

# Vice-Chancellor's Report to Council





had engagement with the T wharetoa M ori and Lake Taup charitable trust, which involved inviting 20 students on to the campus so that they could experience the campus environment.

Earth and Environment PhD student Jade Humphrey has started up Predator Free Riccarton, a group that is trying to make a difference for our native species in the wider Riccarton-Ilam-Avonhead area. The group is currently distributing rat traps in the community to help form halos around key areas of biodiversity (Riccarton Bush and areas along our streams).

A research team based in Te R Rangahau M ori Research Laboratory; Faculty of Education hosted He Awa Whiria Symposium. Often referred to as a 'braided rivers' approach, He Awa Whiria is anchoring the work of researchers and practitioners in both national and international spheres.

online or in person), while many others continue to have the opportunity to view the lecture via the recording.

The School of Product Design held its Dragon's Den event where teams of second-year students presented their designs and prototypes created from waste. The judges – Brian McMath, New Zealand Product Accelerator, Dr Joya Kemper, a UC senior lecturer, Marketing and Sustainability and Dr Michael Edmonds, Manager of the Biomolecular Interaction Centre – were impressed with the diversity of ideas and implementation. P

environments in which field data were collected, including through ‘fly-by’ journeys to the glaciers, 360 videos, an interactive snow-sampling tool, a 3-

University of Auckland, discussed Aotearoa New Zealand's green hydrogen future, raising cultural and technical issues of switching to greener fuel. The authors argue:

“Technical feasibility is not enough: Any solution must make economic sense and be acceptable to the wider public, particularly t ngata whenua. Proving the feasibility of any new idea takes time. We need to develop, sometimes fail, refine and then find success. But with each new extreme weather event, it is clear we do not have a lot of time. In this new era of adaptation, governments, industry, communities, and scientists will need to work more closely than ever”.

The second of the 2022 Doctoral Orientations was held in July, attended in-person by over 30 newly enrolled doctoral and research master's students. In July, the programme has been updated to include a workshop on “Academic Integrity in a Research Context”, facilitated by Professor Deirdre Hart, supplemented with related resources shared by Anton Angelo, UC Library.

UC has recently secured significant government funding to lead a high-profile international programme to develop green hydrogen energy, which is expected to play a significant role in worldwide moves towards affordable clean energy and contribute directly to Goal 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals. In the drive for Aotearoa New Zealand to be carbon neutral by 2050, green hydrogen energy is a potential solution for some sectors of the economy. However, generation

*Networks: Theory, Policy and Practice* (Bloomsbury 2022), which theorises educational collaboration in England, Aotearoa New Zealand, Chile and Singapore. Attended by academics, practitioners and research students, the seminar included a number of high-profile attendees including Dr Kate Chatwal OBE, CEO of Challenge Partners and Marie-Clare Bretherton, Director of School Improvement and Education Director for the Anthem Trust. These organisations work with large networks of schools across England and intend using the book to inform their practice in guiding those schools.

The work of Professor Mark Jermy and Dr Joe Chen from Mechanical Engineering on “Infection Risk Model of Airborne Transmission to Facilitate Decisions about Personal Protective Equipment, Ventilation and Isolation in Shared Indoor Spaces” was mentioned in the report *New Zealand’s COVID-19 Research Response*.

UC has been ranked 29th globally for Hospitality and Tourism Management in the latest Shanghai Ranking global subject ranking. In UC Business School research, Professor Girish Prayag explored dark tourism and dived into the key drivers of visitors who explore these places.

One of our Computer Science and Software Engineering graduate students, who was supervised by Professor Andy Cockburn, has just been selected for the prestigious 2022 Google PhD Fellowship. This named fellowship includes a monetary award and matches each recipient with a Google research mentor. Google PhD Fellowship students are a select group recognised by Google researchers and their institutions as some of the most promising young academics in the world.

Mathematics and Statistics PhD student Aditya Jha has been accepted for a prestigious postdoctoral research fellowship with the Institute Vienna Circle. The Institute Vienna Circle supports the integration of different disciplines focused on relevant sciences and is dedicated to the documentation, reconstruction and further development of logical empiricism.

UC has a new scholarship to recognise the significant contributions by Frank Tay during his 40-year tenure at UC. The scholarship will offer financial support to a UC student studying Economics in a research-based degree at the postgraduate level. Frank’s former students and colleagues contributed to this fund.

## **People Nurturing Staff, Thriving Students**

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At the time of writing this report, 35 students are in self-isolation due to COVID-19. We continue using Assura as our recording system, making welfare calls, organising groceries, providing the Winter Warmth Power Fund and referring students to support services if needed.

We are still seeing demand for the COVID-19 Hardship Fund from Mori, Pacific and Rainbow students, and we are considering a number of options to respond to this need.

The Student Wellbeing team coordinated a measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) and COVID-19 booster vaccination stand-up at Haere-roa on Tuesday 26 July and Wednesday 27 July. This event was supported by the UC Medical Centre, University of Canterbury Students’ Association (UCSA), Health New Zealand and our local Community and Public Health unit. With the second wave of COVID-19 and concerns about MMR, this stand-up was a further attempt to reach out to our student population. It took the form of drop-in clinics, while UCSA provided music, free kai and a welcoming environment. Volunteers from UCSA oversaw the smooth running of the event with support from our UC Communications team. The UC Medical Centre ran a flu vaccination clinic at the same time,

which was organised separately







