

# Chancellor's Welcome

## Welcome to the 2012 Annual Report of the University of Canterbury.

If 2011 was one of the most challenging years ever faced in the history of our University, 2012 was the year in which tangible progress was made on the long journey to recovery. Efforts over the last 12 months of students, staff, alumni, donors, friends and stakeholders have resulted in the University being in a stronger position now than when the year began. The challenges of response and recovery have proved different in focus, and no less daunting one set from the other. But recovery gives hope and a sense that we are engaged in shaping our own future.

The earthquakes of 2010 and 2011 generated significant uncertainty for the University of Canterbury. At such times messages of support, backed by tangible actions, boost confidence. In the case of the University help came initially from the other seven universities as they endorsed a sector-wide response to our situation. Subsequently, University management have worked closely and effectively with the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) to develop a plan for the longer term recovery of the University. This plan, called UC Futures, has been widely discussed with representatives from many sectors of the community and it is heartening to have so much support from so many people. The outcome was the December 2012 Cabinet commitment to UC's future as an internationally recognised university, and agreement in principle for Government support for a series of initiatives that will enable the institution to progress along the path to recovery. Without engagement and support from the Government, we would face a much more challenging, possibly insurmountable task. On behalf of the University I should like to extend my thanks, and those of Council, to all who have assisted in the development and promotion of the UC Futures plan.

UC Futures consists of two parts. The first is a greater emphasis on our students and the learning experiences we offer at UC. In addition to traditional learning, the University is promoting four areas of non-traditional learning:

- Workplace learning through internships, work placements and undergraduate research in a workplace environment;
- Service learning that draws on students' experiences in the community to facilitate the learning process;
- International learning through experience at overseas partner institutions;
- Cultural learning through understanding the importance of Māori and indigenous cultures in the modern world.

The vision is to develop a university that isn't just a place you come to when you want a degree. We see a university that is a learning environment well connected with local and international communities. UC graduates will, over time, have more opportunities during their degree to build competencies supporting their future employment, gaining international experience, developing cultural competency and facilitating community engagement.

The second part of UC Futures comprises some exciting capital investments in facilities that will enhance the learning experience for students in the pure and applied sciences. The details of these developments are being worked through with the TEC and government ministries, and the requisite business cases will be presented in 2013.

2012 saw some major developments on the Ilam campus that have enhanced the fabric of campus life for students, in particular the UCSA Events Centre, the Undercroft and the Shilling Club. These areas have been well patronised and, as the Campus Master Plan is implemented, it is expected that they will become more central to the UC experience. The response from students to these new facilities has been very positive and is further evidence of our plan to become a more student-focused organisation.

These developments were part of a major works programme, some of which took place over the summer recess. Projects included accelerating the James Hight remediation to its conclusion; the relocation of the Law Library into the Central Library in time for the first semester 2013; initiating remediation of

the Registry, Law School and History buildings and the deconstruction of Te Pourewa on the Dovedale campus. Over 500 trades-people worked on site over the summer. I should like to acknowledge the positive efforts of staff and students to cope with the disruption, and to thank all those involved for their collaboration, flexibility and the enormous work which went into expediting these projects.

2012 also saw a number of remediated spaces back online – the Engineering and Physical Sciences Library, the Student Services Centre, the hydrology tower and Wheki on the Dovedale campus. We are anticipating the return to use of the Ilam Homestead, the James Hight Library and the Central Lecture Theatre block in the first half of 2013.

The efforts of our students over the 2012 academic year reflect the determined attitude that will mark the earthquake cohort as being a very special group of people who will go on to make a special difference in their chosen fields. They have overcome significant personal challenges, coped with disruptions to study and have graduated in numbers in line with 2009. Under all the circumstances, it was both humbling and an enormous satisfaction to preside over the ceremonies at the end of 2012 which saw the largest number of graduates in the history of the University. Ceremonies in April and December saw some 2657 (1234 in April, 1423 in December) students present themselves for graduation in Christchurch, and a further 113 in Rotorua. This is a truly remarkable achievement.

The success of students depends substantially on the support received from University staff, be they academic or professional, and I believe UC staff have much to be proud of as they reflect on 2012. Students have completed courses and programmes of study, and departments and Colleges have continued to function in less than ideal conditions. The research output of staff has been maintained, even though staff members have been in temporary accommodation or have moved offices during the year – in some cases, several times.

In 2012, the University extended its efforts to engage with a wide range of stakeholders, with a particular focus on supporting the Christchurch recovery. The University has publicly endorsed the central city plan and continues to engage with the Canterbury District Health Board, University of Otago and the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) on opportunities to contribute to the new health precinct as part of the central district revitalisation. UC is keen to participate through re-locating relevant research and selected clinical programmes that service patient needs. In parallel, UC is exploring with CERA and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment what contributions it could usefully make to the innovation precinct, including student placements and internship programmes.

After a long-standing engagement and number of activities within departments and areas of work around the University, UC and Ngāi Tahu seized the moment in 2012 to develop a more in-depth relationship. This will be a significant area of growth in coming years as the University works in partnership to advance the aim of being a vibrant contributor to indigenous knowledge economies, and support research and initiatives through the Ngāi Tahu Research Centre, the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Māori) and other schools across the University. Enhancing the support of educational outcomes and opportunities for Māori students remains a core focus of our efforts and the UC adoption of a Strategy for Māori Development provides clarity to its direction and success.

The University also concluded an agreement with Navitas that will result in the first joint venture — UC International College — between a major international education provider and a New Zealand university. Navitas provide first year instruction to foreign students using proven methods to prepare them for full participation in the latter years of their tertiary education. Through these and other measures, we expect that we will increase the number of international students ultimately to make up between 10 and 15 per cent of our student population. This will enhance the experience

of local students as they engage with people from a wider range of cultures. Already over half the UC academic staff members have come to Christchurch from institutions outside New Zealand.

The University Council has been very active over the year with 10 meetings of Council and 8 workshops. Given the nature and particularly the timing of a number of Council decisions required during the year, the Executive Committee has been busy on the Council's behalf. The following committees also met:

Audit and Risk Committee	6
Finance, Planning and Resources Committee	11
Vice-Chancellor Employment Committee	2
Ad Hoc Honorary Doctorate Committee	1
Council Appeals Committee	4

There were a number of changes to Council during the year. Erin Jackson and Hamish Drake were elected as student representatives for a one year term. During November, academic staff representative Professor Euan Mason resigned from Council. A Court of Convocation election was held and the successful candidates were Jo Appleyard and Warren Poh.

I should like to thank Council members for their hard work over the year, for their review of our Statement of Strategic Intent in the aftermath of the worst that nature threw at us and for their contribution to, and overwhelming support for UC Futures. I look forward to working with the Council, staff, Government, Ngāi Tahu and other key stakeholders in the coming year as the University continues along the path to recovery. It is a principal achievement of 2012 that that path is now so firmly and clearly set for us.



**Dr John Wood**  
Chancellor

27 February 2013

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. J. Wood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.