

Chancellor's Welcome

Members and friends of the University of Canterbury, tēna koutou, tēna koutou, tēna koutou katoa.

2014 marked the close of one of the most significant chapters in the history of our University. In consequence, we regained control of our own destiny.

Throughout 2015, UC deployed its restored autonomy and enhanced financial resources to good effect. Significant further progress was made in pursuit of key strategic objectives, particularly the transformation of the Ilam campus through modern, new and redeveloped facilities. The first of these — the Canterbury Engineering the Future project — will be available for research, learning and teaching during 2016. Others, in science and education, are scheduled to become available in 2017 and 2018. A major priority is to demolish the UCSA complex, and build a streamlined, student owned and operated new centre.

There is vibrancy in the air, generated by those conscious post-earthquake decisions, to maximise development opportunities, to recover student numbers, and to restore the viability of the institution as quickly as possible. There are still tough challenges ahead but UC is, right now, an inspirational, international, interesting, and rewarding place to be. Increasingly we are looking towards the University's 150th anniversary in 2023, and are catching tantalising glimpses of what more our already world-class University will have become in just seven years' time. Future development of the campus will be guided by the Campus Master Plan, a living document under continuous review by management and Council, which outlines key projects to 2023 and out to 2048.

A key piece of work for the Council in 2015 was the Post Settlement Review (PSR), which followed UC's settlement in 2014 of its post-quake insurance claim for \$550 million, and takes into account the up to \$260 million new capital provided by the Government. The PSR prioritises UC's capital spending on infrastructure and technology projects, and has helped determine the spending decisions incorporated into the 2016 budget.

Late in the year the University Council led the way among New Zealand universities in adopting its new constitution and reducing its size — from 20 members to 12 — following passage of the enabling Education Amendment Act (No.2), 2015. Through its own earlier review, and decisions, the Council was well-placed to move quickly.

The 12 positions on the new UC Council include four ministerial appointments, members of academic and general staff and students appointed after elections, a Ngāi Tahu appointment, the Vice-Chancellor, and three Council appointments, two of whom must be graduates of the University. The Chancellor and Pro Chancellor continue to be elected by Council from among its members.

Catherine Drayton, Bruce Gemmell, Tony Hall, and Sue McCormack, were reappointed from the former Council by the Minister for Tertiary Education. Professor Roger Nokes was appointed after an election by academic staff, and Malcolm Peterson Scott after an election by general staff, membership of both with effect from August 2015. James Addington, the incoming UCSA President, was appointed following an election by students in October 2015. Peter Ballantyne, Warren Poh and I were reappointed by the Council. University Vice-Chancellor Rod Carr is a member ex-officio.

The outgoing Council members have undertaken much work and contributed to many critical decisions in recent years. I thank Jo Appleyard, Dr Duncan Webb, Dr Andy Pratt, Professor Simon Kemp, Judge Colin Doherty, outgoing UCSA president Sarah Platt, David Ivory and Michael Shurety for their individual and collective contributions. The new Council will miss the former Ngāi Tahu representative, Sacha McMeeking, although the University retained her substantial expertise and experience through her appointment to the University staff. The Council is in consultation with Ngāi Tahu regarding Sacha's successor.

In November 2015, Sue McCormack was re-elected Pro-Chancellor, and I Chancellor, both for two year terms. As I begin my sixth year as your Chancellor, I am honoured to continue to lead the University Council.

In 2015 the University Council bestowed five honorary doctorates, the highest awards in its statutory authority to make.

At the April graduation ceremonies Superintendent Sandra Manderson, the first female Police District Commander appointed in New Zealand, and Canterbury District Commander from 2002-2007, was awarded a Doctor of Laws. Diplomat Rosemary Banks, who recently held the position of New Zealand's Ambassador to France and Permanent Representative to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, was awarded a Doctor of Literature. She was formerly New Zealand's permanent representative to the United Nations in New York. Ambassador Banks is a Senior Adjunct

Fellow in Political Science. Icebreaker clothing and former Air New Zealand chief executive Rob Fyfe, one of New Zealand's most influential business leaders, was awarded a Doctor of Commerce.

At its December graduation ceremonies the University Council conferred a Doctor of Science (honoris causa) on Professor Roy Kerr, and a Doctor of Engineering (honoris causa) on John Matthews.

Professor Kerr is a mathematician best known for discovering the Kerr vacuum, an exact solution to the Einstein field equation of general relativity. Since receiving his Honorary Doctorate Professor Kerr has been jointly awarded the 2016 Crafoord Prize in Astronomy by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. John Matthews is a brilliant engineer and successful businessman, known for his tireless support for students, the arts and the community. He continues to be an innovator in the development of globally unique bituminous products and road surfacing systems. He has helped turn the artistic ideas of the acclaimed sculptor Len Lye into physical reality, and is the force behind the beautifully designed Len Lye Centre in Taranaki.

2015 was a tremendous year for overall academic achievement at UC. 3,812 degrees, diplomas and certificates were awarded to 3,513 students, with particularly strong post-graduate results across the faculties.

David Schiel was recognised as a Distinguished Professor, a title reserved for UC staff who have demonstrated world-class academic leadership and achievements of the highest international standing, bringing to five the number of UC academics recognised at this senior professorial rank.

UC is a world-class research-led learning institution. Its annual Teaching, Research and Innovation Medals are the highest recognition of excellence the Council can extend to its academic staff. These awards embody the University's vision: people prepared to make a difference — tangata tū, tangata ora.

Professor Jennifer Hay (Language, Social and Political Sciences), Director of the UC-based New Zealand Institute of Language, Brain and Behaviour, specialising in the analysis of words and sounds, was awarded the University's 2015 Research Medal. Professor Hay was also elected Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, and was a finalist in the Women of Influence 2015 awards.

Professor Julia Rucklidge received the Ballin Award for her contributions to clinical psychology, and was also a 2015 Women of Influence finalist.

Associate Professor Rick Beatson received the University's 2015 Innovation Medal for his work with ARANZ Geo and ARANZ Medical — companies which won both their categories at the 2015 Champion Canterbury Awards. His work with mathematical algorithms has had practical application in the mining and medical fields, and resulted in the creation of numerous jobs in Christchurch and overseas. The Innovation Medal recognises excellence in transforming knowledge and ideas so they can be adopted by the wider community.

In 2015 for the first time, two teaching medals were awarded. Professor Ursula Cheer is a nationally recognised leader in research in law pedagogy. Professor Cheer will take up the role of Dean of the Law School from January 2016, the only female Dean of Law in New Zealand. Dr Herb de Vries is a world-renowned management and entrepreneurship academic, who was also the recipient of a national Ako Aotearoa Tertiary Teaching Excellence award in 2015.

Composer Dr Patrick Shepherd's quake symphony was performed at the Christchurch Schools' Music Festival. Professor Angus Hikairo Macfarlane and Dr Herb de Vries, each received an Ako Aotearoa Teaching Excellence Award. Andy Buchanan Professor of Civil Engineering, won three awards for his work on multi-storey timber buildings — technology that will feature in some of UC's own redevelopments. Distinguished Professor of Philosophy Jack Copeland was named 2016 winner of the Covey Award by the International Association for Computing and Philosophy.

UC was awarded \$21.5 million to run the Quake Centre of Research Excellence for earthquake resilience. Its deputy director, Professor in Earthquake Engineering Brendon Bradley, received the TC203 Young Researcher Award. Professor Bradley and Dr Daniel Stouffer received UC Early and Emerging Career Researcher Awards.

UC researchers were awarded \$4.1 million in 2015 Marsden Fund grants. UC researchers continued building the world's first human colour x-ray scanner.

The Erskine Fellowship programme brought 75 international academics to teach at UC, and 10 UC students and staff received Fulbright awards to study abroad.

There was an inspirational opportunity for me to open the University of Canterbury Rose Centre for Stroke Recovery and Research at Christchurch's St George's Hospital. The Centre, headed by the University's Professor

Maggie-Lee Huckabee, was made possible by a donation from the Rose family through the Canterbury Medical Research Foundation.

An equally inspirational event was the re-naming by the University Council, with the approval of his widow, Kirsteen Britten, of the College of Engineering office in honour of trailblazing Christchurch innovator and engineer, John Britten. 2015 marked the 20th anniversary of John Britten's early death at age 45.

The generous gifts of many people — alumni, supporters and friends — continue to enable UC to offer an exceptional and in a number of ways, unique experience for our students, giving them tools to develop personally and professionally and to become those people prepared to make a difference.

In particular I would like to thank the volunteer boards of our three charities led by Barry Ramsay, Chair of the University of Canterbury Foundation, Professor David Teece, President of the University of Canterbury Foundation in America Inc and Professor Robin Clark, Chair of the University of Canterbury New Zealand Trust in the United Kingdom. In 2015 these charities received from our friends and alumni more than NZ\$8 million in donations in support of scholarships, research and teaching, building and facilities and community outreach programmes.

More than one thousand alumni joined us at receptions in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, China, Australia, Indonesia, Wellington and Auckland, with over 2,500 attending lectures, events and activities on the Ilam campus. We are very grateful to our overseas hosts Tan Sri Dr Ngau Boon Keat, Tony Wong, Richard Tankersley, David and Leigh Teece and Craig and Kirsten Nevill-Manning for their hospitality and friendship throughout the year.

The University continues to be immensely grateful to its staff, students, the Christchurch and Canterbury communities, alumni and friends at home, and around the world for their involvement, advocacy and support. They are the guarantee of our bright future.

The University of Canterbury is well positioned for what will be a pivotal year in 2016. We await with interest the results of intensive efforts and the many programmes to significantly rebuild student numbers. Tangible evidence of the transformation of the Ilam campus is all around us, as we start the countdown towards progressive opening and re-opening of major facilities over the next three years.



Dr L. John Wood

In this spirit, I was humbled in December to be asked to deliver a keynote address at the reopening of the Great Hall and re-dedication of the Memorial Window to our war dead at our original home at the Arts Centre. 2016 will see a modest return to our roots there, as we take possession of the former Chemistry Building to house the Logie Collection of Greek and Roman antiquities, the Classics department and UC Music.

Finally, let me express on behalf of the University its gratitude for the Government's helpful and proactive support throughout, as we have devised, financed and begun strongly to implement our UC Futures programme. The Governance Oversight Group, established by our Funding Agreement with the Crown, under its independent Chair, Garry Wilson, and including senior representatives of the Tertiary Education Commission, the Ministry of Education and the UC Council has been particularly effective in this context.

The developments I have outlined, and the University's very special holistic learning experience, mean that each year, our graduates are ready to connect and contribute to their community and the world. As we begin 2016 it is important to pause and acknowledge the significant progress of your University over the last few years, and to look forward with full confidence to 2023, by which time we will have that much more to celebrate.

Dr L. John Wood
Chancellor Te Tumu Kaunihera