

Chancellor's Welcome

2013 has been a year of significant progress for our University.

The immediate emphasis, as throughout the recovery, remains on the restoration of student numbers, the repair and upgrading of damaged infrastructure, and an early return to financial viability. During 2013, however, we were also able to turn our attention seriously to pursuing the opportunities for transformational change presented by the 2010/2011 earthquakes, seeking to accelerate progress towards the strategic objectives we had collectively set for the University of Canterbury before the intervention of nature. In their aftermath and after much soul-searching, these objectives were unanimously confirmed as the path we all wished our institution to follow. The University engaged and worked closely with key stakeholders throughout the year to set in place a number of the planned initiatives underpinning the proposed transformation.

The most significant event was the announcement by the Prime Minister, during his visit to the Ilam campus in October, of a major Government contribution to the capital investment required for the UC Futures programme. The investment of up to \$260 million for the development of a Regional Science and Innovation Centre and the refurbishment of our engineering facilities as Canterbury Engineering the Future, is a significant vote of confidence in our University, this city and the region. I should like to thank the Tertiary Education Commission expressly for the quality of its engagement and support for the University during a complex and challenging planning and decision-making process. We have also received huge support from many other quarters, including our students, staff, alumni and the community. This is what has sustained us thus far and, in 2014, will move us forward at a faster pace towards our goals for UC.

The programme to remediate our damaged buildings continues to accelerate. This year a number of projects were concluded, including the James Hight Library, the Ilam Homestead and the Central Lecture Theatres. The remediation of the Law and History

buildings, and the Registry commenced in earnest and will be completed in 2014. I should like to acknowledge the positive efforts of staff and students to cope with the inevitable disruption, and to thank all those involved for their cooperation, flexibility and good humour during this time.

UC Futures is not, of course, just or even principally about buildings. University of Canterbury graduates have long been renowned as people prepared to make a difference. Our international reputation attracts young people from around the world. This year we have seen the first overseas students enrolled at the UC International College. The College is operated in conjunction with Navitas, a multinational provider of tertiary education. The College offers UC teaching material taught using Navitas methods and enables successful students to enrol at the University of Canterbury.

International education is a priority for the university sector. Our graduates will be employed in a world that is evolving at a faster rate than ever before. The roles they will undertake are yet to be formulated. The world is dominated by change. The University's responsibility is to prepare our students for that world. To ensure that, we have introduced a greater emphasis on workplace learning, so that our graduates will hit the ground running. They will be provided with opportunities to become involved in their communities, obtain first-hand insights into how communities function, and be encouraged to stay involved. UC students will have opportunities to understand global perspectives through international exchange programmes, and by mixing with students of diverse ethnic and national backgrounds. Our relationship with Ngāi Tahu will assist students to undertake cultural learning through understanding the importance of Māori and indigenous cultures in the modern multicultural world. These four pillars of the UC experience will come to characterise all our students, underpinning the world-class teaching, learning and research environment we maintain, and providing the critical point of differentiation for those who employ our graduates.

2013 sees a last major group of the earthquake cohort of students complete their studies. These resilient young women and men had a choice and chose to stick with us. They have had opportunities for learning, caring for others and personal growth not available to any other of our cohorts down UC's long history. Starting from lectures in tents and thousands of daily aftershocks, the University has delivered to them full academic years of teaching and learning, and they have successfully completed their studies. In our 2013 graduation ceremonies I presented 3,589 students with their degrees. We wish them all well as they join the worldwide community of University of Canterbury graduates, numbering well in excess of 100,000. They will be a UC legend for life.

This year has been noteworthy for our academic staff members recognised for their research efforts. Professors Mark Billingham and Charles Semple have been awarded Fellowships of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Professor Geoff Chase has been recognised as the inaugural Distinguished Professor for Teaching and Research. His work in metabolic, pulmonary and cardiovascular research has been applied in intensive care units in New Zealand and overseas. The University Council awarded Research Medals to Professors Dave Kelly and Angus Macfarlane for their respective contributions to research, and the Teaching Medal to Professor Eric Pawson. The Innovation Medal was awarded to Professor Andy Buchanan, Professor Stefano Pampanin and Dr Alessandro Palermo for their pioneering UC research which has lifted engineered timber buildings into serious contention for the Christchurch rebuild. This system is the result of many years' work, and creative and innovative thinking, culminating in its successful application by the team involved.

In 2012, Rautaki Whakawhanake Kaupapa Māori (UC's Māori Development Strategy) was launched, endorsed by and in conjunction with Ngāi Tahu. In 2013, the first steps to implement this vision were taken with the advancement of the Ngāi Tahu Research Centre, repositioning the Māori Development

Team as a key resource to recruit and retain Māori students across the University, and the implementation of the Principles of Knowledge course. Emphasis has also been placed on creating a framework and a capacity for staff to lead and support Māori development across campus.

The relationship with the Pasifika community has involved consultation to develop the Pasifika Strategy, which has now been released for feedback. With the support of the Australia New Zealand Association of New York, international sponsors and local businesses, the University has continued to expand the UC Me XL Pasifika Outreach programme. We are now seeing that students who access our various support programmes are significantly more likely to complete their degrees. In 2013, it was a great pleasure to see the graduation of a record number of Pasifika students.

In September, the Council hosted celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the awarding of the first honorary doctorate by the University of Canterbury. More than 60 honorary graduates attended celebrations during which they were able to view the University treasures collection, tour the city and visit Sir Miles Warren's award-winning Ohinetahi gardens. The Council awarded three honorary doctorates. The recipients were leading New Zealand artist Bill Culbert (Doctor of Fine Arts), Supreme Court Judge Sir William Young (Doctor of Laws) and former Tongan prime minister Dr Feleti Sevele (Lord Sevele of Vailahi) (Doctor of Letters).

The University Council and its committees have been especially active during 2013 with a number of challenging issues to grapple with and decisions to make. The Council itself met 11 times — and held 11 Council workshops and, in between Council meetings given the University's circumstances and the frequent need for urgent and timely decisions, the Executive Committee was frequently called upon to act.

Committees met as follows:

Audit and Risk Committee	6
Finance, Planning and Resources Committee	11
Vice-Chancellor Employment Committee	7
Ad Hoc Honorary Doctorate Committee	1
Appeals Committee	2

There were a number of changes to Council membership during the year. Erin Jackson was appointed to a one-year term as student representative. Council welcomed Tony Hall and Bruce Gemmell as Ministerial appointees, replacing Wendy Ritchie and Kiki Maoate, and inaugurating the cross-linkage of membership between the Canterbury and Lincoln University Councils, with Bruce Gemmell common to both, the Lincoln Pro-Chancellor appointed to the UC Council, and I as UC Chancellor appointed to the Lincoln University Council. It is early days but the new arrangements seem to be working well, to the mutual advantage of both universities. I should like to thank Wendy Ritchie and Kiki Maoate for their valued services to Council, in Wendy's case in particular, over many years and in a number of capacities.

I should like to thank personally and on behalf of the University all members of Council for their hard work and collegial approach to issues at such a testing time for our institution. The University has dealt with a number of major issues over the course of the year. These issues included Council:

- Reaching agreement on a new constitution, with the advice and guidance of our former Chancellor Dr Robin Mann. This outcome awaits Ministerial action.
- Reappointing Dr Rod Carr as Vice-Chancellor for a further five-year term. The intensive process was led by the Vice-Chancellor Employment Committee under the able chairing of the Pro-Chancellor Sue McCormack.
- Being continuously and closely engaged in the preparation of our successful UC Futures business case to government and was fully in support of it.



Dr John Wood

- Approving the accounts for the preceding year and adopting the budget for 2014.
- Supporting efforts to negotiate a new relationship agreement with the Arts Centre Trust.
- Approving a memorandum of understanding between the University and the University Foundation.

I began by remarking that 2013 was a year of significant progress, one in which we moved beyond the preoccupations and priorities of recovery, to lay the foundations of transformational change to our great University over the years to come. In thanking them all once again for their part in what we have achieved so far, I look forward to working with Council, University management, students, staff, the government and other key stakeholders, and especially Ngāi Tahu, as we ramp up momentum towards the goals we have set ourselves for the year ahead.

Dr John Wood
Chancellor