

# Vice Chancellor's Report to Council

## July 2021

### Introduction

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The first weeks of July brought a period of relative quiet on campus as the students took a well-deserved break and many staff took leave.

### Engagement

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The mid-semester break created an opportunity to welcome young people to our campus to learn about UC and to inspire them to study here in the future. Te Mātāpuna Mātātahi | Children's University hosted many activities across UC involving academic departments and the Library. For the older school student, Te Aukaha Tau 12 took place earlier in the month. This was a chance for taiohi (young) Māori to explore their pathways to university and see what UC has to offer. A total of 123 taiohi Māori and kaiako attended, mainly from Canterbury schools but one student came from Mana College in Porirua.

In addition to specific programmes, many campus tours were held throughout July. Numbers registering for the 9 September Open Day continue to climb, currently numbers tracking ahead of 2019 when we last held a physical open day. We hosted 121 teachers in the Computer Science and Software Engineering department, and they left with a very positive view of UC, particularly in terms of the Māori whānau.

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UC hosted the Te Hunga Rāia Māori o Aotearoa (Māori Law Society) Hui- - Tau Conference. Te Hunga Rāia Māori o Aotearoa was established to bring together Māori who were or are in the legal profession in order to: provide mutual support; identify and respond to the legal needs of Te Ao Māori; educate members on tikanga Māori and Te Ture Pōkehā; and conduct legal research. For the first time, tautahi Canterbury, te poti Otago and Murihiku Southland Māori lawyers and Māori law students combined their groups to become Te Waipounamu for the Matatūre kapahaka performance, which had a strong Ngāi Tahu flavour.

UC together with Education NZ, the University of Auckland and other societies, organised and hosted the 2021 Symposium of NZCA-GREEN, an engineering-focused conference specifically addressing sustainability issues.

The two recently appointed Kai rahi Rangahau Māori positions within Research and Innovation (R&I) are beginning to make an impact, including by developing partnership opportunities with research proposals and bids and linking researchers with Ngāi Tahu Research Centre, Ngāi Tahu and Ngāi Tahu where appropriate.

The College of Education, Health and Human Development hosted the national Bullying Prevention conference. Among the national and international speakers, were UC's Dr Cara Swit. Professor Bevan Catley (Massey University), Donna Provost (Director, Office of the Children's Commissioner), Dr Mike Webster (Auckland University), Andy Hearn (Ara), and Dr Sheila Dennis and Professor James Brown (both from Indiana University).

Professor Conan Fee, Head of School of Product Design, gave a keynote address "Creative Engineering with a Product Focus" to teachers at the New Zealand Association of Intermediate and Middle Schools conference (NZAIMS "Beyond Buzzy Bees and Number 8 Wire"), held in Christchurch. Several groups of technology and design teachers visited the School over two days to get an experience of hands-on practical design activities.

The Social Work Department offered a Courageous Conversations professional workshop to educators who are registered social workers providing professional supervision for students. This workshop was aimed at learning to address sensitive issues in a constructive way. It drew 31 participants from 16 different agencies.

Students from the new Professional and Community Engagement course 225 Workplace Skills and Corporate Social Responsibility were given the opportunity in Semester 1 to work in small teams assisting Hawkins Construction by creating a project proposal intended to have a positive societal impact in the context of Hawkins' re-build of a local primary school in east Christchurch. Guest speakers who shared their stories of corporate social responsibility and their relevant expertise with the class came from a wide range of organisations including: Sharesies, Brown Bread, Hawkins, FUSH, The Female Career and more. A broad range of lecturers from, the School of Aotahi, Sociology, Media & Communications and Business contributed to this course.

Professional staff from UC Careers and the People and Culture team also led the students in some work-

UC Entrepreneurship's next Disrupt Challenge, *The Future of Health Challenge* with Te Papa Hauora has been secured. It will take place later this month with the aim of securing 40-50 participating teams.

## Education – Accessible, Flexible Future Focused

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Academic development is an essential component of accessible, flexible, future-focused education. Implementing it involves a partnership across academics, students, and specialist support teams like Future Learning and Development. For instance, the LEARN | AKO Redesign Steering Group (a group of academics and instructional designers) has been established to guide the decision-making process for the redesign of the

set to be rolled out to STAT101 for Semester 2. UC has plans for refining and expanding the programme in 2022.

Enhancements that support our graduate profile have also been evident. Recently the ENCH390 class joined Joseph Hullen from Ng i T huriri/Ng ti Hinematua for a two-hour field trip in the central city to discover how M ori identity and historical narratives are being woven into the new tautahi Christchurch streetscape. Joseph belongs to the Matapopore Charitable Trust, the mana whenua voice responsible for realising Ng i T huriri/Ng i Tahu values, aspirations and narratives within the city s post-quake recovery. Following the field trip, students were asked to reflect on how including these narratives impact mana whenua and P keh communities. The field trip was the first of three planned activities for this year's CAPE Biculturalism Workshop.

Canterbury University Press has signed a contract to publish *P i "Hau e Wj "q"V yjtko vgc<" Ewnvwtcm{"tgurqpukxg"vgcejki"cpf"ngctpkpi"hqt"vjg"vgtvkct{"ugevqt0"*The book will be freely available as an open access title, supported by funding from Ng Pae o te M ramatanga | New Zealand's M ori Centre of Research Excellence. The lead authors are Professor Angus Hikairo Macfarlane, Adjunct Associate Professor Sonja Macfarlane, Dr Matiu Tai R tima, Jennifer Smith and Te Hurinui Karaka-Clarke.

## Research– Impact on a Changing World

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Professor Alessandro Palermo, Dr Gabriele Chiaro and Ernesto Hernandez from the School of Engineering were awarded a prestigious award f t o k G dRmrmr t # > G











A successful staff development day was run in early July for over 100 professional and general staff from a range of areas throughout the University. My thanks to the professional staff community of practice, UC Admin Plus, for their leadership of this excellent event.

At that development day, a group of senior female staff, with the support of People and Culture, hosted a soft launch of a UC Menopause Awareness Programme. The formal launch, part of UC's 2021 Wellbeing Plan, will occur on World Menopause Day, 18 October. Events

look forward to formally welcoming these students back to UC with an event on 4 August, which UC staff and external stakeholders including the Chinese Education Consul (based in Christchurch) will attend.

Two orientation programmes for international students have taken place for Semester 2. One was an on-campus programme, which welcomed those new international students who are in New Zealand



The third online hui on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was held, with 101 registrations and 90 attendees. Promotions related to this event reached 14,000 people across our social media channels. The Sustainability Office is now focused on the face-to-face summit to be held at UC. This involves approximately 24 workshop sessions and a 'community feast' in town (a collaboration between multiple agencies), along with field trips on the second day, which are being organised largely by staff at Lincoln University and Christchurch City Council, with support from our UC team.

The Universities New Zealand Panel on the SDGs is now chaired by Dr Matt Morris from the UC Sustainability Office. As such, the group is refining its vision for the nine years to 2030 and its role in supporting the SDG summits. It is also exploring the opportunity to define a collaborative research programme in line with its current Terms of Reference.

The report from the recent waste audit is anticipated within the next two weeks. It is expected to highlight the challenges we are facing with contamination of the bins by users, along with opportunities for streamlining our current systems and how this fit with recent announcements from the Government related to phasing out certain single-use items. Staff in Facilities Management will meet with our waste services provider to discuss the audit findings and develop a strategy in early August.

The second bike stand utilisation audit for 2021 will be completed in the final week of July. The March audit showed a significant drop in cycling numbers compared with March 2020, something we are monitoring closely.