

# Chancellor's Welcome

## Te Mihi a te Tumu Kaunihera



Dr L. John Wood

### Members and friends of the University of Canterbury | Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha (UC), tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, kia ora tātou katoa.

At this time last year I said 2017 would be the beginning of a new and exciting chapter in the long history of UC. We did better than that. 2017 has been a year of achievement as we execute our ambitious transformation strategy and grow the University back to its pre-earthquake dimensions. There is a palpable air of optimism on campus as the building projects are completed and significant progress is made on delivering our graduate profile.

The Canterbury Engineering the Future (CETF) project has delivered modern, fit-for-purpose laboratory facilities for our Engineering students. The Engineering Core, a learning commons area that is warm and welcoming, attracts students engaging in group work or individual study at any time of the day or night. In November the Core provided a stellar venue for the 2017 Chancellor's Awards Dinner and UC Council Awards, celebrating the CETF project, and the 130th anniversary of the founding of the College of Engineering | Te Rāngai Pūkaha.

The Ernest Rutherford building, the first stage of the Rutherford Regional Science and Innovation Centre, has emerged from a sizeable hole in the ground to become an attractive and user-friendly building housing state-of-the-sciences laboratories for our students as well as for high school students and our research partners. The second stage involves demolition of the von Haast building and construction of a four-storey facility using innovative timber technology developed on

campus, to provide workspaces for academic staff and postgraduate students from early 2019.

The College of Education, Health and Human Development | Te Rāngai Ako me te Hauora will move to remodelled space on the Ilam campus in 2018 along with the Centre for Entrepreneurship and our Executive Development Programme. The move of the College to the Ilam campus will unite the academic community of the University on one campus for the first time, enhancing opportunities for collaboration and cooperation in teaching and research.

In response to increasing demand for student accommodation, the University secured, Mr Peter Holdsworth developed and opened the Kirkwood Avenue Hall, a 68-bed self-catered accommodation hall. The Hayashi complex, totalling 90 rooms including 10 self-contained units beside the Sonoda complex, was completed in time for the 2018 student intake, and further accommodation projects will be developed in the coming years.

This year has seen the University formalise its partnership with the University of Canterbury Students' Association (UCSA). Work is advancing well on Haere-roa, the modern, lean, fit-for-purpose new home for students replacing the 1960s building on the same site. Our students have a fundraising campaign under way to close a funding gap and ensure that their new centre is majority student-owned and operated. They have already waited too long for, have earned and thoroughly deserve their new facilities. I urge you all to join us in supporting their cause.

In parallel with these infrastructural developments, and in a number of ways more challenging, complex and important than them, the University continues work on its graduate profile programme to ensure a unique package of experience and learning opportunities is available to our undergraduates. Historically the University required graduate profiles for all of its awards but did not have an institution-wide framework in place. A UC-wide Graduate Profile has been articulated that will progressively apply to all undergraduates. Our graduates will be: critically competent in a core academic discipline of their choosing; employable; innovative and enterprising; biculturally competent and confident, in a multicultural world; engaged with the community; and globally aware and connected. Learning outcomes related to

these attributes are now embedded in all UC undergraduate programmes. I believe this exciting and distinctive initiative may well be as significant a legacy as the physical transformation of our university.

In 2017, the University Council awarded four honorary doctorates to four distinguished alumni. In December, former Prime Minister the Right Honourable Sir John Key was awarded a Doctor of Commerce (honoris causa) degree to recognise his achievements in business and politics and his support for the University, personally and as Prime Minister following the 2010–11 Canterbury earthquakes. In April three awards were made. Mr Peter Holdsworth was awarded a Doctor of Engineering (honoris causa) degree. He is recognised as an innovative engineer, noted entrepreneur and inventor and founder of an internationally successful technology manufacturing company. Dr Julie Maxton was awarded a Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) degree. She is an outstanding scholar of the law of equity and trusts. She was the first woman to hold the position of Registrar of the University of Oxford and is currently the first woman Executive Director of the London-based Royal Society. Ms Pip McCrostie was awarded a Doctor of Commerce (honoris causa) degree. She is a business and financial expert whose views on corporate finance and economic policy are internationally sought and valued. A former member of the Global Executive Board of EY, her world-wide strategic leadership and technical expertise exemplify the international impact delivered by University of Canterbury graduates.

Council also awarded the University Teaching Medal to Associate Professor Ekant Veer. Associate Professor Veer has a track record of teaching excellence, both in New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Since joining UC in 2010 he has been recognised with a UC Teaching Award and five Lecturer of the Year Awards from the UCSA. The Research Medal was awarded to Distinguished Professor Geoffrey Chase. His world-class work in dynamic systems modelling and control has had real-world impact that ranges from intensive care medicine for babies to earthquake engineering.

For UC, 2017 was another year of significant academic achievement with 3,815 degrees and diplomas awarded to 3,586 graduates. Of particular note are the historic highs being reached in the award of postgraduate qualifications, as the University retains and enhances its international standing.

In 2013, in a scheme now discontinued, the then Minister for Tertiary Education appointed individuals jointly to the Councils of the University of Canterbury and Lincoln University. In 2017 two Lincoln University Council members resigned from the Canterbury Council. I would like to thank and acknowledge Mr Tony Hall and Mr Bruce Gemmill for their contribution to our University Council over the preceding four years. I would also like to welcome Dr Rosemary Banks and Mr Steven Wakefield to the UC Council as new Ministerial appointees.

In 2017 the Council met 11 times, and held nine workshops to ensure members were well informed prior to taking significant decisions. The Finance, Planning and Resources Committee, chaired by Ms Catherine Drayton, met 10 times providing a stream of considered advice to Council on major decisions across its spectrum of portfolio responsibilities. The Audit and Risk Committee, chaired by Mr Peter Ballantyne, met six times and closely monitored the risks faced by the University, and ensured that in all aspects of its work the institution complied with its statutory and regulatory obligations. These two committees are the engine-room of Council, and in these times, their work places extraordinary demands on chairs and members. On the academic front the Academic Board has initiated a self-review and recommendations for change will come to Council early in 2018.

The Vice-Chancellor Employment Committee met three times and late in the year an ad hoc Vice-Chancellor Appointment Committee was formed and initiated a world-wide search for a new Vice-Chancellor | Tumu Whakarae, with the appointment effective from February 2019. Bringing the appointment process to a successful conclusion will be the primary focus for the Council in 2018. The new Honours and Appointments Committee met three times, deliberating on succession issues, advising on external and internal appointments and recommendations for honours.

I should like to thank all Council members for their individual and collective contribution to our large, complex, and demanding institution over the past year. It is to their great credit that our Council continues in practice to operate on the basis of consensus.

**‘As we conclude... a pivotal year for us, it is timely to pause and acknowledge the very significant progress made by UC since 2010–11, and why we can look forward to our 150th anniversary in 2023 with such confidence.’**

Council has a particular responsibility as trustee for the University Trust Funds, to oversee where those funds are invested and ensure they are disbursed according to the wishes of donors. During the year the Council adopted a policy of having less than 1% of the funds invested in fossil fuel extraction in addition to the proscription on investing in the armaments, tobacco or gambling industries. Fund managers retained by the University have been instructed to follow ethical investing principles and to avoid direct investment in fossil fuel extraction industries.

Our University is supported in many ways by many people — alumni, friends and benefactors. This help is an increasing part of our life blood. It is this which helps enable the University to offer a unique student experience, providing the tools and the opportunities which promote personal and professional growth. As a result our graduates are then able to take up roles in the community and the wider world which allow them to fulfil our mission statement and truly to make a difference. It was an honour to thank many of them in person at the annual Chancellor’s Awards Dinner.

In particular I should like to thank the volunteer boards of our three charities, led by Mr Barry Ramsay, Chair of the University of Canterbury Foundation, Professor David Teece, President of the University of Canterbury Foundation in America Inc, and Dr Alene Wilton, Chair of the University of Canterbury Trust in the United Kingdom. In 2017 these charities received from our friends and alumni some \$11 million in support of scholarships, research and teaching, buildings and facilities, and outreach programmes. This is an extraordinary contribution and a positive harbinger for our 2023 sesqui-centennial fundraising campaign.

Finally, I would like to express on behalf of the University its gratitude for the government’s helpful and active support of our UC Futures programme. The Governance Oversight Group established under our Funding Agreement with the Crown, led by its independent Chair, Mr Garry Wilson and including senior representatives of the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC), the Ministry of Education and the UC Council, has been particularly collegial and effective in this context.

The developments and contributions I have outlined sustain the University of Canterbury’s vision in its Statement of Strategic Intent, of “People prepared to make a difference – tangata tū, tangata ora”. We are known for attracting people with the greatest potential to make a difference. We are a place where research, teaching and learning take place in ways that are inspirational and innovative. We do provide a distinctive holistic learning experience which ensures that our graduates are ready and equipped to connect and contribute effectively to society.

In closing, it is timely to pause, acknowledge and celebrate the very significant progress made by UC since the earthquakes of 2010–11. You can understand why we look forward to our 150th anniversary in 2023 with such anticipation and confidence.



**Dr L. John Wood**  
Chancellor | Tumu Kaunihera