

# Vice-Chancellor's Report to Council

## July 2022

### Introduction

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After a well-earned break for students and many staff, the second semester of the 2022 academic year started on Monday 18 July.

I had the opportunity to travel internationally on official university business for the second time since my appointment as Vice-Chancellor – the previous trip being in 2019 before the pandemic. The trip was to Australia where I visited the Australia National University (ANU), University of Canberra and the University of Adelaide. I had the opportunity to look at many of their facilities and in particular, student accommodation facilities. For the Adelaide leg of the trip, I was part of a Mayoral delegation to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Sister City relationship. The scale of the investments in the universities I visited was most impressive with significant funding from the three tiers of Australian government. At the Civic reception, I met with one of the Flinders University DVCs and since then there has been focussed follow up. I shall be working with colleagues across UC to ensure that opportunities for collaboration are followed up.

On a very positive note, I wish to commend UC Business School for earning reaccreditation from the European Foundation for Management Development (EQUIS). With this reaccreditation, the School has maintained the gold standard 'triple-crown' of international business school accreditations, reflecting that it conducts impactful research, empowers students and offers high-quality education. The report was very positive overall and one of the specific commendations was the change to a faculty model with clear internal governance. I was also gratified to read that there is a culture of positivity and openness. A key area for improvement is internationalisation, which is not surprising given our experience of about two years of border closure.

### Engagement

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Late June, we launched Te Kakau a Maui, our scholarship for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Focused on increasing access through outreach to students from decile 1-7 schools across the South Island, and screening applicants by the powei

UC hosted the two-day regional Ng Manu Kero speech competitions, regarded as the most significant annual event on the M ori education calendar – both regionally and nationally. All secondary schools were invited to participate in the competition, which focuses on nurturing the bilingual oratory skills of taiohi M ori and encourages bilingualism and fluency in te reo M ori. This was the first time that UC has been the host in the Waitaha regional competition's 57-year history and our involvement this year signals the beginning of a potentially long-term partnership with the competition.

In January we announced our partnership with the New Zealand Game Developers Association (NZGDA) to sponsor its 2022 Kiwi Game Starter Competition, a business start-up competition supporting the best of Aotearoa New Zealand's up-and-coming game development talent. Three talented teams became the finalists announced late last month. Professor Andy Phelps, Programme Director of UC's Digital Screen Campus programme, was one of the three visionary judges tasked with identifying the finalists from an exceptional pool of entrants.

Overall, the three Career Fairs for 2022 have been successful. Although they were all conducted online, that did not seem to affect the level of participation among the companies, given so many of them are now familiar and comfortable with this form of presentation. This event will be moving back to an in-person event next year.

UC Aerospace students recently took part in the Spaceport America Cup, the world's largest student rocketry competition, in New Mexico, USA. The team received positive feedback on their rocket and air-brake design. They were the first team to represent Aotearoa New Zealand in this competition.

UC tēh wai Mt John Observatory was opened to the public as part of the Matariki Mackenzie festival. Astronomy research students, academics and staff talked to visitors about the telescopes, research and activities at the observatory.

Kai rahi rangahau facilitated a blessing ceremony held for the Edward Percival Field Station, in Kaik ūra Te R nanga o Kaik ūra before the site was vacated ready for demolition. The event was attended by current and former staff as well as family of Professor George Knox, who was instrumental in establishing the research wing. Ng ti Kur led the ceremony, while Head of the School of Biological Sciences Professor Matthew Turnbull spoke on behalf of the many UC manuhiri and kaimahi in attendance.

Professor Donald Matheson, Media and COMS, worked with an undergraduate student to run four sessions for Te M t puna M t tahi | Children's University. Students aged 7–11 years took part in this opportunity to think about media more deeply.

UC hosted the Canterbury Mayoral Forum to introduce the mayors of our region to UC generally and

Professor Steven Ratuva, Emeritus Professor Greg Newbold, Associate Professor Arindam Basu (on monkeypox) and Professor Mike Plank (on COVID-19).

Specialist Teaching and Research Technician Graeme Plank and MSc student Ben Lowe have been visiting schools to inspire the junior and senior students about astronomy. In these sessions, they present information on what astronomers do, and also engage students in interactive roleplays, looking for sunspots using a solar telescope and viewing objects on the Port Hills through Dobsonian and Galileo telescopes.

UC Mori and UC Pasifika undertook significant community outreach across June. Staff visited 35+ schools across Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington to run sessions for Mori and Pacific students specifically. The sessions, which engaged over 600 students in total, heavily promoted UC's scholarship offerings, including the 150th anniversary scholarships.

Professor Felipe Voloch from Mathematics and Statistics gave a talk and led a discussion about cryptography with a group of high-functioning young adults at Socially Speaking, a private company collaborating with people on the autistic spectrum. Felipe shared with them how cryptography has moved from the ancient art of sending secret messages to become the basis for internet security, and how it's now poised to be revolutionised again because of the potential threat of quantum computers.

## Education –

metaverse and virtual reality (VR). These environments will be applicable across UC disciplines so the term 'Metaversity' is apt.

Based in the UC Business School's Department of Management, Marketing and Entrepreneurship, Associate Professor Ann-Marie Kennedy received her DLTP scholarship for her project "Incorporating Student Voice in Engagement with Online Learning". Her project aims to explore and validate additional online engagement measures to support student retention, success and pedagogical development. The students folded into the project will self-define their own engagement types and levels of interaction with AKO

were rare. They included spiders, beetles, bees and w t . Her work built on earlier research in 2016 and 2017 that found 39 insect species and a 2020/21 study that found 73 species.

TVNZ 1 Breakfast interviewed Teacher Education students Ila Reeves and Max Beach from the

technology for remote auditing (as highlighted during the pandemic) and its implications for food procedures and regulators. Kathryn was also invited to speak at the 11th International Conference on Education and Management Innovation (ICEMI 2022) with a presentation focused on “Supporting the Creation Mixed Reality (XR) Artefacts and Its Implications on Technology Pedagogical and Content Knowledges”.



positive response and will become a framework



**Internationalisation – Locally Engaged, Globally Networked**

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management processes. The project team is now turning to focus on phase 2 and onboarding People and Culture onto the Service Experience platform, planned for launch in quarter 4.

Following business case approval earlier this year, a preferred platform (Jaggaer) has been selected for UC's hazardous chemical management. As well as standardising and improving our health and

**VC Activities**

07 July 2022

Attended a series of meetings in Canberra to