘I give and bequeath to the Trustees of the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation Incorporated:
the residue of my estate
OR __________________________ % of my residuary estate
OR the sum of $ __________________________
OR other assets __________________________
as an untied gift OR for the principal purpose of:

____________________________________

If, at any time, the Trustees of the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation, in their absolute discretion, consider that no person or project may be a suitable recipient, then the Trustees may apply the bequest towards any project in sympathy with the principal purpose. (Optional and only to be included where a principal purpose has been specified.)

I instruct that my preference is that the interest income should be allotted to the objectives of this bequest, but the Trustees of the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation may resort to capital if they, in their absolute discretion, think this is appropriate.’ (Optional)

If you have made provision in your will for Victoria University, or are planning to make a bequest, please do let us know so that we can thank you personally for your generosity and keep you up to date with developments at the University and the Foundation.

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