

# Annual Report 2008



08



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**Note:** The statistical tables that in previous years appeared as appendices to the Annual Report are now provided electronically as a Data Handbook on the University's website.

# Audit Report

## TO THE READERS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY AND GROUP'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

The Auditor-General is the auditor of the University of Canterbury (the University) and group. The Auditor-General has appointed me, Julian Tan, using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand, to carry out the audit of the financial statements and statement of service performance of the University and group, on his behalf, for the year ended 31 December 2008.

### Unqualified opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements of the University and group on pages 57 to 82:
  - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
  - fairly reflect:
    - the University and group's financial position as at 31 December 2008; and
    - the results of their operations and cash flows for the year ended on that date.
- the performance information of the University and group on pages 13 to 56 fairly reflects their service performance achievements measured against the performance targets adopted for the year ended on that date.

The audit was completed on 25 February 2009, and is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis of our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Council and the Auditor, and explain our independence.

### Basis of opinion

We carried out the audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the New Zealand Auditing Standards.

We planned and performed the audit to obtain all the information and explanations we considered necessary in order to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements and statement of service performance did not have material misstatements whether caused by fraud or error.

Material misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts and disclosures that would affect a reader's overall understanding of the financial statements and statement of service performance. If we had found material

misstatements that were not corrected, we would have referred to them in our opinion.

The audit involved performing procedures to test the information presented in the financial statements and statement of service performance. We assessed the results of those procedures in forming our opinion.

Audit procedures generally include:

- determining whether significant financial and management controls are working and can be relied on to produce complete and accurate data;
- verifying samples of transactions and account balances;
- performing analyses to identify anomalies in the reported data;
- reviewing significant estimates and judgements made by the Council;
- confirming year-end balances;
- determining whether accounting policies are appropriate and consistently applied; and
- determining whether all financial statement disclosures are adequate.

We did not examine every transaction, nor do we guarantee complete accuracy of the financial statements and statement of service performance.

We evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements and statement of service performance. We obtained all the information and explanations we required to support our opinion above.

### Responsibilities of the Council and the Auditor

The Council is responsible for preparing financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Those financial statements must fairly reflect the financial position of the University and group as at 31 December 2008. They must also fairly reflect the results of their operations and cash flows for the year ended on that date.

The Council is also responsible for preparing performance information that fairly reflects the service performance achievements for the year ended 31 December 2008. The Council's responsibilities arise from the Education Act 1989 and the Crown Entities Act 2004.

We are responsible for expressing an independent opinion on the financial statements and statement of service performance and reporting that opinion to you. This responsibility arises from section 15 of the Public Audit Act 2001 and the Crown Entities Act 2004.

### Independence

When carrying out the audit we followed the independence requirements of the Auditor-General, which incorporate the independence requirements of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand.

In addition to the audit, we have carried out other assurance engagements for the University. These include a review of the University's calculation of the research overhead recovery rate, a review report to the United States Department of Education in relation to the Federal Family Education Loan Programme, and a review of the University's Performance-Based Research Fund external research income. These engagements are compatible with those independence requirements.

Other than the audit and these engagements, we have no relationship with or interests in the University or any of its subsidiaries.



Julian Tan  
Audit New Zealand  
On behalf of the Auditor-General  
Christchurch, New Zealand

### Matters relating to the electronic presentation of the audited financial statements and performance information

This audit report relates to the financial statements and performance information of the University of Canterbury (the University) and group for the year ended 31 December 2008 included on the University's website. The University's Council is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the University's website. We have not been engaged to report on the integrity of this website. We accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements and performance information since they were initially presented on this website.

The audit report refers only to the financial statements and performance information named above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to or from the financial statements and performance information. If readers of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communication they should refer to the published hard copy of the audited financial statements and performance information as well as the related audit report dated 25 February 2009 to confirm the information included in the audited financial statements and performance information presented on this website.

Legislation in New Zealand governing the preparation and dissemination of financial information may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

# 2008 at a Glance

	2005	2006	2007 <sup>1</sup>	2008
Students enrolled (Headcount) <sup>2</sup>	13 555	13 908	17 966	17 587
Equivalent Full-time Students (EFTS) <sup>3</sup>	12 654	12 090	14 646	14 777
Full-time Equivalent Academic Staff (FTE)	680	681	778	764
Staff : student ratio	1 : 18.6	1 : 17.8	1 : 18.8	1 : 19.3
<b>EFTStudents</b>				
Undergraduate – sub-degree	495	376	642	778
Undergraduate – degree	10 304	10 083	12 215	12 285
<b>Total undergraduate</b>	<b>10 799</b>	<b>10 459</b>	<b>12 857</b>	<b>13 063</b>
Postgraduate – taught	868	863	955	879
Postgraduate – research	987	768	834	835
<b>Total postgraduate</b>	<b>1 855</b>	<b>1 630</b>	<b>1 789</b>	<b>1 714</b>
<b>Total returned to Ministry of Education</b>	<b>12 654</b>	<b>12 090</b>	<b>14 646</b>	<b>14 777</b>
Plus contract teaching and unfunded PhDs	+222	+239	+82	+83
<b>Total Taught EFTS</b>	<b>12 876</b>	<b>12 329</b>	<b>14 728</b>	<b>14 860</b>
International students enrolled in degree courses (EFTStudent)	2 006	1 660	1 667	1 425
PBRF funding received	\$4.7m	\$13.6m	\$22.0m	\$22.0m
Completed PhD theses	64	83	99	129
Completed Masters theses	188	166	207	187
<b>Operating</b>				
<b>(All amounts net of GST)</b>	<b>In \$ 000</b>	<b>In \$ 000</b>	<b>In \$ 000</b>	<b>In \$ 000</b>
Government grant	\$82 716	\$79 744	\$105 730	\$111 405
Tuition fees	\$71 017	\$69 300	\$76 001	\$77 754
Research funding <sup>4</sup>	\$19 153	\$31 305	\$42 315	\$44 670
Cost per EFTStudent	\$14.9	\$16.4	\$16.7	\$17.4
Capital expenditure	\$17 998	\$19 334	\$30 071	\$49 329
<b>Financial position</b>				
Fixed assets	\$553 601	\$554 779	\$700 978	\$729 594
Net current assets (liabilities)	\$6 072	\$14 571	\$25 742	\$16 927

<sup>1</sup> 2007 increases reflect the impact of the merger of the Christchurch College of Education with the University.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes Continuing and Bridging Education non-assessed students.

<sup>3</sup> EFTStudents returned to the Ministry of Education.

<sup>4</sup> All figures include PBRF funding received.

*“2008, the 136<sup>th</sup> year of the University’s existence and the year in which we celebrated the centenary of Canterbury’s most distinguished alumnus Ernest, Lord Rutherford receiving the Nobel Prize for chemistry, was a very successful one.”*



# Chancellor's Welcome

## Welcome to the 2008 Annual Report of the University of Canterbury.

2008, the 136<sup>th</sup> year of the University's existence and the year in which we celebrated the centenary of Canterbury's most distinguished alumnus Ernest, Lord Rutherford receiving the Nobel Prize for chemistry, was a very successful one.

The University delivered high quality teaching and research to the benefit of some 17,500 students and its many stakeholder groups; its finances remained in sound shape; the capital development programme continued with several major building projects; and the merger of the Christchurch College of Education with the University began to mature.

The most significant change in 2008 was the departure of the Vice-Chancellor of the last five years, Professor Roy Sharp, who returned to Wellington in August to take up the role of Chief Executive of the Tertiary Education Commission.

Following the announcement of his departure, the University embarked on a worldwide search for a new Vice-Chancellor and in October announced the appointment of Dr Rod Carr, the Chief Executive of Jade Software Corporation and a former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank. We are delighted to have Dr Carr take up the position as he was selected from a strong field of applicants. He impressed the consultative groups representing academic staff, general staff, students and Council with his broad knowledge of the tertiary sector and our University.

My thanks go to members of the Vice-Chancellor Appointment Committee and the Registrar Jeff Field, and his Personal Assistant Kara Christie, who managed the appointment process for the University.

During the interregnum the University was ably led by Professor Ian Town as Acting Vice-Chancellor and I take this opportunity to pay credit to Professor Town for his calm, mature and balanced leadership of the University.

Significant developments during Professor Sharp's five-year tenure included the restructuring of the University into a number of Colleges, appointment of a cohort of Pro-Vice-Chancellors to head those colleges and to join the Senior Management Team, the merger of Christchurch College of Education,

initiation of a number of major building projects, notably the New Zealand ICT Innovation Institute (NZi3) and a new School of Biological Sciences.

The 2008 end-of-year financial result was a surplus of \$15.57m, representing a 5.7 per cent return on income. A number of non-cash items contributed to the surplus and there was a major contribution from interest on the University's cash holdings, a contribution which will be much less in 2009 as a result of the impact of the world-wide economic downturn on interest rates.

I acknowledge expert support from my Council colleagues, Pro-Chancellor Rex Williams, who chaired the Finance, Planning and Resource Committee, and John Simpson, who chaired the Audit and Risk Committee. Their contributions at the governance level were matched by the University's Financial Services staff, who provided comprehensive financial information to keep Council informed.

There were a number of changes to Council membership during the year. John Wood, a Canterbury alumnus and former diplomat, won election to Council through the graduate electoral body, the Court of Convocation, succeeding Superintendent Sandra Manderson who left to take up a police liaison role in Washington. Late in the year Council members Rex Williams and Trevor McIntyre were both re-elected by the graduates for further four-year terms.

The 2008 Student President, Michael Goldstein, joined the Council and served admirably, well supported by fellow student David Stevens, who provided continuity serving his second year on Council.

In July Sacha McMeeking was appointed to Council following consultation with Ngāi Tahu, succeeding Russell Caldwell.

At the end of the year Associate Professor Lou Reinsch, elected as an academic staff representative by the Academic Board, resigned to take up a position in the United States and an election will be held in 2009 to find a replacement.

Eight graduation ceremonies were held during the year with 4,105 students graduating, 2,695 of them in person. There were four ceremonies in April and three in December in Christchurch, and a December ceremony for the College of Education distance students was held in Rotorua. In addition, special celebrations were held for Māori and Pacific students.

In April an honorary Doctor of Letters degree was presented to Jonathan Mané-Wheoki, Director of Art and Collection Services at the Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa. Of Nga Puhī and English descent, Mr Mané-Wheoki studied at the University of Canterbury and London's Courthauld Institute of Art and taught art history at Canterbury from 1976 to 2003. He has made an extensive contribution to the world of art history, Māori tikanga and the arts in general in both management and governance roles.

2008 was my last year on Council having served eight years, one of them as Pro-Chancellor, and the last six as Chancellor and Chair of the University Council. It has been a privilege and an honour to have chaired the Council of this fine institution. It has been a role which I have thoroughly enjoyed and which I am sure Rex Williams, my successor as Chancellor, will enjoy just as much.

As a graduate of Canterbury it has given me special pleasure to preside over the graduation ceremonies and to have seen some 20,000 graduates celebrate completion of a Canterbury qualification. I have also enjoyed the contact with alumni at events and occasions throughout New Zealand and overseas and have appreciated their pride in their alma mater, and their support for it.

The graduates of the University of Canterbury are our best exemplars of quality, our advocates in the community, employers of other UC graduates, family and friends of our students and, increasingly, financial supporters of the University. They are a key stakeholder group and I commend the University's commitment to building enduring relationships with them.

I would like to conclude by giving thanks for the opportunity to give service to what I believe is New Zealand's finest University, and to express my appreciation of the commitment of students, staff, management, Council colleagues and the wider group of stakeholders to making Canterbury University the outstanding institution it is today.



Dr Robin Mann  
Chancellor  
February 2009

*“The financial statements show that the institution is comparatively well placed to weather the impact of current global financial issues. As a result, we are committed to major capital redevelopment projects on campus which will enhance our ability to attract world-class staff and top quality students.”*





# Vice-Chancellor's Report

**When Professor Roy Sharp left us in 2008 to take up his new role with the Tertiary Education Commission, it was vital for the University to adopt a business-as-usual approach while it searched for a successor.**

In my role as Acting Vice-Chancellor for the balance of the 2008 year, I am pleased to present an Annual Report that portrays a period of consolidation and advancement set against a backdrop of change within the wider tertiary sector. This document provides an excellent snapshot of the University's achievements in 2008, which must be credited to the spirit of diligence and dedication so evident amongst the university community.

The financial statements show that the institution is comparatively well placed to weather the impact of current global financial issues. As a result, we are committed to major capital redevelopment projects on campus which will enhance our ability to attract world-class staff and top quality students.

The University is especially committed to increasing the number of postgraduate students. In 2008 we more than doubled the number of summer research scholarships and, for the first time, made them available to students from throughout New Zealand and overseas.

Each scholarship is worth \$4,000 and allows students to spend 10 weeks on a research project during the summer recess. They are targeted at senior students who may be considering studying for a Masters or PhD degree but would like some hands-on research experience before making a commitment to further study.

Another development that was a source of particular personal satisfaction in 2008 was the Canterbury District Health Board's (CDHB) agreement with the University to fund up to 8 health-related masters research projects.

The agreement gives UC students the opportunity to work on real-world health issues; allows the CDHB to have access to our world-class researchers; and increases the University's contribution to the advancement of health services. Canterbury University is recognised nationally as a leading provider in a number of allied health fields. This agreement will allow us to build on these strengths.

During the year that we celebrated the centenary of Ernest, Lord Rutherford receiving the Nobel Prize for chemistry, the University formalised its relationship with Rutherford's Den, a multi-media visitor experience celebrating the life and work of one of our most illustrious graduates.

UC became naming rights sponsor for the Den with a three-year sponsorship agreement that will ensure the Den continues to educate and tell the story of Rutherford's days at Canterbury College and how he went on to become one of the greatest scientists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

As much as we like to reflect on the successes of Rutherford and other alumni, the University is very mindful of the need to plan for the future. In 2008 the Senior Management Team began to engage with staff and students on the development of a long-term strategic plan which now awaits the input of the incoming Vice-Chancellor.

One of the key elements of our long-term planning has been the development of a Sustainability Strategy for the University which was approved by the Senior Management Team in late 2008. In partnership with the University of Adelaide, we plan to position UC as a leader in sustainability teaching, research and community outreach.

Another element of the University's strategic planning is its relationship with Māori and commitment to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. In September 2008 we were delighted with the response to the South Island's first multi-disciplinary, pan-tertiary institution, Māori-focused research symposium, Ngā Kete a Rāhua, which was hosted by the University.

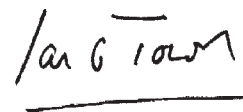
Some 350 people attended the two-day event, including academics, postgraduate and undergraduate students, iwi, and representatives from government institutions and industry. Almost 100 papers were delivered on topics from a wide range of disciplines including Māori and indigenous studies, education, health sciences, humanities, law, business and economics, politics, science, technology, engineering and tourism.

The official launch of the southern hub of Ako Aotearoa, the National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence, based at UC's College of Education, was another highlight of 2008. While UC's research capabilities are an important element of the University's strong international reputation, so too is its teaching excellence. Our commitment to the advancement of teaching is reflected in our involvement in Ako Aotearoa, which is part of a \$20 million government initiative to boost the quality of teaching in the tertiary sector.

The aim of the centre is to help educators and organisations deliver the best educational outcomes for learners by supporting the development of teaching expertise. The Southern Hub is one of three regional centres. The national centre is based in Wellington.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the considerable support of my Senior Management Team colleagues and the wider university community in 2008, who can all be proud of their achievements during a year of notable change.

In particular I would like to pay tribute to Professor Scott Davidson (PVC Law and Student Services) who resigned in late 2008 to take up a new leadership role at Lincoln University in the UK and Professor Ian Shaw who is due to complete his term as PVC College of Science in early 2009 and who will take up a new role as Professor of Toxicology in the Department of Chemistry.



*Professor Ian Town  
Acting Vice-Chancellor  
February 2009*

# University Mission and Vision

## Mission

### Whāia te matauranga

**Above all, seek after learning**

The University of Canterbury comprises its staff, students, graduates and alumni. The University of Canterbury Act 1961 describes the purpose of the University as existing “for the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination and maintenance thereof by teaching and research.” This is carried through to the Education Act 1989 and informs the mission of the University.

Our purpose within the international community of scholars is to advance knowledge by research; to maintain and disseminate this knowledge through teaching, publications and critical debate; to confirm outcomes through the awarding and conferring of degrees, diplomas and certificates; to serve as a repository of knowledge and expertise; and to act as critic and conscience of society.

Our purpose within the New Zealand tertiary sector is to contribute to a tertiary education system that is characterised by excellence, relevance, academic freedom and improved access for all; to work with others to enrich intellectual discourse, educational quality and research activity; and to contribute to the intellectual, cultural, social and economic life and well-being of our city, region and nation.

Our purpose as a university of Aotearoa New Zealand, acknowledging the Treaty of Waitangi in all our activities, is to respond and contribute to the educational, research and development needs and aspirations of Māori, as tangata whenua.

## Vision

### Tangata tū tangata ora

**People prepared to make a difference**

Since its founding the University of Canterbury and its people have made a difference locally and globally. Proud of that past, we now look to the future with fresh vision that blends the best of Canterbury tradition with the innovation necessary for success in a changing world. People are crucial to this process – people who are prepared to make a difference.

We will make a difference by the diligence we bring to our studies; the passion and rigour we bring to our teaching and research; the inclusiveness and transparency we bring to our decision-making; the pride we bring to our administrative tasks; the dedication we bring to service; and the courtesy, collegiality and respect we bring to our interactions.

We will make a difference to our city, region and nation by the quality of our graduates; the relevance and excellence of our research; the inspiration of our creative arts; the positive impact of our collaboration with others; the strength of our bonds with community, business, industry, and government; and the leadership we show in Treaty, equity and environmental issues.

We will make a difference internationally by enhancing the Canterbury tradition of world-class research and scholarship; working with selected overseas institutions; providing a welcoming destination for international students, and sending out well-equipped graduates who are prepared to make their mark on the world stage.



# Council Membership 2008

## The composition of the University Council in 2008 was:

<b>Council Members</b>	<b>First Appointed</b>	<b>Current Term Appointed</b>	<b>Ending</b>
<i>Four Persons Appointed by the Minister</i>			
Dr B Robin Mann	2001	2005	2008
Ms Ferne Bradley	2007	2007	2009
Ms Wendy Ritchie	2005	2005	2009
Mr John C Simpson	2001	2005	2009
<i>Acting Vice-Chancellor</i>			
Professor Ian Town	2008	2008	2009
<i>Three Members of the Academic Staff</i>			
Associate Professor Jim Tully	2007	2007	2010
Associate Professor Lou Reinisch	2008	2008	2008
Professor Steve Weaver	2007	2007	2010
<i>One Member of the General Staff</i>			
Mr Michael R Shurety	2003	2003	2010
<i>Two Students</i>			
Mr Michael Goldstein	2008	2008	2008
Mr David Stevens	2008	2008	2008
<i>One Member Appointed in Consultation with the Employers' Federation</i>			
Dr Paddy Austin	2003	2007	2010
<i>One Member Appointed in Consultation with the Combined Trade Unions</i>			
Ms Chris Wilson	2003	2003	2010
<i>One Member Appointed Following Consultation with Ngāi Tahu</i>			
Ms Sacha McMeeking	2008	2008	2010
<i>Two Members Appointed by the Council</i>			
His Hon. Judge Colin Doherty	2005	2005	2008
Mr Syd Bradley	2007	2007	2011
<i>Four Graduates Elected by the Court of Convocation</i>			
Ms Anna Crighton	2007	2007	2010
Mr Trevor J McIntyre	2005	2005	2008
Mr Rex Williams	2006	2006	2008
Mr John Wood	2008	2008	2010

# Achievements and Awards 2008

## **National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence**

In February the Southern Hub of Ako Aotearoa, the National Centre for Tertiary Teaching Excellence was launched at the University's College of Education. Established in 2006, Ako Aotearoa is part of a \$20 million government initiative to boost the quality of teaching in the tertiary sector. The aim of the regional hub is to help educators and organisations deliver the best educational outcomes for learners by supporting the development of teaching expertise. The Southern Hub is one of three regional hubs – the others are in Auckland and Palmerston North. The national centre is in Wellington.

## **Encouraging and supporting innovation**

In March University of Canterbury researchers were awarded more than \$6 million in the inaugural round of the Tertiary Education Commission's Encouraging and Supporting Innovation (ESI) Fund. The projects included collaboration with Lincoln and Otago universities on developing entrepreneurial skills in science students, and a project to rejuvenate and economically transform the seafood industry through research and teaching collaborations. Four other projects with University involvement saw the establishment of the National Energy Research Institute, the New Zealand Centre for Sustainable Cities, a new National Māori Language Institute called Te Ipukarea, and a new National China Research Centre. In November, the University's earlier success with ESI funding was added to when a joint water management initiative between Canterbury and Lincoln universities and a University project to develop virtual training environments were awarded about \$3 million from the second round of ESI funding for the year.

## **Top Achiever scholarships**

Seven University of Canterbury doctoral students were awarded scholarships worth nearly \$680,000 in the first Top Achievers Doctoral Scholarships round for the year in March and a further eight students netted nearly \$750,000 worth of scholarships in the August round. The Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarships are awarded to students undertaking research in a variety of disciplines at New Zealand or overseas tertiary institutions. The scholarships are administered by the Tertiary Education Commission.

## **National and international accolades**

During the year University staff in Geography, Psychology and Geological Sciences received significant recognition for their work. In May, geographer Dr Dierdre Hart received the 2008 Zonta Science Award in acknowledgement of her role as a leading female scientist. In August Professor Rob Hughes (Psychology) was awarded the New Zealand Psychology Society's Hunter Award for excellence in research and, at the same time, his colleague Associate Professor Neville Blampied received the Society's Adcock Award for valuable and significant contributions to psychology. In December the International Association of Emergency Managers awarded Professor Jim Cole (Geological Sciences) the 2008 Academic Recognition Award for his significant contribution to the formal education of students pursuing careers in emergency management.

## **Pioneering timber engineering research**

In June the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology approved a \$10 million research programme based on pioneering timber engineering research undertaken at the University. The new funding established the Structural Timber Innovation Company Ltd (STIC) which will develop large-span timber buildings for a wide range of uses in New Zealand, Australia and further afield. The Government will provide funding for five years, matching the \$5 million investment from industry partners.

## **FRST research funding**

In July three projects led by University researchers were awarded more than \$10 million in the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology main investment round for the year. The projects include the creation of a New Zealand industry supplying spectral X-ray detector systems to the international research and medical imaging markets, the development of technologies for production of hydrogen-rich syngas and second generation bio-liquid fuel, and research into the integration of renewable energy sources and its impact on power quality. Each of the projects' industry partners also contributed funding, taking the total to more than \$11 million.

## **Young Scientists of the Year Awards**

In August Canterbury University PhD student Gwenda Willis won the Science and our Society category award in the 2008 MacDiarmid Young Scientists of the Year Awards for her research into sex offender recidivism. The MacDiarmid Awards are presented annually by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology and celebrate the achievements of New Zealand's future leaders in science.

## **World university rankings**

In October the University's placing in the Times Higher Education-QS World University Rankings improved from 188 to 186-equal, only one of two New Zealand universities to see an improvement in rankings between 2007 and 2008. The rankings, which are prepared by QS Quacquarelli Symonds Ltd for the Times Higher Education, are determined by peer review, recruiter review, international faculty ratio, international student ratio, student faculty ratio and citations per faculty. Canterbury is one of only three New Zealand universities in the Top 200 list for 2008.

## **Māori research symposium**

In September the University staged the South Island's first multi-disciplinary, pan-tertiary institution, Māori-focused research symposium, Ngā Kete a Rāhua Inaugural Māori Research Symposium Te Waipounamu. Around 350 people attended the two-day event, including academics, postgraduate and undergraduate students, iwi, and representatives from government institutions and industry. Almost 100 papers were delivered on topics from a wide range of disciplines including Māori and indigenous studies, education, health sciences, humanities, law, business and economics, politics, science, technology, engineering and tourism.

## **Commendation for Sir Tipene O'Regan**

Sir Tipene O'Regan, the University's Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori), received a Special Commendation at the 2008 Champion Canterbury Awards in September. The annual awards celebrate the excellence and enterprise of business in the Canterbury region. Sir Tipene, a company director, academic and Ngāi Tahu kaumatua, received the commendation from Prime Minister Helen Clark. He received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree and in 1998 delivered the prestigious Macmillan Brown Memorial Lecture.



Jennifer Haskell will use the Woolf Fisher Scholarship to work towards her PhD at the University of Canterbury.



Professor Peter Steel, recipient of the University of Canterbury Research Medal.



Rod Carr, new Vice-Chancellor.

### **Marsden funding**

University of Canterbury projects in a range of areas, from carbon neutrality and aquatic ecosystem dynamics, to sustainable peace in the South Pacific, were awarded more than \$7 million in this year's Marsden Fund round announced in October. In all, the University received grants for 11 research projects. The Government-funded awards are administered by the Royal Society of New Zealand on behalf of the Marsden Fund Council.

### **FRST postdoctoral scholarship**

In August Dr Hema Nair (Forestry) was granted a Foundation for Research, Science and Technology Postdoctoral Fellowship, worth \$273,000 over three years. Dr Nair is researching whether different chemicals used in the forestry industry could be contributing to the formation of spiral grain in radiata pine. Dr Nair was one of 14 researchers nationwide to receive a FRST fellowship. It includes an annual stipend plus allowances for research costs and ongoing skills development.

### **Woolf Fisher scholarship**

In November engineering student Jennifer Haskell was awarded a Woolf Fisher Scholarship which, at a total value of \$300,000, is one of the most valuable scholarships awarded in New Zealand. Jennifer, who will graduate from the University in April 2009 with a Bachelor of Engineering honours degree, plans to move to the University of Cambridge, UK, to conduct PhD research on seismic design of foundations.

### **Lord Rutherford centenary**

2008 was the centenary year of Ernest, Lord Rutherford receiving his Nobel Prize for Chemistry. As the University of Canterbury's most distinguished graduate, his achievements were celebrated by his alma mater throughout the year. Activities included a national schools poster and essay competition, the publication of a centennial calendar, the digitisation of the University's Rutherford archival files, and public lectures by Rutherford's great-granddaughter, Professor Mary Fowler, Professor of Geophysics at the University of London, and Professor Robert Grubbs from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), a Nobel laureate himself and former Visiting Erskine Fellow at the University.

### **University Research Medal**

The University of Canterbury Research Medal for 2008 was awarded to Professor Peter Steel (Chemistry). The medal is awarded annually for excellence in research and the presentation was made during one of the December graduation ceremonies. Professor Steel is among the elite research workers internationally in his field. Over the last 20 years he has made seminal contributions in several areas of chemistry with significant academic impact. They include organic chemistry, co-ordination chemistry, organometallic chemistry and x-ray crystallography.

### **University Teaching Awards**

Teaching excellence was recognised in April and December with the awarding of University of Canterbury Teaching Medals for 2007 and 2008. The two recipients were Associate Professor Tim Bell (Computer Science and Software Engineering) and Associate Professor Roger Nokes (Civil and Natural Resources Engineering). In December it was also announced that seven teaching awards will be presented to staff at next April's graduation in recognition of their outstanding teaching achievements. The recipients are: Professor Bill Davison (Biological Sciences); Richard Fisher (Accounting and Information Systems); Gina Haines (Literacies and Arts in Education); Dr Alex James (Mathematics and Statistics); Professor Lucy Johnston (Psychology); Professor Eric Pawson (Geography); and Dr Gareth Pritchard (History).

### **New Vice-Chancellor**

In October, Dr Rod Carr was appointed the next Vice-Chancellor of the University of Canterbury. Dr Carr replaces Dr Roy Sharp who left the University in June following his appointment as Chief Executive of the Tertiary Education Commission. The Vice-Chancellor designate will take up his new position in February 2009.

# Statement of Responsibility



Chancellor, Rex Williams



Vice-Chancellor, Rod Carr

In terms of Section 155 of the Crown Entities Act 2004 we hereby certify that:

- We have been responsible for the preparation of these financial statements and statement of service performance and for the judgements used therein; and
- We have been responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of financial reporting; and
- We are of the opinion that these financial statements and statement of service performance fairly reflect the financial position and operations of the University for the year ended 31 December, 2008.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rex Williams'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chancellor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rod Carr'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Vice-Chancellor

Date: 25 February, 2009