

CELEBRATING OUR DONORS' GENEROSITY

The University of Auckland Annual Report to Donors



2024



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University of Auckland Foundation financial statements

In 2024,
WE RECEIVED
\$69,354,239
THROUGH
3,208
GIFTS FROM



1,439

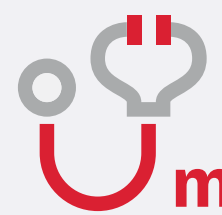
GENEROUS DONORS.

Each and every donor has made a valued contribution to the work of the University.

Thank you.

\$47,432,395

WAS RECEIVED TO SUPPORT MAJOR PROGRAMMES OF RESEARCH ACROSS MANY DISCIPLINES, ESPECIALLY IN THE AREAS OF



health & medicine.

SUPPORT FOR academic chairs and fellowships CAME TO A TOTAL OF

\$2,029,390.

The University of Auckland Foundations use CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) global standards for calculating total funds raised in any year. These figures include all philanthropic income received through the University of Auckland Foundation, the Medical and Health Sciences Foundation and directly to the University of Auckland.

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND IS NEW ZEALAND'S

top-ranked university

AND OUR COUNTRY'S



largest research organisation.

THE UNIVERSITY IS RANKED

65th in the world

BY THE QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2025, AND IS



4th in Oceania and 17th in the world

FOR THE 2025 QS WORLD UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY RANKINGS.

IT WAS RANKED

NO. 152

IN THE 2025 TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS AND IS IN THE

TOP 1%

IN THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION IMPACT RANKINGS 2024.

IN 2024, THE LARGEST NUMBER OF GIFTS WAS TO SUPPORT

student scholarships and projects

– A TOTAL OF

2,124.

846 students

WERE AWARDED

\$4,883,809

IN DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS, PRIZES AND AWARDS.

WE NOW HAVE

534

members in the University's cumulative giving society, the

Chancellor's Circle:

38

members in the

SIR MAURICE O'RORKE SOCIETY, which recognises giving of more than \$5 million,

106

members in the

SIR GEORGE FOWLDS SOCIETY, which recognises giving between \$1 million and \$5 million, and

390

members in the

SIR DOUGLAS ROBB SOCIETY, which recognises giving between \$100,000 and \$1 million.

GENEROUS GIFTS IN WILLS WERE RECEIVED FROM

12 donors.

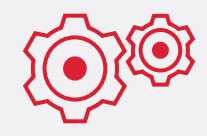
THESE GIFTS ARE SUPPORTING:



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE



NUTRITION RESEARCH AT THE LIGGINS INSTITUTE



SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS AND PROGRAMMES IN THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING



SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FIRST-YEAR UNDERGRADUATE OR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS



STUDENT AND TEACHING RESOURCES FOR THE LIBRARY



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS IN ECONOMICS



ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH (two gifts in wills)



OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY RESEARCH



IMMUNE THERAPY RESEARCH



STUDIES AT THE CENTRE FOR BRAIN RESEARCH

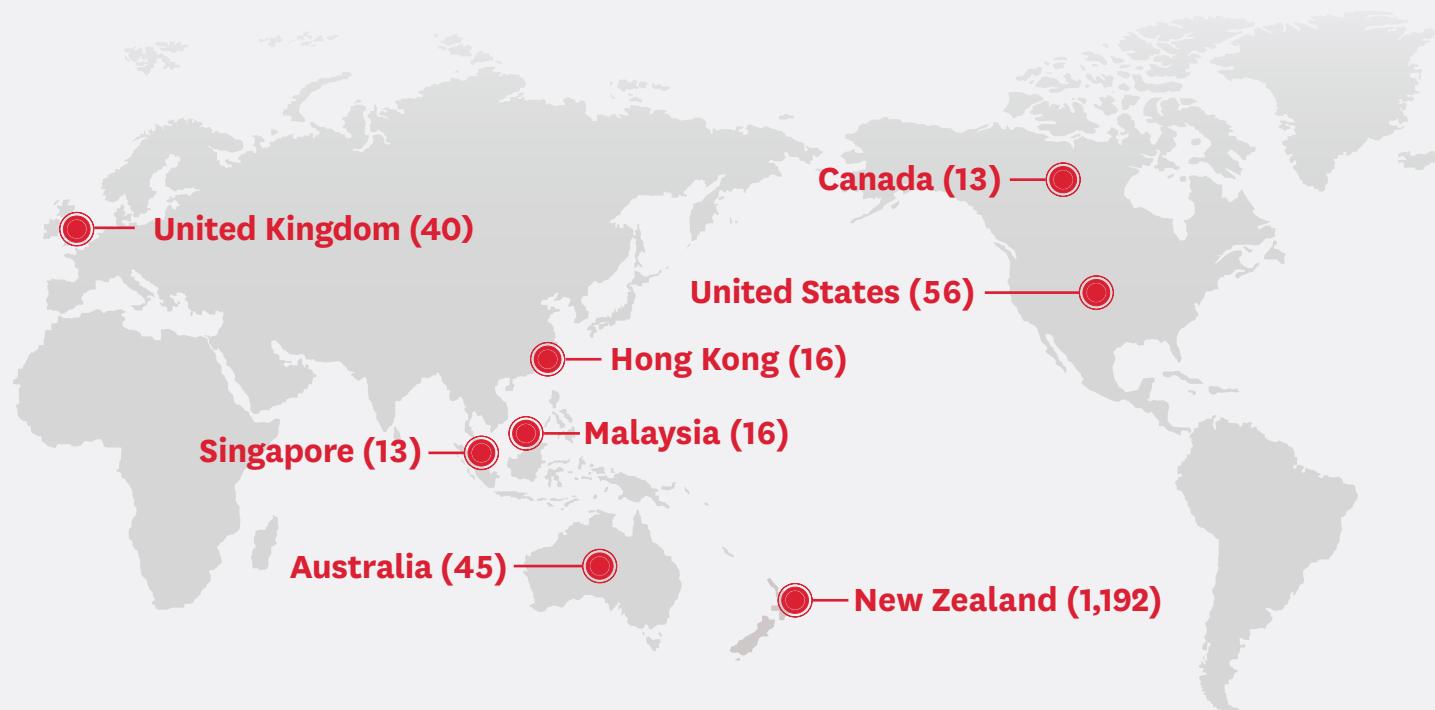


RESEARCH IN THE SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY AND VISION SCIENCE

IN 2024, DONATIONS CAME FROM SUPPORTERS IN

26 countries.

The largest number (1,192) came from New Zealand, followed by the US, Australia, the UK, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Canada and Singapore.



In 2024,
the median gift was
\$100



Staff and former staff of the University
contributed a total of



850 GIFTS

for student support
and a variety of research projects.

We received \$390,675

through 2,481 gifts from our Annual Giving programme,
supporting a range of appeals including



scholarships for students
from a refugee background,



alumni
scholarships



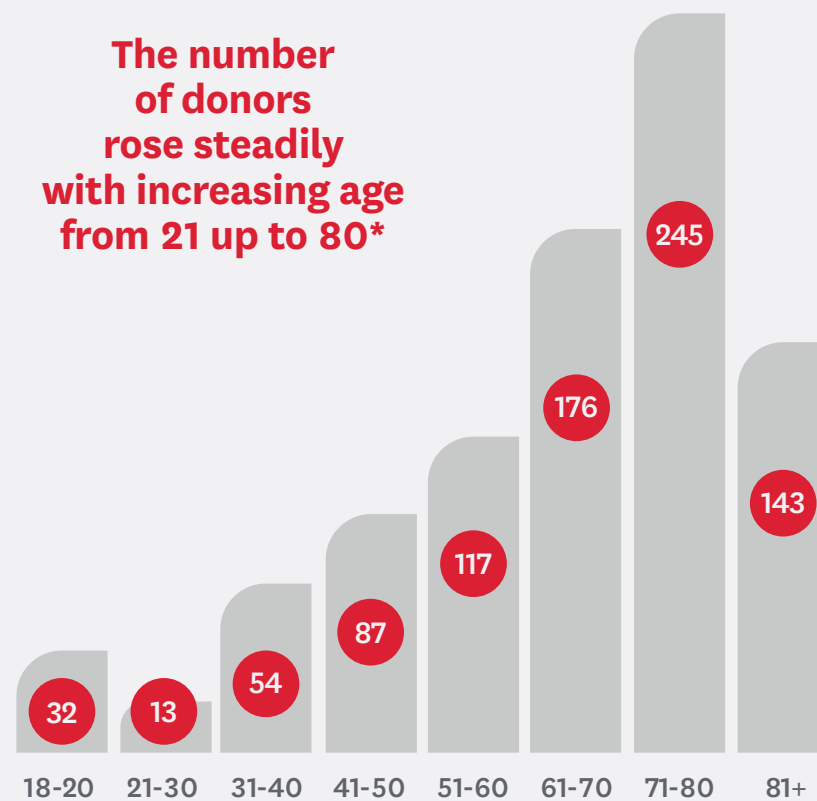
and
dolphin research.

A TOTAL OF
\$2,560,152



was received
through the
US and UK
Friends of the
University
of Auckland,
including many gifts
to support research
and scholarships.

The number
of donors
rose steadily
with increasing age
from 21 up to 80*



(*Age for those donors whose ages are recorded)

42.7% of our **237,405** alumni engaged with us –
THROUGH GIVING FINANCIALLY, THROUGH VOLUNTEERING ACTIVITIES
AND THROUGH EVENTS AND COMMUNICATION.



Volunteering



Alumni Connect



Physical Events



Virtual Events



Virtual Book Club

2019	902	243	7,283	0	0
2020	718	889	4,549	1,897	0
2021	829	909	8,784	1,180	472
2022	903	579	12,311	1,092	562
2023	943	508	14,233	815	536
2024	928	328	14,517	224	559

Outstanding partnership and support



Thank you for your generosity and support during 2024.

It was a highly successful year for philanthropy, with \$69 million received in gifts and pledges from our donors. This is an outstanding contribution to the work of the University, both to its research and innovation programmes and to ensuring our students receive an exceptional education.

Included in the total figure for 2024 is funding of \$47 million for major research projects across a variety of disciplines and, especially, for discovery and progress in health and medicine. There are numerous examples of research excellence at our University, among them the pioneering projects in our research institutes and the world-leading influenza research that are featured in this report.

In 2024, we received gifts of \$1 million or more from 15 donors, many of whom are long-standing supporters. Also noteworthy are the gifts in wills received during the past year, which are funding areas such as nutrition research, student scholarships in science and engineering and resources for the library.

We are deeply grateful to our donors for their partnership, commitment and generosity.

Thank you for your valued contribution.

Ngā mihi nui,

PROFESSOR DAWN FRESHWATER
Vice-Chancellor, the University of Auckland

DAVID CARTER
Chair, the University of Auckland Foundation



Looking back over the 2024 year, I am delighted to see the breadth of areas so generously supported – quite literally, from opera to optometry.

The largest number of gifts was, like last year, for student scholarships and projects, a total of 2,124 donations. It is uplifting to read about the extraordinary talents of some of our students and their ambitions to contribute to the world around them. Among these are the inaugural recipients of the Geoff Ricketts Heartland Bank scholarship, which was established in memory of the Chair of the University of Auckland Foundation, who served in that role for 23 years.

It is interesting also to see the most popular appeals through our annual giving programme, which encourages participation from many donors for specific causes that are meaningful to them. In 2024, the alumni scholarship and refugee scholarship appeals continued to draw strong support. Also attracting the interest of our donors was the new dolphin-tagging appeal, launched in late 2024 to fund research into New Zealand's Hector's and Māui dolphins.

I encourage you to read on to find out more about the projects and activities that are being enabled through donor gifts.

Thank you for your kind contribution to the University's work.

Ngā mihi,

MARK BENTLEY
Director, Alumni Relations and Development

The University recognises the exceptional generosity of the following donors, who gave \$1 million or more in 2024:

- Alan Maxwell Revocable Trust
- Auckland Medical Research Foundation
- AUEA Charitable Trust
- Burnett Foundation Aotearoa
- Cancer Society Auckland Northland
- The CatWalk Spinal Cord Injury Research Trust
- Cure Kids
- Flu Lab
- Heart Foundation
- Inkfish
- MSA Charitable Trust
- Neurological Foundation of New Zealand
- Partridge Family Foundation Trust
- Estate of Jocelyn Isobel Shackleton
- Wright Family Foundation

In addition to their outstanding gifts in 2024, many of these generous donors are ongoing major supporters and are acknowledged through our cumulative giving society, The Chancellor's Circle.

(See page 28.)

NZ a 'unique laboratory' for influenza research

New Zealand's successful elimination of Covid-19 during the early stages of the pandemic not only saved lives but also provided a unique opportunity for world-leading research into the transmission and impact of influenza.

Thanks to a generous \$11.3 million grant from the US-based Flu Lab, a national consortium of researchers led by the University of Auckland has spent the past three years trying to better understand a virus that's estimated to cause 1 billion cases and 650,000 deaths annually.

At the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Professor John Fraser notes that New Zealand is a "unique laboratory for infectious diseases" because of its small population and national database. "We can view things on a collective level nationally in a way that most other countries can't."



Professor John Fraser

Known as SHIVERS-V, the research was conducted as part of the longitudinal Southern Hemisphere Influenza, Vaccine Effectiveness, Research & Surveillance study, which began in 2012. What made this project different was the fact that flu was eliminated from the population for two years because of New Zealand's closed borders in response to Covid-19.

"It was a fascinating natural experiment," says Professor Nikki Turner from the University of Auckland's Department of General Practice and Primary Health Care. "We had the ability to get surveillance rapidly in place to measure and monitor respiratory illness through the pandemic, which was pretty challenging."

Those challenges ranged from gaining data access and permissions to the collection of flu swabs by nurses at major Auckland hospitals, general practices and MIQ facilities, which required researchers to be extremely sensitive to the workload of a stretched health sector.

Covid restrictions also forced some adaptation of traditional data collection and led to a pilot study among six general practices where 4,135 patients were screened for Covid-19, flu and RSV. This in turn led to the use of a novel multi-virus RAT, which simultaneously screened for all three.

One of the aims was to assess the impact of non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as point-of-care RAT tests and masks, on perceptions about respiratory illness.

"Nobody had ever heard of the word RAT before," says Nikki. "And now there is a huge awareness of respiratory illness, diagnosing, transmission, mask-wearing, staying at home when sick – new language, new behaviours – so communities have learnt a lot."

The main focal point of data collection was in underserved communities, particularly South Auckland, to determine what flu and RSV looked like before – and after – it returned when borders reopened. To that end, researchers analysed data collected from the Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) surveillance of more than 27,000 patients in the Auckland region and 10.4 million GP interactions nationally.

"Nobody had ever heard of the word RAT before," says Nikki. "And now there is a huge awareness of respiratory illness, diagnosing, transmission, mask-wearing, staying at home when sick – new language, new behaviours – so communities have learnt a lot."

Professor Nikki Turner



"We were able to conclusively demonstrate that there was no influenza circulation across the whole country between the early part of 2020 and 2022," says Principal Investigator Professor Peter McIntyre from the University of Otago. "And then, lo and behold, within a couple of months of the borders being open, influenza arrived."

Surprisingly, the data revealed that a significant number of elderly Māori and Pacific people were hospitalised – most likely because they were living with large extended families. "They had a really big spike in influenza cases in that period, which wasn't seen in the same age group who were European or Asian," says Peter.

Another surprise was a surge in RSV cases and hospitalisation for babies less than a year old after the trans-Tasman 'bubble' opened in 2021, something Peter puts down to the lack of immunity in mothers. "You could see that it was more than ten times higher than any peak that had occurred in previous years."

A major focus for the team was to better understand how community groups engage in behaviours to prevent the spread of respiratory illness. The so-called mixed-methods approach involved studies including a Samoan church group, a Kōhanga Reo preschool centre and other groups

to improve 'winter preparedness' for flu.

"We did have fantastic engagement with Māori and Pacific communities for the studies, really focused on equity, the group's most vulnerable and most at risk," says Nikki.

Yet another SHIVERS-V project involved the use of machine learning and customised algorithms in general practice and hospital settings to better forecast how influenza and other respiratory illnesses will behave in future winter seasons. "Then we could potentially say for your high-risk local community, it's coming within the next couple of weeks, how can we all be prepared?" she says.

Through the 28 different projects completed since 2021, the SHIVERS-V team believe they've delivered a diversity of outcomes and internationally unique insights that will have local, regional and global impact – such as the use of rapid assessment tools and the 'in time' surveillance undertaken by GPs.

Given that Covid-19 is also likely to be an ongoing problem for the elderly and very young babies, Peter says "it's a good idea for mothers to continue to have their whooping cough and flu shots when they're pregnant. And add to that a Covid shot to protect your newborn during those first months."



Professor Peter McIntyre

Praising the collaboration between researchers from the Universities of Auckland and Otago, Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand – Counties Manukau, the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR) and community groups, John says that Flu Lab was consistently supportive of leveraging available funding for the advancement of students and early career researchers.

Through SHIVERS-V, Peter says the Flu Lab funding has bolstered the research infrastructure and demonstrated New Zealand's strength of understanding in respiratory infections.

"It's also brought a group of new and emerging researchers into this field and given more secure funding than just the year-to-year stuff, so that's certainly a good outcome for supporting research in New Zealand."

Nikki is also particularly grateful that the importance of mixed methodology research was recognised. "You can have the best results in the world, but if you don't know how to listen to communities and apply them – what a waste of time. I think that's where we will be leading edge going forward."

Looking ahead, Flu Lab has granted additional funding, which the team wants to prioritise for collaborative and 'participatory action research'.

"What we want to do now is capitalise on what we've learned, turn it into a risk measure for an individual, for a family and for a community, and then utilise it with high-needs, high-risk communities to help them mitigate and manage flu and respiratory illness in general."

The main concern for Peter is what lies ahead. "Obviously, we don't know what the next pandemic might look like. Are we talking avian flu, some new coronavirus or one of the other viruses we don't yet know about?"

Together, this multidisciplinary team strives to uncover new influenza insights and address this annual challenge to health systems and individuals at risk for severe illness.

"We have to live with flu," says John. "We have to maintain that constant level of surveillance and protection through vaccination to ensure that flu doesn't erupt into another pandemic like Covid did." ■

Musical adventures in a Viennese café

It seems like a dream to see an opera by Mozart that no one in the world has ever seen before.

But the University's School of Music brought the dream alive for all who attended its two sell-out sessions of *Opera Scenes*, a lively and colourful production staged for the very first time last October.

Opera Scenes is a course forming part of a music degree. It is also an active experience of voice and stagecraft and plays a vital role in laying a base for students' future success.

Tenor Manase Latu, a first-class honours graduate now strongly established in his chosen career, says he's grateful to *Opera Scenes* for the skills he learnt and the memories of performing his first operatic roles.

Manase, who is now performing with the Troupe Lyrique de l'Opéra National in Paris, remembers the *Opera Scenes* performance as "a valuable experience" and "an academic highlight of every year".

For Olivia Forbes, who has just completed her Bachelor of Music with Honours, last year's production was "like a mini-opera we could all develop as a team. I felt I was bringing together my skills from all my years of study and I felt free to be bold in making creative decisions."

Students are challenged to use their skills and stretch their capabilities by helping create a new opera that resembles one they might meet in the "real world" but carries no weight of tradition and therefore invites creative interpretation.

"For young performers," Olivia says, "it provides a safe space to take risks, knowing they have the support of staff to guide them in the right directions."

"Because the story is completely different from any 'real' opera, this gives us all the opportunity to create our own characters and use all our knowledge of what we've been learning about stagecraft and production, singing and acting. Alongside the input of the creative team, it was all interactive, which was fun."

Each year, the creative team, comprising three staff, chooses scenes from different operas and moulds them together to fit the shape of a new story line. The 2024 production was an all-Mozart programme and the newly invented story was a fantastical drama set in Vienna in 1800, in a once-fashionable café that had fallen on hard times.

A welcome innovation was the string quartet of students who provided the accompaniment for this year's production.

Olivia, who has a light soprano voice and plans for a future in operatic performance, has performed for four consecutive years in *Opera Scenes*. She believes she is "set up perfectly" and has "all the tools to progress".

Funding for *Opera Scenes* was from Ensemble, with additional support from the Evelyn M Harrison Trust.



A performance of the 2024 Opera Scenes, with soprano Olivia Forbes in the centre.

Young leaders empowered by Kupe Leadership Scholarships



Francesca Long

Since childhood, Francesca Long knew she wanted to work in the public sector and find a role that pushed New Zealand forward. When it came time to choose a degree, a Master of Global Studies was the natural choice. “Global studies is transdisciplinary and allows you to really extend your mind and challenge your own assumptions,” she says. “You learn to consider different lenses – economic, historic, environmental, humanitarian – which is needed in today’s world.”

She and Daniel Stockton belong to the 2024 Kupe Leadership Scholarship cohort, a group of New Zealand’s most promising postgraduate students chosen for their academic excellence, leadership potential and passion for Aotearoa’s future. Students are carefully selected to take part in a bespoke leadership programme aimed at growing their personal and professional skillsets. As well as receiving significant financial support from individual donors, each student is matched with a prominent industry leader who provides one-on-one mentorship throughout the year.

When Francesca learned her mentor was Rachel Maidment, Auckland director of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, she was blown away. “I was totally shocked,” she recalls. “It was a dream come true.” The pair met regularly throughout the year and Francesca says it was Rachel’s guidance that encouraged her to continue pursuing her goals when she felt overwhelmed by assignments. “She reignited that passion for the public sector and heart for service. Hearing her story was also inspirational – she didn’t get where she is by luck, but by hard work.” This sentiment is likewise reflected in the success story of serial entrepreneur and Zeil founder and CEO Anna Mowbray, who funded Francesca’s scholarship and was “like a second mentor”.

The mentorship element was also a highlight for Daniel, who graduates this year with a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Bachelor of Commerce conjoint. His scholarship was funded by Orbit World Travel Auckland and his mentor was Phil Gibbons, ONZM, Director of the New Zealand Defence Force’s Institute for Leader Development. It was a fitting pairing, says Daniel, who has been a soldier in the New Zealand Army Reserve Force (ResF) since 2021. “Phil used to be Deputy Chief of Army. I couldn’t have asked for someone better.”

Over the course of 2024, the Kupe scholars came together for workshops and field trips, including a visit to the Waitangi Treaty Grounds with marae chairman Ngati Kawa Taituha. “That was an impactful memory for me,” Francesca says. “I now know the significance behind a karakia or waiata, of acknowledging the iwi of this land. It makes me proud of who I am and brings more depth to my New Zealand identity.” Daniel was inspired by a trip to Parliament in Wellington, where they had the chance to watch Question Time and talk to MPs, including Minister for Climate Change Simon Watts and Leader of the Opposition Chris Hipkins. “I loved it. It was practical, meeting influential people and understanding their processes.”



Daniel Stockton

Both Francesca and Daniel have already made the first moves in their careers. Daniel is now working as an employment law clerk at Auckland-based firm MinterEllisonRuddWatts. In February, he was commissioned as a ResF officer and is aiming to serve as a Platoon Commander in Auckland. He intends to use the knowledge he gained from being a Kupe scholar in future leadership positions he hopes to hold.

Also in February, Francesca headed to Singapore to undertake an internship at APEC Secretariat, an intergovernmental organisation promoting economic growth in Asia-Pacific. She admits it’s a big challenge, having never lived alone or left her parents for more than two weeks, but she says being a Kupe scholar helped prepare her. “I was able to go into this trip with the knowledge and confidence I’ve built not only as a leader, but as a person.” She has an internship with New Zealand Trade and Enterprise lined up for her return home and is excited to see where her career takes her. “Right now, my passion, my expertise and also my identity is connected to Asia. How can I bridge New Zealand and Asia better through relationship-building? And how can I equip myself to become a mentor for the next generation?” ■

2024 Kupe Leadership Scholars

Baraa Abuharbid
Sponsor: The McCall MacBain Foundation
Mentor: Professor Sir Ashley Bloomfield, KNZM

Caitlin Woods
Sponsor: Wright Family Foundation
Mentor: Alison Eddy, RM, RCPN, MPH

Catherine Marshall
Sponsor: The McCall MacBain Foundation
Mentor: Claudia Batten

Daniel Stockton
Sponsor: Orbit World Travel Auckland
Mentor: Phil Gibbons, ONZM

Evalessi Tu’inukuafe
Sponsor: The McCall MacBain Foundation
Mentor: David Downs

Francesca Long
Sponsor: Anna Mowbray
Mentor: Rachel Maidment

Hannah Barber-Wilson
Sponsor: The McCall MacBain Foundation
Mentor: Anahera Morehu (Ngāti Whātua, Ngāpuhi, Te Rarawa, Te Aupōuri, Ngāti Kahu)

James Corles
Sponsor: The University of Auckland Society
Mentor: Pip Cheshire, CNZM

James Hancock
Sponsor: The Kelliher Charitable Trust
Mentor: Dave Heatley

Jarrold Ong
Sponsor: New Zealand Leadership Institute
Mentor: Sam Stubbs

Maddison Lewis
Sponsor: Air New Zealand
Mentor: Hon. Justice Andrew Becroft, QSO

Mereana Wilkie
Sponsor: The McCall MacBain Foundation
Mentor: Raelene Castle, ONZM

Nathan Pinder
Sponsor: Estate of John W Turnbull
Mentor: Natalie Walker

Tessa Brunton
Sponsor: Estate of John W Turnbull
Mentor: Ziena Jalil

William Fu-Allen
Sponsor: Grant G Biggar
Mentor: Eddie Kohlhase, MNZM

Yonel Watene
Sponsor: The University of Auckland Foundation
Mentor: Dr Chris Tooley (Ngāti Kahungunu), Dip Tchg, BED, MA, PhD Camb

The Kupe Leadership Programme’s role in shaping Aotearoa’s future leaders is exemplified in the outstanding achievements of past scholars. Three students have gone on to win prestigious Rhodes Scholarships: 2023’s MBChB and BMedSc graduate Thomas Swinburn, 2020’s BSc(Hons) graduate Rhieve Grey and 2019’s BA(Hons) graduate K Dee Ma’ia’i. Additionally, 2020’s BE(Hons), BSc and BMus graduate Michael Allison was awarded a Gates Fellowship at Cambridge in 2023.



From left: Professor Merryn Tawhai, Peter Gibson, Professor Justin O'Sullivan

Alumnus bolsters world-first projects at research institutes

A rare condition is something that occurs in one in 2,000 people and there are about 7,000 known rare disorders. Rare disorders are much more frequent in neonatal intensive care – up to 30 percent of the babies who are there. Currently, that equates to around 500 babies born each year who have a rare, undiagnosed genetic disorder.

At the Liggins Institute, Professor Justin O'Sullivan is leading the Newborn Genomics project to accelerate diagnoses of rare diseases – giving more tiny fragile babies a fighting chance at a healthier life.

“For anyone with an unknown genetic disease, the uncertainty around what it is and how best to care for that person can be very stressful, not just for that person but all their whānau. When this involves a child, it is even more stressful.”

“Given that on any one day in New Zealand there are around 200 children in neonatal intensive care, and around 30 percent are likely to have a rare

genetic disorder, that's a huge number of these conditions. Presently, we can diagnose and treat a few hundred, but over time we aim to be able to treat not only newborns but also more of those in the community who are undiagnosed or do not have a treatment plan. Speed of diagnosis makes a huge and lifelong difference to these families.”

In late 2023, the Liggins Newborn Genomics team acquired two cutting-edge sequencing units, opening revolutionary genetic sequencing in New Zealand which would help extend access to faster diagnosis of rare conditions. Acute care for newborn babies in intensive care where doctors suspected some sort of genetic disorder was the

top focus. As 2024 unfolded, the team began comparing variations between a baby's DNA and that of their parents. This process, known as trio sequencing, helps to signal if a newborn has one of several hundred rare conditions.

“Within six months, we made rapid progress. Now, we can complete trio sequencing in 96 hours,” says Justin.

A significant supporter of this pioneering project is Peter Gibson, an alumnus of the University of Auckland, who graduated with a BSc in Chemistry in 1986. Peter has had a distinguished international career. After graduating, he worked with Fernz Corporation, before moving to global packaging and trading company Amcor. In 1994, Peter founded Industrial Resources, a company that supplied critical equipment and services to the oil, gas, and chemical industries worldwide. Today, Peter is the Executive Chairman and owner of Stellar Energy, a world-leading energy company developing innovative energy solutions for power, based in Florida, US.

Throughout his extensive career, Peter has maintained strong ties with his alma mater. He has attended alumni events in the US, UK and New Zealand and served as a valued board member of the UK Friends of the University of Auckland for several years.

Peter is one of three major donors, along with The Dines Family Charitable Trust and Kelliher Charitable Trust, supporting the Liggins Newborn Genomics project.

“With the support of Peter's gift and that of our other donors, we have made rapid progress. We diagnosed 17 families in 2024 and will accelerate to diagnose more in 2025,” says Justin.

In time, Peter's generosity to the University will benefit even more people with another one-million-dollar donation bolstering two world-first projects at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI). One, the Virtual Pregnancy Project, aims to improve detection of problems in pregnancy that impair babies' growth. The other, headed by Distinguished Professor Sir Peter Hunter, uses novel three-dimensional computer techniques to model the kidney, pancreas and liver from a cellular level to the whole organ. The team can then integrate this into existing models of whole systems physiology to provide unique models of

homeostasis, as part of the larger 12 Labours project.

For over a decade, Associate Professors Alys Clark and Jo James have been investigating the health of the placenta, the organ responsible for feeding babies before they are born. They have developed the world's first computerised model of pregnancy, including the placenta. They know that in around one in ten pregnancies, a baby does not grow as well as it should. In up to half of these pregnancies, the problem is not discovered until the baby is born – and, often, it's small boys who are missed.

The team are looking to improve clinical tests, most of which currently don't distinguish between whether the baby is male or female when predicting pregnancy complications.

With the support of Peter's donation, the Virtual Pregnancy group has extended its data crunching to larger cohorts, big enough to show observable differences between sexes in the anatomy of the placenta.

“We take anatomical data,” says Alys, “and using our integrated virtual pregnancy models, we can predict what impact anatomy has on things we can't measure, like blood pressure.

“To date, evidence suggests that male placentas require higher blood pressures to achieve the same blood flow rates, providing a physical mechanism that may explain risk in males.”

A new role filled by talented researcher Sahana Jayatissa is tasked with creating algorithms that, in the future, may detect these growth problems while parents-to-be are in the clinic.

Professor Merryn Tawhai, director of ABI, says the 12 Labours and Virtual Pregnancy projects, advancing the development of new digital technologies in medicine, are both highly ambitious and world-leading.

“Philanthropy is incredibly important for initiatives like these, which often face difficulties securing funding from traditional grant agencies due to their need for diverse teams and the creation of new capabilities and infrastructure.

“Peter's generous support and his genuine interest in the success of the science are invaluable and provide significant motivation for the teams.” ■



Shahed Ismael

Engineering programme develops leadership mindset

If it was ever true that engineering is all about turning hard materials into structures and machines to support human life, that is certainly no longer the case.

A look at the list of specialisations offered by the University of Auckland Faculty of Engineering makes the point. In the toolkits of budding biomedical, chemical and software engineers, for instance, you can be sure there will be no concrete and steel.

But the point is made another way too. As found by 2024 Part III engineering science student Shahed Ismael, there is value in learning soft skills quite apart from engineering's hard technical underpinnings.

Now an intern at national electricity grid operator Transpower, Shahed's degree involved operations research, data science and mechanics. But she supplemented her final year's course work by participating in the Dean's Leadership Programme (DLP) run by the Faculty.

"It fitted in really well alongside the technical aspects of my studies in lectures and labs. The DLP showed me the importance of having both soft skills and hard skills."

Now in its tenth year, the programme was founded – and largely funded – by Sir Colin Maiden, Vice-Chancellor of the University from 1971 to 1994, and before that a senior mechanical engineering lecturer and engineering student. Sir Colin died last year aged 91.

A research post at General Motors in the US, at that time the world's biggest company, gave Sir Colin the insight that was possibly the seed of the DLP's creation.

He writes in his 2008 autobiography *An Energetic Life* that among the top executives he encountered at GM were some "hard 'old bulls'" who although being practical engineers were also "inflexible and very narrow" in outlook.

While GM gave him "the best possible education in manufacturing", he also developed his management style there, "with a strong emphasis on delegation of authority and team building".

Successful though his time at GM was, Sir Colin writes that his most rewarding job was Vice-Chancellor: "Helping young people to further their education and creating an environment that encouraged staff and postgraduate students to make major research contributions in their fields of expertise."

His legacy continues in the DLP, with Shahed saying the stamp Sir Colin put on the programme remains. "It was acknowledged that how the programme is now was because of him."

With just 30 hotly contested places for Part II and III students a year, the DLP has two strands consisting of breakfast sessions with engineering industry figures and workshops.

"The breakfast sessions were very useful for getting insights into what the world looks like beyond university," Shahed says. "We met many different people at all levels, from fresh graduates to people who have been in the industry for years, and they told us about their work and about such things as the importance of leadership skills in their workforce."

Hands-on workshop sessions then gave programme participants the opportunity to see what leadership means on the job.

"The workshops had themes like leadership through partnership and leadership through change. As we tackled new topics, I began to realise things I may have overlooked such as the different personality types of the people we work with and how to handle conflict.

"The sessions involved practical, real-life work and I walked out after every one feeling like a better person – knowing more and understanding more."

Thomas Donnell, a Part II participant in the 2024 programme, also got plenty from the experience, crediting it with landing him roles this year as vice president of the Chemical and Materials Engineering Students Association and as an Engineering NZ Student Ambassador.

"One thing that sticks with me is the idea that leadership isn't a title, it's a mindset," says Thomas.



Thomas Donnell

"So no matter what your job title is within a company, whether it's a CEO or an intern, leadership is a tool you can use to achieve your shared goals as a team.

"For me, the DLP was the perfect opportunity to develop some of my pre-existing leadership skills, mainly from community leadership roles, through an industry-focused perspective, which is incredibly valuable for engineering jobs and internships."

Faculty of Engineering Dean Richard Clarke says a key aim of the DLP is to instil the idea that engineers shouldn't be looking for problems for which they have solutions but offering answers for existential challenges.

That's where soft skills come in.

"We're trying to lift people's gaze to the wider context, getting them to take a step back to see the existential problems. They need to be able to communicate with non-engineers."

The Dean says Sir Colin remained closely associated with the DLP up until his death and reserves from his funding over a decade – plus sums from donors Andrew J Clark and Rebecca Keene, Andrew Faulkner, the AUEA Endowment Fund, Fady Mishriki and Sir Ron Carter – will be used to keep the programme going and potentially expand it. ■



Tom Brady (left) and Professor Darren Svirskis

Quest to find a cure for spinal cord injury

Spinal cord injury is indiscriminate. No class, race, gender or age is immune. Nobody thinks about it until it happens to their family. Then it becomes all consuming, because it's a life sentence, and New Zealand has one of the highest rates of spinal cord injury in the Western world.

"Everyone thinks about curing spinal cord injury as like an Everest or a moon landing. Everest is particularly useful because you don't know your exact route until you leave, but you've a rough idea where you want to go. And you're exploring as you go."

Tom Brady, Programme Director of the Cure Programme at the CatWalk Trust, is describing the informally named 'Everest Goal'.

Preparing to reach that goal – to find a cure for the injured spinal cord – is based on a partnership between CatWalk Trust and a specialised group at the University of Auckland headed by Professor Darren Svirskis and known as the "Spine Squad". Together they form the Cure Programme.

This is not CatWalk Trust's first involvement with the University. A year after the Trust was established in 2005, they made their first

"CatWalk is an organisation all about people and that certainly drives and motivates you. It keeps us very focused when someone in a wheelchair is there asking, 'How's it going?' They're a wonderful sounding board, not because they're researchers but because they're an intelligent group of people from diverse areas and backgrounds who ask smart questions that often challenge us and make us reconsider how we're doing things."

research grant to Dr Simon O'Carroll, one of the few scientists in New Zealand at the time looking at spinal cord injury. In 2011, the Trust partnered with the University in establishing the Spinal Cord Injury Research Facility based in the Centre for Brain Research. The Spine Squad and Cure Programme are the next generation of research, supported by CatWalk Trust and its donors.

It was that joint initiative that attracted Darren Svirskis. Based in the School of Pharmacy, Darren's background is in drug delivery, getting drugs to where they are needed in the body. In spinal cord injury he saw an unmet need and realised there were technologies he believed could help.

In CatWalk Trust he found active rather than passive funders – a group that goes out looking for good researchers, not just in this country but internationally. In 2023, the Trust contacted Darren and asked: If money was no object, what would you do right now that would provide a tangible step in curing spinal cord injury? Darren described a programme of work, made up of different projects working as a team costing \$8.4 million over five years. The Trustees asked, "What will be delivered in five years?"

Darren's response: "We'll have an injured rat running again."

"One," says Tom, "we liked his commitment. Secondly, it was the first time ever anyone had put a line in the sand." They also liked that the research was focused on dealing with the injury and spinal cord directly – regeneration, rather than a machine to bypass or recover lost function.

From a wide range of projects, four research streams ultimately became the Cure Programme. One is to use pharmaceutical agents slowly released directly onto the spinal cord. The second is electric field treatments or electroceuticals. The third, cell-based therapies. And the fourth is ultrasound. The four streams progress in parallel,

a co-ordinated approach with the ability to pivot depending on which of the streams is showing the greatest benefit, to combine streams that are working well and prune off streams that are not.

The vision after five years is that the successful technology or combination of technologies will be ready for translation to clinical trials.

Darren and his researchers have found their face-to-face updates with the Trust very different to the more common paper-heavy reports to grant makers.

"CatWalk is an organisation all about people and that certainly drives and motivates you. It keeps us very focused when someone in a wheelchair is there asking, 'How's it going?' They're a wonderful sounding board, not because they're researchers but because they're an intelligent group of people from diverse areas and backgrounds who ask smart questions that often challenge us and make us reconsider how we're doing things."

They also, he adds, have a surprising tolerance for risk – "they understand research is research". Tom agrees. He's worked on many boards, non-profits particularly, and says CatWalk Trust is the "least risk adverse" he's known. "Because they're focused on the goal and if we deliver it, we've fulfilled our purpose and we can disband.

"We've found the environment of this University very entrepreneurial," he continues. "We're sending more money this way than anywhere else, and it's because the environment's fostering the right people. We see Darren and team at the top of the game, as world leaders. And we want to keep them together in New Zealand.

"If you think about this group as our All Blacks, everyone wants to poach an All Black. But what makes the All Blacks strong is that they are there as a team and they attract the best. And I think we've got the makings of that in the Spine Squad." ■

Local legend's legacy continues with new scholarship

Ray Wang and Emi O'Connor, inaugural recipients of the Geoff Ricketts Heartland Bank scholarship, are ready to take on University life.

A desire to save lives spurred first-year student Ray Wang to enrol in a Bachelor of Science specialising in biomedical science. His interest in a career in medicine began when two close family members were diagnosed with cancer, with one tragically passing away and the other surviving through successful treatment. It showed him the power of medicine and the possibilities it can provide.

"It's really inspirational to me, surgeons being able to save lives," he says. "It's amazing."

Biomedical science is one of two pathways into the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, which Ray hopes to qualify for, though he is also interested in optometry and medical imaging. His long-term goal is to contribute to the healthcare industry and make a difference to people's lives.

"I like to help others. In high school I did quite a lot of mentor programmes, where you work with other students and help them," he says. He plans to continue this act of service throughout his studies, applying values of "hard work, respecting others, and trying to use opportunities to improve myself, but also to benefit others".

Ray is one of four inaugural recipients of the Geoff Ricketts Heartland Bank scholarship, which was established in 2024 in memory of the late Geoff Ricketts, CNZM. Geoff was a co-founder and director of Heartland Bank, a generous philanthropist and an alumnus of the University's Law School. He became Chair of the University of Auckland Foundation when it was established in 2000 and held the position until he died in 2023. The scholarship is funded by Heartland Bank and supports first-year undergraduates studying business and economics, law or medical and health sciences.

Emi O'Connor is another inaugural scholarship recipient, studying a Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Science conjoint, specialising in information systems and statistics. Born and

raised in Japan, she moved to Palmerston North when she was in primary school. She credits her upbringing for giving her an appreciation for different ways of life.

"Growing up in a bicultural family helped me become more resilient. I really value being open to many different cultures."

This interest in multiculturalism fuelled a passion for solving real-world problems impacting those less fortunate.

"I'm passionate about giving back to developing countries. Learning about statistics and information systems will help me pursue that; data tells you a lot about the world, and my ultimate goal is to help businesses make better decisions ethically. Statistics supports this, because it identifies exactly what the problems are, so you can establish solutions theoretically and also practically."

During high school, Emi completed her Gold Duke of Edinburgh, through which she attended the 2024 Rotary Science Technology Forum, organised by the University of Auckland. There she met former senior lecturer Dr Michelle Dickinson – better known as Nanogirl – who solidified her decision to pursue science as well as business.

"She's incredibly inspiring. She goes around schools in lower-decile areas, exposes students to STEM and helps people break down diversity barriers. I'm really happy there is someone like her encouraging people to get into under-represented fields."

When she isn't studying, Emi is busy outdoors hiking, long-distance running and immersing herself in nature. She has also volunteered part-time in the SPCA's animal centre for the past three years, which she plans to continue, thanks to the scholarship's support.



Ray Wang and Emi O'Connor

"I'm very grateful to the Ricketts family and Heartland Bank. It's really motivating and encouraging knowing there are people and corporations supporting you and believing in your potential. Receiving the scholarship will significantly alleviate my student loan and allow me to continue giving back to my community."

Philanthropy also fosters a cycle of giving, says Emi, who hopes to one day offer support to people like herself, if she is in a position to do so.

Ray shares Emi's gratitude and was "speechless" when he learned he had been awarded the scholarship. He is confident it will be instrumental to the years of gruelling study ahead.

"I am deeply honoured to receive this scholarship, made possible by the legacy of Geoff Ricketts and Heartland Bank. It will greatly reduce my financial

.....
"Success is the result of consistent effort, so keep moving forward, no matter what."

burden and stress, allowing me to spend my time working hard to achieve the best grades I can get."

Like Emi, he is new to Auckland, having moved from Wellington specifically to study. He is excited to explore Aotearoa's biggest city, live in the student halls, build new connections and continue his ongoing hobby of badminton – all while making his mark on the medical world. Throughout, he intends to follow a piece of advice that has guided him over the course of his life.

"Success is the result of consistent effort, so keep moving forward, no matter what." ■

CIE alumni pledge to support innovation and entrepreneurship

As co-founder and first student CEO of the University's Velocity programme – formerly called Spark – Dr Privahini Bradoo has a special place in her heart for the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE). Now, she's one of a number of alumni who have committed to support the centre in the future, as part of a new initiative called the CIE Innovators and Entrepreneurs' Pledge.



Dr Privahini Bradoo

CIE director Darsel Keane describes the pledge as a unique opportunity for alumni to "signal their intent" to support the centre's work.

"Essentially you pledge your support now, and one day in the future if you happen to have a successful exit or a big bonus from your job, you could make a contribution to the centre," she explains.

The initiative comes after CIE celebrated its 21st anniversary in 2024. Since it was established in 2003, the centre has worked with more than 35,000 students and staff, kickstarting 292 ventures. CIE alumni have raised more than \$4.2 billion in capital and created 3,760 jobs in 195 countries.

For Privahini, who completed her PhD in neuroscience from the University of Auckland

in 2004, being part of the initiative with the intent to give back "resonated strongly" with her.

Privahini was on track for a successful academic career when she was bitten by the entrepreneurial bug. Inspired by the Catching the Knowledge Wave conference in 2001 – a meeting where the country's political and economic leaders of the time decided New Zealand needed to transform itself into a high-value knowledge-based economy – Privahini was an integral part of a group of students and professors working to cultivate entrepreneurship on campus. The result was the formation of Spark in 2003, with Privahini taking the reins as the programme's first student CEO.

"Spark was founded with the vision of turning first-class Kiwi ideas into world-class businesses, and it's amazing to see how far CIE has come since that first year towards realising that vision," she says, adding that the programme was "pivotal" in her own entrepreneurial journey. Privahini, who also co-founded Chiasma, an initiative that helps connect bioscience research with industry, says she was drawn to the entrepreneurial world by a desire "to help commercialise science towards benefitting society".

After going on to complete an MBA from Harvard Business School in 2008, Privahini, who was named University of Auckland's Young Alumna of the Year in 2012, joined LanzaTech as VP of Business Development before eventually co-founding BlueOak, an e-waste recycling company, and her current venture, Plank, which helps companies build AI-enabled engineering teams.

"If it hadn't been for Spark, I don't think I would have embarked on this journey," she says. "It was fundamental in helping shape where I am today."

"If it hadn't been for Spark, I don't think I would have embarked on this journey," she says. "It was fundamental in helping shape where I am today."

Another CIE graduate who has made a pledge is William Lockie. Currently based in London, where he is director of international marketing at the US company Life360, William remains connected to the University by helping organise alumni events in the UK. He describes his own entrepreneurial journey as being largely involved with "early-stage start-up and scale-up businesses". In contrast to the traditional start-up founder, he sees himself as an "intrapreneur" with a focus on being "an entrepreneur inside businesses".

After winning a prize in CIE's \$100k Challenge in 2012, William, who graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor of Commerce and a Graduate Diploma in Commerce, went on to become Spark's student CEO in 2013 – when the programme celebrated its ten-year anniversary. He describes the leadership experience as being "a steep learning curve", and one of the highlights of his time at University.

"It's not often that you get an opportunity as a 20-something-year-old to lead a team of 30 people."

Coming from a family of entrepreneurs, William says the CIE experience – both as a participant in the \$100k Challenge and as student CEO – helped to "expand and solidify" his interest in entrepreneurship. For him, the motivation to pledge to make a future contribution to the centre is based on a commitment to "support the future of entrepreneurship".

"This is something that had such a massive impact on my life. So to me, it's a no-brainer that when I'm at the point of being able to support things in the future, I'll do so."



William Lockie

Other alumni who have pledged include Managing Director at Apple Technology Services based in Auckland, PowerbyProxi founder and Distinguished Alumni Award winner Fady Mishriki, and founder of ISpy Nits Kate Ricketts.

Darsel says having such esteemed alumni continuing to work with CIE is hugely inspiring to current students, showing them the power and potential of entrepreneurship.

"The work we do here at CIE is all about supporting people like that and really championing their success, as well as adding fuel to their ambition – so when you see them go out there and achieve amazing things, it's really exciting."

Of course, the financial support is also hugely beneficial to the centre, says Darsel, adding: "Donor funding enables us to do things that we couldn't otherwise do." ■

Thanks to our generous CIE supporters, including:

- Tony Falkenstein
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- The Annette and Neal Plowman family
- Fady Mishriki

International showing for powerful exhibition

The University's Gus Fisher Gallery has achieved a remarkable first: an international showing for a ground-breaking exhibition launched at the gallery in June last year and developed in partnership with City Gallery Wellington Te Whare Toi.

The seeds for this success were scattered long ago, when a young student sat writing an essay about an artist's garden in the UK.

The creator of the garden, the subject of the essay – and the focus of the exhibition – was British artist Derek Jarman, world renowned not only as a brilliantly innovative painter, writer, filmmaker, set designer and gardener, but also as a potent and courageous voice for truth at the height of the AIDS epidemic in the Eighties, when homophobic prejudice and vitriol were rife.



Lisa Beauchamp

The student writing the essay was Lisa Beauchamp, now Curator of Contemporary Art at the Gus Fisher Gallery, who has vivid memories of her first encounters with Jarman's art and writing, having been lucky enough to experience his paintings "in the flesh".

"Jarman's work has an incredibly visceral power that I really connected with," she says. "I was too young to have lived through the upheavals of Thatcher's era, but through his work I could really feel the tumult of those times."

Lisa, of course, was the driving force behind the exhibition, *Derek Jarman: Delphinium Days*, which opened in both Auckland and Wellington last year, marking the 30th anniversary of Jarman's death from an AIDS-related illness. It is now open for three months to an even wider audience at UNSW Galleries in Sydney, the University of New South Wales flagship gallery.

Co-curated by Lisa, along with Aaron Lister, Senior Curator at City Gallery Wellington, and Michael Lett, the show was a powerful introduction to Jarman's full range of work for the many New Zealanders who knew him mainly through his avant-garde films. It displayed many paintings and other work never seen before in this country, as well as a wealth of photos giving an intimate account of his life. Photographer Howard Sooley, who was a trusted friend of Jarman's, helped make a selection of his work for the show, including intimate shots of Prospect Cottage and Jarman's garden in Dungeness.

This exhibition was the first to highlight Jarman's New Zealand connection. That his father was born and grew up in this country is little known and has not been referenced in other exhibitions.

"His relatives came to see the show from all over New Zealand," says Lisa. "For many, it was their first chance to see his original work."

A unique international show of this kind is a huge challenge to mount, and it couldn't have happened without its lead donors, Tony Kerridge and Michael Do, and the Delphinium Days exhibition circle and sponsors.

Its busy public programme – of workshops, discussions, and a full weekend of Jarman's films at The Capitol Cinema – was made possible through the support of the Burnett Foundation Aotearoa and The Capitol Cinema. ■

The secret lives of NZ's Hector's and Māui dolphins

Just how much do we know about our endemic Hector's and Māui dolphins? Not enough, says marine scientist Professor Rochelle Constantine. She is part of a team leading a groundbreaking research project to help better understand – and protect – these small dolphins.

Found only in New Zealand waters, the Māui dolphin in particular is in real danger of being lost forever, with only 48 remaining. Urgent action is needed to ensure their survival, says Rochelle.

"We have the opportunity to make better decisions that protect dolphins and people. But when you have a conservation concern, you don't have the luxury of time."

Most existing knowledge of the Hector's and Māui dolphins derives from above-water interactions. Rochelle and the team are using innovative technology in the form of multi-sensor digital archiving tags (DTAGs), which attach using small silicon suction cups, to 'see' beneath the surface and reveal new insight into the mammals' underwater behaviour, acoustics and movement patterns. How deep are they diving, and how fast? How far are they travelling? How much success do they have when foraging?

Already the team have learned the dolphins are travelling farther offshore than previously thought, as well as venturing into fishing zones – but more data collection is needed to expand the research in key locations with small populations of Hector's dolphins, identify threats and work to mitigate them.

"In New Zealand, we don't invest much in advanced marine research, but these tools are critical to protecting wildlife," Rochelle says. "When the ocean thrives, people thrive."

The dolphin tagging project is one of several supported by donations made through the University's appeals programme. To enable donors to give to a cause that is meaningful to them, the appeals programme offers a range of options, including the refugee scholarships and alumni scholarships appeals, which have seen continued success over several years. Despite being a new addition, the dolphin tagging project has already become one of the programme's most popular appeals – and gifts are still to come. Across the three appeals noted, there was a combined number of 744 donations in 2024, with 138 of these delivered through a new purpose-built website.

The programme encourages participation from many donors for specific causes. In the case of the dolphin tagging project, each donation could be the difference between preserving the Hector's and Māui dolphins or losing them entirely. As Rochelle says, "If we don't look after these dolphins, no one else is going to." ■



The Chancellor's Circle

The Chancellor's Circle recognises generous philanthropists who, over the years, have made important contributions to the University of Auckland. Partnerships with these generous supporters have provided opportunities for this country's most talented young people to gain a world-class education, whatever their financial circumstances, and for our researchers to create knowledge that will transform our futures.

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“This doesn’t happen very often. The gift is allowing us to do a project which, potentially, could be groundbreaking both nationally and globally.”

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“[The scholarship] motivated me to study harder and put more focus on my grades. It made me feel like I can continue my academic journey and study further.”

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– Science researcher

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“It makes me feel like there’s someone believing in tertiary students. It really does take a lot of pressure off the first year for students.”

– Engineering and Design student

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“It’s really nice to be rewarded for your passion – not just your hard work, but your passion. Something you really want to do in the future and make an impact in.”

– Business student

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– Arts and Education researcher

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Terence Tolich
Shannon Tong
John Tonkin
Lesley Topping
Eric and Patricia Tracey
Pamela Tregonning
Su Tsai
Ellen Tsao
Charlton Tse
Marcus Tsoi

John Walls
Michael Walmsley
Char-Le Wang
Zhong Hao Wang
Andrew Warrington
Pauline Warrington
Anna Washer
Joyce Waters
Adrianne Watson
Andrew Watson
Denise Watt
Piyush Wattamwar
Katherine Watts
Peter Watts
Raymond Webb
Penelope Weber
Lorne Weir
Estate of Elizabeth Harrison Welsh
John Westbrooke
Mike Whale
Sheana Wheeldon
Claire White
William White
Michael Whitehead and Felicity Barnes
Cliff Whitelaw
Richard Whitelaw
Karen Whiterod
Janet Whiteside
Raewyn Whitham
Annie Whittle
Hadley Wickham
Francis Wiehahn
John Wilcox
Professor Joanne Wilkes
Dianne Williams
Leon Williams
Hannah Williamson
Andrew Willis
William Wintle
Catherine Wishart
Neville Wishart
Edward Wong
Sandra Wong
Antony Wood
Peter Woodcock
Keith Wooldridge
Cherry Worgler
David Worsnop
Edward Wren
Eileen Wright
Elizabeth Wright
Grace Wright
Judith Wright
Megan Wynne-Jones
Julie Xu
Susanna Yau
Su Yee
Jack Yeung
Lucia Yim
Rick Yong
Catherine Young
Michael Young
Alastair Yule
Robert Yule
Nikki Zapol
Tieneke Ziegler

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 Anthony Harper
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 Aruhiko Power Engineering Excellence Trust
 Asia New Zealand Foundation
 Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
 Auckland Airport Community Trust
 Auckland Eye Ltd
 Auckland Foundation

.....
“I feel very privileged... For students, prizes and awards make a real difference financially, in assisting us to fund our studies. They also encourage us to keep working towards our goals even when facing personal challenges.”

– Law student

Auckland Hospitals Research and Endowment Fund
 Auckland Library Heritage Trust
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 Auckland Medical Research Foundation
 Auckland University Engineers Association
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 Beatrice Ratcliffe Charitable Trust

Beca
 Blackwell Residential Trust
 Bollard Charitable Trust
 Boyd Clarke Foundation
 Breast Cancer Foundation NZ
 British Council
 Buchanan Charitable Foundation

.....
“It’s humbling and I’m hugely honoured. [This funding] gives us an opportunity to do something we couldn’t do before.”

– Medical and Health Sciences researcher

Buddle Findlay
 Burnett Foundation Aotearoa
 Callaghan Innovation Research Ltd
 Cambridge University Press
 Canadian Institute for Advanced Research
 Cancer Research Trust NZ - Titikaha Rangahau i nga Mate Pukupuku
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 Chisholm Whitney Family Charitable Trust
 CHT Healthcare Trust
 Co:grow Pte Ltd
 Colliers International
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 COMET Auckland
 Commercial Communications Council

.....
“Our philanthropic funders really allow us to do the work that we can do.”

– Medical and Health Sciences researcher

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 Cure Parkinson’s NZ - Bernard and Kaye Crosby
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 Electricity Engineers’ Association of New Zealand (EEA)
 Ember Korowai Takitini
 Energy Education Trust of New Zealand
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 Ensemble Limited
 EROAD
 EuroQol Research Foundation
 EY

.....
“I’m incredibly grateful to the [scholarship] trustees, and I intend to use what I’ve learned to help me push New Zealand forward.”

– Engineering and Design student

Falkenstein UoA Business School Charitable Trust
 Fee Langstone
 Fehl Charitable Trust
 Fehl Trust
 Fendalton Eye Clinic
 Fidelity Charitable
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 Jubilee Crippled Children Foundation Trust
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 Kim ENT Limited
 Kiwiplan NZ
 Knight Associates
 KPMG
 KS Legal Ltd
 Lane Capital Group Ltd
 Lane Neave
 Leducq Foundation
 Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand
 Lilburn Trust

.....
“Funding has been absolutely instrumental in helping us learn the challenges they [women with incurable breast cancer] face, and how we can help them.”

– Medical and Health Sciences researcher

Liu Shiming Art Foundation
 Live Ocean Charitable Trust
 Lloyd’s Register Foundation
 Mansons TCLM Limited
 Masimaya Limited
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 Maurice and Phyllis Paykel Trust
 Max and Nola Knight Charitable Trust Board
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 Minter Ellison Rudd Watts
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 MSA Charitable Trust
 MYOB
 National Philanthropic Trust
 Neurological Foundation of New Zealand
 Newmarket Rotary Charitable Trust
 New Zealand Aluminium Smelters Ltd
 New Zealand Business and Parliament Trust
 New Zealand Dermatological Society
 New Zealand Institute of Architects Inc
 New Zealand Institute of Building Surveyors
 New Zealand Institute of Food Science & Technology Inc
 New Zealand Lottery Grants Board
 New Zealand Multiple Sclerosis Research Trust
 New Zealand Pharmacy Education and Research Foundation
 New Zealand Society of Gastroenterology

“Being awarded this multiple times is very meaningful. It demonstrates the importance of the work.”
 – Science researcher

New Zealand Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery
 New Zealand Superannuation Fund
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 Partridge Family Foundation Trust
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 Passe & Williams Foundation

“I had an overwhelming sense of gratitude hearing I had won the prize. It’s a blessing that supports me and allows me to focus on giving my best to my MFA journey.”
 – Arts and Education student

Penguin Random House NZ
 Perpetual Guardian
 Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand
 Potentia
 Potter Interior Systems Ltd
 Powerco Limited
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 Prudentia Law
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 Ralph and Eve Seelye Charitable Trust
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 Rockfield Trust
 RTA Studio
 Ruby’s Voice
 Rule Foundation
 Russell McVeagh
 Save Sight Society
 Science for Nature Trust
 SDHB Coalition
 Selset Education Centre
 Selwyn Foundation
 Seven
 Sightsavers International

“Philanthropic funding is so helpful when you’re doing something cutting-edge without the pilot data that standard funding requires. Somebody’s got to start, and why can’t Kiwis be first out of the starting blocks?”
 – Medical and Health Sciences researcher

Simpson Grierson
 Simpson Manufacturing Co Inc
 Siphala Foundation
 Sir John Logan Campbell Medical Trust
 Society of Petroleum Engineers
 Southlodge Investments Limited
 Specialty Papers & Films, Inc
 Spencer Foundation
 Stanford University - Wu Tsai Human Performance Alliance
 Stantec New Zealand
 Stevenson Foundation
 Student Association for the Medical Sciences
 Tamaki College
 Tamaki Health
 Taranaki Fast Five Charity Cup
 Tax Policy Charitable Trust
 Ted Manson Charitable Trust
 Te Moananui O Toi Restoration Trust
 Tentpole Family Trust
 Te Toka Tumai Auckland - Te Whatu Ora

“There’s nothing worse than having an idea, but not having the funds to buy the supplies to bring it to life... The Supply Bank definitely helped me with this achievement, as it got rid of the material cost limitations for my work this year.”
 – Arts and Education student

The a2 Milk Company
 The Ada Kathleen & Barbara Ellen Watson Scholarship Trust
 The Australia & Pacific Science Foundation
 The Boston Consulting Group
 The Braithwaite Thompson Educational Fund
 The Bruce McLaren Trust
 The CatWalk Spinal Cord Injury Research Trust
 The Chartwell Trust
 The Dines Family Charitable Trust
 The Evelyn M Harrison Scholarship Trust
 The Fletcher Trust
 The Fred Hollows Foundation Australia
 The Gerrard and Marti Friedlander Charitable Trust
 The Goodfellow Foundation
 The Gut Foundation
 The Hearing Research Foundation
 The Hynds Foundation
 The International Bonhoeffer Society
 The Japan Foundation
 The Joan Mary Reynolds Charitable Trust
 The Kate Edger Educational Charitable Trust
 The Kelliher Charitable Trust
 The Law Association of New Zealand Incorporated (TLANZ)
 The LDP Foundation

“We wouldn’t have got anywhere without them [the donor], because this is innovative research.”
 – Medical and Health Sciences researcher

The Lou and Iris Fisher Charitable Trust
 The Masfen Foundation
 The McCall MacBain Foundation
 The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
 The New Zealand Founders Society Incorporated
 The Nurture Foundation for Reproductive Research
 The Pindrop Foundation
 The Roy & Val Allen No.2 Charitable Trust
 The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners
 The Shorebirds Trust
 The Sir John Kirwan Foundation
 The Sir Thomas and Lady Duncan Trust
 The Sir William and Lady Lois Manchester Charitable Trust
 The Tindall Foundation
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The University of Auckland Foundations

The University of Auckland Foundation Group is responsible for receiving, investing and distributing gifts to support students, teaching and research at the University of Auckland.

The Group comprises the University of Auckland Foundation (Registered Charity CC10985) and the University of Auckland Medical and Health Sciences Foundation (Registered Charity CC30871).

Trustees of both boards formally meet, four times a year, to oversee and approve the use of gifts and the investment of funds, and other fiduciary duties. The Investment Committee meets quarterly to review investment policies and performance. It receives regular advice from its investment consultant, Cambridge Associates. The Audit and Risk Committee works closely with the Foundation's auditors (EY) to prepare the annual financial statements, manage risk and ensure processes are robust.

The University of Auckland Foundation Trustees 2024

- David Carter (Chair)
- Roger France ONZM (Chair – Investment Committee until 31 December 2024)
- Jonathan Mason
- Dr Arthur Morris
- Lyndy Sainsbury ONZM
- Miriam Dean CNZM, KC
- Alice Mew
- David Bridgman

The University of Auckland Medical and Health Sciences Foundation Trustees 2024

- Dr Arthur Morris (Chair)
- Associate Professor (Adjunct) John Dunn
- Professor Warwick Bagg
- Darren Manning
- Lyndsey Partridge
- Dr Kathryn Philipson
- Faye Sumner CNZM

Thank you to our international board volunteers

The UK Friends and US Friends of the University of Auckland play a crucial role in supporting our alumni engagement and fundraising endeavours overseas. Our sincere thanks to the respective boards for their ongoing commitment and support of the University in 2024 and beyond.

The US Friends of The University of Auckland Board 2024

- Dr Peter Rajsingh (Chair)
- Grant Biggar
- Privahini Bradoo (from May 2024)
- Tim Cameron
- Professor Dawn Freshwater
- Quentin Hills
- Dr Lynette Jones
- Dr Simon Talbot
- Jody Visser

The UK Friends of The University of Auckland Board 2024

- Eric Tracey (Chair)
- Natalie Baragwanath (until June 2024)
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- Lady Rosemary Buchanan
- Michael Butler (on sabbatical from 14 November 2023)
- Dr Seth Rankin
- Sean Topham
- Jon Vollemaere
- Robert Whitehouse
- Dr Penelope Brook



Foundation Investment Pools

At 31 December 2024, the University of Auckland Foundation managed funds valued at \$461.4 million across the Current Use Investment Pool (CUIP) and the Endowment Investment Pool (EIP).

Current Use Investment Pool (CUIP)

At 31 December, the CUIP had a closing balance of \$94.7 million.

The CUIP is invested in a range of investments, designed to maintain the value of the capital and provide adequate liquidity to meet short and medium-term distribution requirements. The CUIP is primarily invested in 'defensive assets', including term deposits and fixed interest.

Endowment Investment Pool (EIP)*

At the end of 2024, the EIP had a closing balance of \$366.7 million. Each endowment gift received by the Foundations is invested into, and allocated its share of, the EIP which is structured for long-term growth while also allowing for some of the investment income to be distributed to support its intended purpose, be that a scholarship, research programme or academic position. Further details on how the fund is invested and its performance are provided on the next page.

Investing donors' money responsibly

The Trustees seek to balance optimal investment returns with the goal of creating a portfolio that follows the best practices of responsible investing. Trustees will appoint fund managers who apply the principles of responsible investment and have the appropriate policies and practices in place to do so.

The Foundation will not invest in funds that invest in companies that derive any revenue from fossil fuel reserves, illegal or nuclear weapons, or the manufacture of tobacco products.

The Foundation seeks to include sustainable investment managers when institutional quality options are known and available. Trustees favour such managers, assuming they demonstrate reasonably comparable investment characteristics relative to their non-sustainability peers.

Investment in fossil fuel reserves has now effectively been eliminated from the portfolio. In the Foundation's 2024 annual fossil fuel review only 0.025% of the Foundations' investments were held in companies deriving revenue from fossil fuel reserves.

Endowment Investment Pool Performance

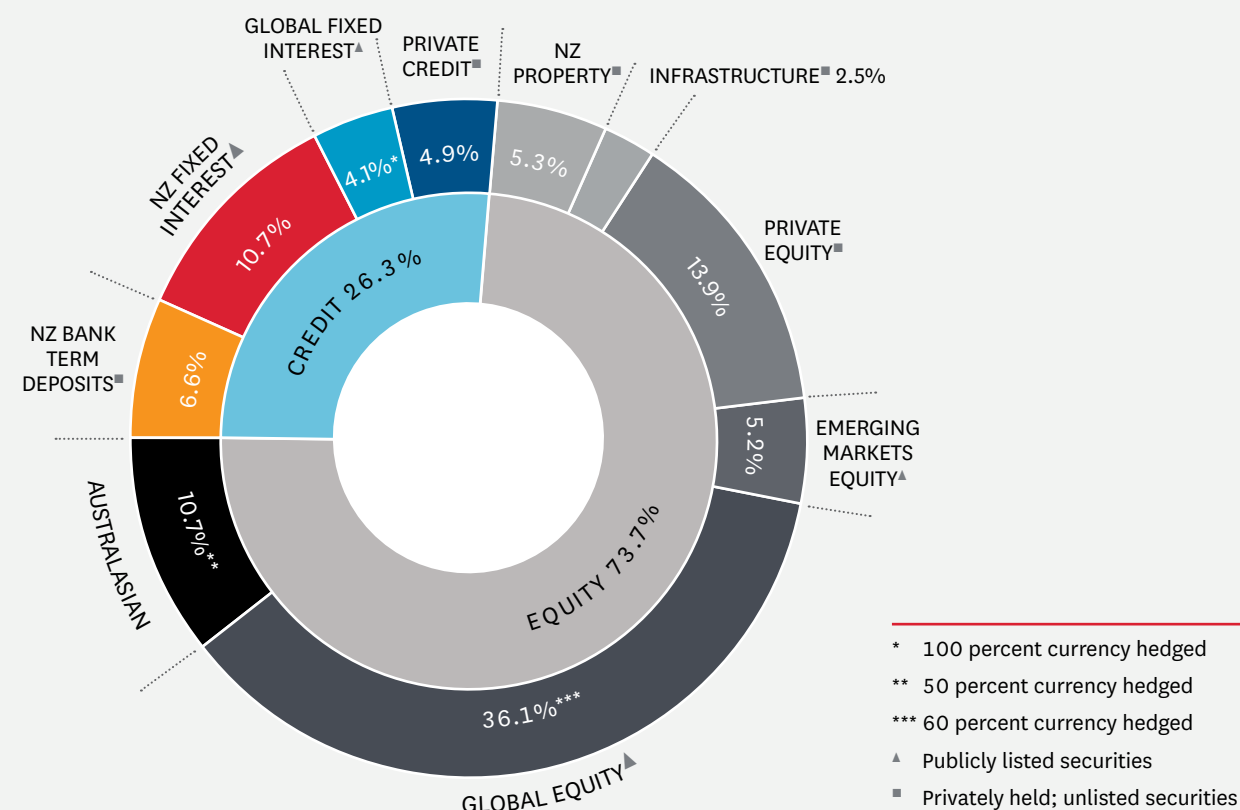
In 2024, the Endowment Investment Pool (EIP) returned 13.4%. The EIP continues to exceed our 5.0% net real return ten-year investment objective but underperformed the annual market benchmark.

The performance against benchmark in 2024 was primarily due to the fund's more limited exposure to the "Magnificent Seven" technology stocks that performed so well during 2024.

The volatility we are seeing in the markets in early 2025 serves to highlight the importance of looking through short-term returns and ensuring the fund continues to be managed prudently to deliver long-term growth.

Overview of the EIP's long-term performance

	Description	Return % per annum		
		One year	Five years	Ten years
EIP return	Actual return for the Endowment Investment Pool	13.4	7.2	8.2
Blended Benchmark	Derived benchmark reflecting the actual performance and weightings of the target asset classes in the portfolio	17.2	7.6	7.8
Investment Objective Benchmark	To deliver a real return in excess of 5.0% over a rolling 10-year period	-	-	7.8



The returns presented above across all time periods are net of fund manager fees, investment consultant fees and currency overlay.

These returns are calculated at the pool level (by Cambridge Associates) using the industry-standard, modified Dietz method. This method calculates total pool returns on a monthly basis. Each underlying investment is valued individually and a monthly weighted average return is calculated. Monthly pool returns are then extrapolated into annual returns on a time-weighted basis.

The EIP is managed cost effectively by the Foundation. It charges no fees for the internal management of the bank term deposits. The total external management and advisory fees amount to no more than 0.71 percent per annum of the EIP's average monthly balance.

The EIP represents the bulk of the Group's equity; the balance is made up of its current use and specified investment pools and operating accounts.

Summary Financial Statements 2024

In 2024, the University of Auckland Foundation and Medical and Health Sciences Foundation (together, the "Group") received \$38.6 million in gifts and made distributions of \$41.7 million.

Consolidated Summary Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense For Year Ended 31 December 2024

	GROUP*	
	2024 \$,000	2023 \$,000
Gifts and Legacies	38,575	37,601
Investment Gain	48,589	35,914
Operating Expenses	(942)	(820)
Distributions and Grants	(41,727)	(24,642)
Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expense for the Year	44,495	48,053

Consolidated Summary Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 31 December 2024

	2024 \$,000		2023 \$,000	
	Equity at the Beginning of the Year	351,553	303,500	
Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expense	44,495	48,053		
Equity at the End of the Year	396,048	351,553		

Consolidated Summary Statement of Financial Position As at 31 December 2024

	2024 \$,000		2023 \$,000	
	Current Assets	55,092	42,023	
Non Current Assets	412,680	369,930		
Current Liabilities	(71,724)	(60,400)		
Net Assets	396,048	351,553		

Represented by:

Equity at End of Year	396,048	351,533
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*University of Auckland Foundation and Medical and Health Sciences Foundation combined

The figures contained in these consolidated financial statements do not include philanthropic income received directly by the University of Auckland and only reflect cash received in that financial year.

These summary financial statements have been extracted from the Group's 2024 audited financial statements but are themselves unaudited. They are provided to give interested persons a succinct overview of the Group's financial performance. The full and audited financial statements (which give a more complete understanding of the financial performance, financial position and cash flows of the Group) are available online at "www.uoafoundation.org.nz" or may be requested in writing from Paul Cunningham, Foundations General Manager, Alumni Relations and Development, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142.



**UNIVERSITY OF
AUCKLAND**
Waipapa Taumata Rau
NEW ZEALAND

MARK BENTLEY

Director, Alumni Relations and Development
The University of Auckland
DDI: + 64 9 923 3699
Mobile: + 64 21 737 471

PAUL CUNNINGHAM

Foundations General Manager
DDI: + 64 9 923 9039
Email: p.cunningham@auckland.ac.nz

University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019
Auckland 1142

University House
19A Princes Street
Auckland Central

www.giving.auckland.ac.nz

www.uoafoundation.org.nz

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