

# Vice-Chancellor's Report

## Te Pūrongo a te Tumu Whakarae



Dr Rod Carr

**2017 has been a year where UC's transition from post-quake recovery to transformation and growth has gained significant momentum.**

We can celebrate the University's performance in many areas where activity has surpassed pre-2010 levels. In 2017 UC welcomed more than 1000 full-time equivalent students in masters' programmes and record numbers of doctoral students. International University rankings are highly competitive, and UC is proud to have held its 214th position in the QS World University Rankings, placing it in the top 1% of universities worldwide.

Enrolment numbers have seen steady growth with the number of full fee paying international students exceeding 2010 levels, a record number of students enrolled in the College of Engineering | Te Rāngai Pūkaha, a record number of students who identify as Māori and record numbers of students in halls of residence. The University is on target to be operating within its means by 2019 without the additional Government support provided after the Canterbury earthquakes. I am also confident UC can cater for any increase in student numbers over and above normal growth that may result from the Labour-led Government's fees-free policy.

Innovative approaches to partnerships and pathways are making a difference in UC's recruitment initiatives and improving access to University for a broad range of students. Navitas, operator of the UC International College (UCIC) continues to support international student recruitment, and during the year acquired the Christchurch College of English Language, which has for many years been the on-campus provider of English

Language programmes for international students. UC has seen a steady increase in student enrolments from Auckland since a Liaison Office was opened there in 2015, and we have also seen a surge in students from Wellington.

### Research and Innovation

UC's Research and Innovation initiatives support the development of ambitious, excellent, and well-defined research ideas that have the potential to transform New Zealand's future in the areas of engineering and applied science, artificial intelligence, disruptive technologies and health and wellbeing related innovations.

The primary sector is of particular interest – the University continues to consult with this sector and relevant ministries and government agencies. This initiative will contribute to regional development. UC's Waterways Centre for Freshwater Management is a part of UC's response to creating a more sustainable environment and is a joint research and teaching centre with Lincoln University.

The University experienced exceptional success in attracting research funding. In 2017, 169 contracts worth a total value of \$27.6 million were implemented and 54 contracts worth at least \$15.4 million got under way.

Among UC's research and innovation highlights for the year, 11 UC academics were awarded 2017 Royal Society of New Zealand | Te Apārangi Marsden funding. These projects include a diverse array of research areas, including investigating the thickness of the Southern Ocean's sea ice and removing nitrate from contaminated water using methane.

UC Science and Engineering researchers had an exceptional result securing funding for five Smart Ideas proposals and two Research Programmes in the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's 2017 Endeavour Round. The projects included work on geospatial tools for community and rūranga town planning, a new biomarker assay platform for disease detection, and tuning protein expression for primary sector applications.

Throughout the year I have had the pleasure of congratulating a number of our staff on their achievements. Professor Brendon Bradley was awarded the Prime Minister's MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist Prize for his research into the effects of ground-shaking caused by earthquakes.

Professor Steven Ratuva, named a Fulbright New Zealand Scholar in 2017, will conduct research at UCLA, Duke University and Georgetown University on affirmative action policies relating to Pacific Island minorities in the United States of America and New Zealand and their impact in addressing group inequality.

Professor Rick Millane was selected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand Te Apārangi. His work is key to understanding disease for drug design and non-invasive medical imaging. Dr Regina Eisert was awarded a Pew Marine Conservation Fellowship recognising more than a decade of work protecting the world's oceans. Associate Professor Sonja Macfarlane was recognised for her contributions to Māori education, becoming the 2017 recipient of the Te Tohu Pae Tawhiti Award. Associate Professor Bronwyn Hayward was the only New Zealander appointed as a lead author for a special report on global warming for the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

UC students are proving that they are ready to change the world. Just one example is College of Science | Te Rāngai Pūtaiao student Logan Williams who has invented 3D-printed polarised contact lenses for sufferers of photosensitive epilepsy.

The UC Engineering team of Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) students – Arianna Ryan, David Cleary and Jamie Sommer – won the prestigious international Warman Design and Build Competition, triumphing in a challenge to design and make a machine to perform a difficult task, using mechanical gear, 3D printing, robotics and autonomous vehicles to win the award.

Another success was the Confucius Institute at the University of Canterbury (CIUC) winning the Confucius Institute of the Year award, recognising CIUC's commitment to furthering the teaching of Chinese language and culture in primary, secondary and tertiary schools in the South Island of New Zealand.

### Transformation

In 2017 the merger of Faculties and Colleges was approved by the University Council creating a more coherent, accountable and simpler organisational structure.

The new School of Product Design was formed within the College of Engineering | Te Rāngai Pūkaha. The Chemistry and Physics Departments within the College of Science | Te Rāngai Pūtaiao merged to form a School

of Physical and Chemical Sciences. Within the College of Business and Law | Te Rāngai Umanga me te Ture, the UC Business School | Te Kura Umanga brought together under its own head for the first time the Departments of Management, Economics and Finance and Accounting and Information Systems.

During 2017 the crucial first stages of the Student First Programme | Ākongā ki Mua were implemented. The programme focuses on improving and streamlining a number of business processes including online enrolment, as well as the simplification of Academic Regulations, and is expected to run to the end of 2019.

May marked a major highlight in the 2017 calendar when UC's Music and Classics programmes, along with the James Logie Memorial Collection of classical antiquities, relocated to the Arts Centre's restored Chemistry building on Hereford Street. The Arts Centre was the University's first home, until it moved to its current Ilam campus in the mid-1970s.

A new public exhibition space in the former Chemistry building, the Teece Museum of Classical Antiquities, was also officially opened and has received over 10,000 visitors. The museum has been named in recognition of UC alumnus Professor David Teece and his wife, Mrs Leigh Teece, who generously donated funds towards the refurbishment.

I want to acknowledge the long and strong relationship between our student body represented by the University of Canterbury Students' Association (the UCSA). Our partnership to replace the earthquake damaged UCSA building reflects the fruit of decades of competent professional leadership. Outgoing Student President James Addington can be proud of many things but getting a record 45% of eligible students to vote in the election for the 2018 student executive is certainly one of them.

A low voluntary staff turnover – 1.7% for academic and 6% for general staff, is encouraging and suggests efforts by staff to grow a constructive culture through a professional development programme is having a positive impact.

#### 2017 Financial results

The University of Canterbury | Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha is continuing to show steady financial performance. The University's audited result for the year ended 31 December 2017 was a \$5.3 million deficit. Significant costs

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in occupying its new Science and Engineering facilities have been offset by additional tuition fee, research and sundry revenue. The result compares to the 2016 deficit of \$1.8 million, and a budgeted operating deficit of \$9.1 million.

The Crown's financial support to the University through capital contributions has led to the opening of the Stage 1 of the Rutherford Regional Science and Innovation Centre (RRSIC), and the refurbished College of Engineering | Te Rāngai Pūkaha complex, with the completion of the Rehua building on the main campus expected later in 2018.

The University's net assets are now just under \$1.4 billion, compared to \$719 million in 2010, showing the extent of change and investment the University has experienced in the last seven years.

The University has adopted a budget for 2018 that shows an operating deficit of \$7.887 million. This includes the one-off costs of moving staff and activities around the campus while refurbishment and new building is completed, and the University continues to be confident that it can absorb this loss as it rebuilds student numbers and associated tuition revenue in 2018 and 2019.

#### Our people

In closing I would like to thank all staff who have contributed to UC's success. Their commitment to UC has taken place during a period of significant transition encompassing brave new approaches to recruitment, improving business processes, moving to new work locations, and working alongside construction projects. During the year Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) | Tumu Tuarua

Akoranga Dr. Hamish Cochrane resigned after 18 years at UC and almost four years as a member of the Senior Management Team. I acknowledge the significant contribution he made during his career at UC. I advised the University Council that I would not be seeking a third term as Vice-Chancellor | Tumu Whakarae when my current term expires on 31 January 2019. The Council has initiated a process to appoint a new Vice-Chancellor | Tumu Whakarae.

We continue to be immensely grateful to those businesses, alumni and friends who have generously supported fundraising in 2017. Their generous contributions make possible outcomes that are simply not possible from Government and tuition fee income alone and play a significant role in ensuring UC offers a world-class learning environment and an outstanding experience for our students.

Nā reira, he mihi tēnei ki ngā kamahi o te whare wānanga i runga i tō rātou pukumahi i te tau kua pahure ake nei.



**Dr Rod Carr**  
Vice-Chancellor | Tumu Whakarae