

June 2023

Introduction

On 16 June we celebrated the official 150th anniversary of our founding. Around 400 staff joined the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor to enjoy cake, raffled gifts, photo booths and a historic group aerial photo. The Vice-Chancellor and other staff handed out cupcakes to some students who were busy studying for their exams.

Earlier in June we celebrated the achievement of several UC alumni in receiving King's Birthday Honours. Among them was Associate Professor Cathy Andrew, who was named an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to nursing.

Some good news in the last week of June is that the Government announced a 4% DQ7+ (formerly SAC) funding boost at degree level and above in 2024 and 2025. Together with the 5% increase in last month's Budget, that will take the increase in government funding for each of our student enrolments for 2024 to 9%. When combined with the proposed 2.8% Annual Maximum Fee Movement in 2024, domestic tuition-related income should increase by close to 7% on 2023 at a national level. That will help catch up on the income eroded through inflation over the last few years, although it won't entirely bridge the gap. We welcome the Government's decision to make an additional financial investment in the university sector over the next two years.

Engagement

RNZ selected 8 out of the 20 Raising the Bar talks to share on radio and its website from 18 June. The Raising the Bar event on 2 May drew a total of 1,400 attendances on the night across 10 bars throughout Christchurch city, Lyttelton and Lincoln. With alumni making up about 60% of the attendees, it was an excellent opportunity to increase our presence and impact in Ōtautahi Christchurch and Waitaha Canterbury.

Professor Julia Rucklidge presented at a UC Connect event on 31 May. Her talk delved into her ongoing research, revealing a concerning correlation between declining food quality and various mental health challenges. Additionally, she presented practical approaches to utilising nutrition to nourish the brain effectively.

Principal Research Investigator Dr Fiona Cross, also known as Dr Spider, recently appeared on More FM to provide insights into the occurrence of spiders entering homes during the winter season.

A new public exhibit curated by Terri Elder, named *Whiria te Tāngata | Weaving the People Together – 150 Years of College and Community*, will feature artefacts from our original campus at the Arts Centre from Thursday 20 July to Saturday 10 September.

On 14 June, Karen reinstated our 114-year tradition of star-gazing in the centre of Ōtautahi Christchurch. At her sold-out talk on the restored Townsend-Teece telescope in the Arts Centre Recital room, participants viewed the telescope in the restored Observatory Tower. The Spinoff covered the event. Public viewing is open for registrations most Friday evenings, weather permitting.

Building on the gifts received at the Chancellor's gala in April, the Advancement team is conducting broad-based fundraising appeals to all alumni, UC friends and staff. The grassroots level of suggested giving for Te Kakau a Māui (TKAM) scholarship is intended to help reframe the way our community thinks about fundraising.

On 19 June we hosted McCall MacBain Foundation CEO Franca Gucciardi for a site visit, a meeting with Te Kakau a Māui scholarship programme staff and students, and a tour of Te Aratai College.

Applications for 150 TKAM scholarships opened on 20 June to students from what were previously known as decile 1–7 schools (now the equity index) in Te Waipounamu South Island. The awareness campaign aims to build awareness of the 2024 scholarship opportunity. Through the campaign, current TKAM scholars are sharing their stories and experience at school assemblies and events and in news media.

In addition to the funds raised through the TKAM campaign, we have received several other significant gifts:

- The Tait Foundation approved our proposal for \$500,000 in funding to support research and scholarships in the Engineering faculty.
- Alumnus Dr Richard Garland donated \$200,000 to fund a PhD in the School of Physical and Chemical Sciences for a student studying organic chemistry. Richard has also committed to endowing the scholarship through a gift in his will. Former Chancellor Robin Mann was instrumental in helping to secure this gift.
- Alumnus Professor Brian Tinsley generously provided a gift of \$100,000 in support of the Mapura Bright Start Scholarships. Brian graduated with a PhD in physics in 1964 and developed his career at the University of Texas.
- University of Canterbury Motorsport (UCM) in the Faculty of Engineering received \$10,000 from the Tait Foundation to support an outreach event for the Formula Student Radio Control.

On 8 June, UC welcomed over 1,300 Year 12 students, parents and whānau to experience university for Discovery Day. Thirty-six schools participating from Waitaha Canterbury learnt about the differences between school and university, took part in their chosen lectures, explored the support services available and found out what UC has to offer. Lectures took place in Central and North Arts lecture theatres and Rātā, covering a range of topics from “Can Skateboarding Save Children from Sport?” to “How Will Chemical Engineers Save the World?”.

A campaign that started on 1 June aimed to support students during the mid-year study and exam period. With input from the Wellbeing and Rec&Sport (RecCentre) teams and the University of Canterbury Students' Association (UCSA), the campaign included a social media campaign across

Facebook, Instagram and TikTok with study advice for students along with resources covering easy recipes, workouts and UC support services. The *Fear of Failure* segment of the campaign begins in early July to support students as results are released.

The student-led, faculty-enabled ENG ME! peer mentoring programme that supports the 1,100+ first-year Engineering students concluded its official programme for 2023 (its fifth iteration). As in previous years, to celebrate the hard work and achievements of the 55+ mentors and 5 mentor leaders, the Faculty of Engineering hosted a thank you dinner for them. ENG ME! has been selected as a finalist for the Engineering New Zealand ENVI Awards 2023.

Formula Student Radio Control is a week-long activity initiated by Bruce Robertson and hosted in Mechanical Engineering for year 12 and 13 high school students. It is held during the overlap of UC mid-semester break and school holidays. UCM mentors guide groups of school students through the design and manufacture of a custom radio-controlled race car, using computer-aided design, 3D printing and laser-cut materials. At the end of the week, participating students race their cars in a miniature version of the full-size Formula Student event that the UCM students compete in.

The seventh Association for Visual Pedagogies Conference at UC from 8–10 June attracted 98 in-person delegates and 27 online from New Zealand and Australia. This conference offered an interactive, engaging space for sharing contemporary projects that inquire into and highlight tensions in visual pedagogies.

I was pleased to have the opportunity to the opening keynote address for the International Network of Research Management Societies Congress in Durban, South Africa, 31 May – 2 June. The theme of my paper was the role of leadership in research and innovation management to enhance research social impact.

Dr Mahdis Azarmandi, Faculty of Education was an invited participant in a hui organised by the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand and the Ministry of Education to discuss the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum and its implications for Muslim high school students. The hui participants discussed challenges and opportunities in education for Muslim students and made recommendations about how to better support them.

The Wireless Research Centre has been working with start-up RaceRanger on technology to help make triathlon races fairer and safer. This technology proved successful when it was first trialled at three events in Europe during May, one of which was an event sanctioned by the Professional Triathletes Organisation where the world's most elite athletes competed. The technology worked well and was highly praised, and further investment is likely to take this local company to a new level of growth. The next event where it will feature is the Paris 2024 Paralympics trial in August.

Dr Jalal Mohammed, Senior Lecturer Above the Bar in Health Sciences, attended a hui in Wellington on 7 June with the Ministry of Education, providing feedback on Te Mātaiaho – the NZ Curriculum Refresh. He has also been appointed to the Steering Committee for the 5th International Conference on Public Health and Wellbeing taking place in Bangkok, Thailand, 7–8 November 2023.

The Child Well-being Research Institute's Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA) has been a focus of media attention in the last month. During an interview, Education Minister the Hon Jan Tinetti said BSLA was "having better results than we have ever seen before". Following this, Professor Gail Gillon

and Associate Professor Brigid McNeill hosted a webinar, “The Better Start Literacy Approach – A National Success Story Unfolding”, on Tuesday 30 May. Here they shared the latest data with teachers, researchers, whānau and community leaders, highlighting the success of BSLA.

Professor Katie Pickles launched *Sure to Rise: The Edmonds Story* by Peter Alsop, Kate Parsonson and Richard Wolfe (Canterbury University Press, May 2023) at Scorpio Books on 15 June. She spoke about the significance of the iconic Edmonds business in the history of Christchurch, as well as in the cultural heritage of Aotearoa New Zealand. A capacity audience of some 130 guests supported the launch and enjoyed baked treats made using recipes from the *Edmonds Cookbook*. The book was prominent in bookstore displays and enjoyed widespread media coverage: in addition to a double-page spread in the *Listener* (15 May), it was publicised in a radio interview with the authors on RNZ Nine to Noon (19 May), a story on TVNZ Seven Sharp (23 May), a full-page feature including an interview with Katie Pickles in the *Press* (20 May and on Stuff online) and an online review on NZ Booklovers.

Education – Accessible, Flexible, Future Focused

The end of semester sees a busy time for staff and students as exams come to an end and staff are busy marking and working on final grades. The first semester saw a focus across the University on student engagement and student success. This involved implementing a range of initiatives related to assessment, participation in class and using data to enhance student performance. For example, the Faculty of Science Student Success Symposium brought together teaching and support staff to collaborate and share information ranging from using Analytics for Course Engagement (ACE) to course design. The School of Mathematics and Statistics held a special workshop on using data to understand how to support students. In addition, academics and students have collaborated on how to use artificial intelligence (AI) in the classroom and for assessments. The Faculty of Engineering is progressing the AI initiative further with plans to hold a teaching event related to ‘assessment in a changing educational landscape’.

Authentic assessment was also a focus of the Work Integrated Learning Sharing Symposium, where staff and students shared their reflections on undertaking experiential learning and assessment. The innovations and adaptability of our teaching staff will be a highlight of the upcoming UC Teaching Awards. Applications for these significant awards are open until 28 July, and all staff are encouraged to apply.

UC is further recognising teaching innovation with the announcement of the Distributed Leadership in Teaching Programme (DLTP) awards. This year, for the first time, the awards include three focused specifically on Work Integrated Learning in addition to three in the general category. The six awardees were: Rachael Evans, William Grant and Adrienne Paul (Faculty of Law); Associate Professor Kathryn MacCallum (Faculty of Education); Dr Clare Worley (Faculty of Science); Kate Cook and Gina Tillard (Faculty of Science); Associate Professor Lyndon Fraser (Faculty of Arts); and Carolin Ritter (Faculty of Science). Congratulations to the DLTP Fellows, and I look forward to hearing about their outputs.

Early in June, the UC Faculty of Health Te Kaupeka Oranga received confirmation of its status as a provider of nursing education, and the reaccreditation of its graduate entry master’s programme, Master of Health Science (Nursing). Congratulations to the Health team.

Student success is built not only on their classroom experience, but also the broader supports that they can access. Our academic advising community is one of those key supports, and this month over 30 members of this community came together in their second hui of the year to forge relationships, coordinate advising practices and processes, and build our internal advising network.

Te Kakau a Māui Scholarship programme is an excellent example of how student support can enhance success. The engagement of students who participated in the events of the programme is outstanding. Events include success coaching to build academic independence, careers coaching and home-based activities. A highlight was the end-of-semester event where alumna Julia Arnott-Neenee shared her journey of navigating the University as a Pacific woman. It was a special experience for students to meet representatives from McCall MacBain during their visit.

Finally, student support is going to be an emphasis when we welcome new students to UC for Semester 2. In a pilot of a mid-year orientation, students will not just learn about navigating UC but also have an opportunity to work with LEARN, engage with ACE and have hands-on experiences to get them off to a good start.

Research – Impact on a Changing World

Funding successes continue for UC from relatively small research funds before the major 2023 Endeavour and Marsden rounds are announced later in the year.

The Earthquake Commission (EQC) is a significant funder for much of the research on earthquake engineering and natural hazards and resilience. In June, two UC research programmes secured EQC funding, each worth \$450,000. Professor Brendon Bradley (Civil and Natural Resources Engineering) will use his funding to conduct further research on next-generation seismic hazard analysis for New Zealand, while Dr Tim Stahl (School of Earth and Environment) will do further research on resilience to earthquake and landslide multi-hazards.

UC also had success in the recent funding round for the Royal Society Catalyst Fund with matching, or in most cases, exceeding average success rates. Dr Wentao Wu received \$150,000 and Dr Christoph Teschers \$60,000 in the form of International Leader Fellowships, while Dr Chang Wu and Dr Ning (Chris) Chen were both successful in their New Zealand – China Scientist Exchange Programme applications.

Four successful seeding applications, led by Dr Claudia Meisrimler, Associate Professor Michelle LaRue, Professor Sally Gaw and Dr Vanessa Morris, will establish collaborations with the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Canada and Australia, to raise our international research profile and reputation.

Michelle's project, for example, will support collaboration with colleagues from the University of Colorado Boulder, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Old Dominion University and Point Blue Conservation Science. The funding for the project, entitled "Toward a Coordinated Research Network to Monitor the Ross Sea Marine Protected Area", will facilitate the exchange of personnel across these institutions over two years. The collaboration will culminate in a symposium hosted at the University of Canterbury in 2025.

UC's portfolio of research addressing significant medical issues continues to broaden. Dr Amy Yewdall, a Research Fellow in Biochemistry at the School of Biological Sciences, has been awarded a Health Research Council Emerging Researcher First Grant of \$250,000 to investigate the role of protein oligomerisation in acute myeloid leukaemia (AML). This research has the potential to provide crucial insights into AML and establish a new foundation for developing innovative therapies. Also contributing to this research portfolio, Dr Vanessa Morris (Deputy Director, Biomolecular Interaction Centre) has been awarded an Explorer Grant of \$150,000 for her research on novel biomarker methods for Parkinson's disease. She aims to investigate tear fluid biomarkers that can support early diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, monitoring of disease progression or screening of at-risk populations. The research has the potential to improve the health outcomes for people in New Zealand and worldwide.

Finally, Dr Tim Stahl (School of Earth and Environment) and PhD graduate Clare Wilkinson (now working at NIWA) are international collaborators on a successful US National Science Foundation grant to study landscape evolution and earthquake hazards in North Canterbury.

Te Kura Tāura | Graduate School continues its journey to become fully established and to support a programme of both recruiting for and completing doctorates in 2023. During May, 30 new doctoral students began their studies at UC (including 16 international students), bringing year-to-date new enrolments to 143 (32% higher than May 2022). Refining academic processes for PhD students was advanced when the Academic Board endorsed a revision of PhD regulations for the 2024 calendar at its June meeting. The revision will come into effect on 1 January 2024. In parallel, the first professional development module for supervisors has been finalised and will be available to staff from 17 July.

Work has also started on a second online module that focuses on creating a safe and engaging environment for our diverse graduate research student community. Blair Johnstone (Ngāi Tahu) has joined Te Kura Tāura | UC Graduate School as research Kaiārahi. This is a new role that aims to support graduate research students and their supervisors in developing their research in the context of Vision Mātauranga and the partnership between UC and Ngāi Tahu.

Finally, UC's postgraduate research students continue to make their mark. PhD student Kiran Rangwani is among the selected finalists and is the runner-up for the Student of the Year Award in steel research sponsored by the Heavy Engineering Research Association (HERA). HERA chair and technical director of John Jones Steel, Dave Anderson, presented the award to Kiran at the 2023 Future Forum conference and dinner.

The QS World University Rankings have been released for 2024. This year they have used a new methodology that incorporates sustainability, graduate employability and international research networks. The new rankings place UC at 256, an improvement of 28 places from 284 last year. However, all other New Zealand universities have similarly improved with the new methodology, with the result that Massey and Waikato have moved ahead of UC so we are now ranked sixth in the country.

In high-impact journal *Scientific Reports*, UC researchers have contributed to a recently published multi-country analysis of the social and moral psychology of 69 countries during the COVID-19 pandemic. Professor Tanja Mitrovic (Computer Science and Software Engineering) is one of three international editors of a comprehensive new book from Edward Elgar Publishing, the *Handbook of Artificial Intelligence in Education*. Gathering insightful and stimulating contributions from leading

global experts, the book traces the development of AI in education from its early foundations in the 1970s to the present day. Dr Megan Gath and Professor Gail Gillon (Child Well-being Research Institute), Associate Dean Brigid McNeill (Faculty of Education) and Professor Lianne Woodward (Faculty of Health) have published new research on the impacts of screen exposure on early childhood development. This research has received considerable media attention.

Dr Heon Park has been shortlisted for the Food, Fibre and Agritech Challenge. He is working with Kelpn to develop a tasty snack made from New Zealand kelp that will help deal with constipation and iodine deficiency. Kelpn's mission is to be the go-to source for sustainably sourced, high-quality products derived from the sea, while always upholding the highest standards of integrity and trustworthiness.

Sophie Thrupp (Ngāti Tūwharetoa) won the New Zealand Geographical Society award for the Best Taught Master's degree in Geography for her thesis project titled "Accessibility to Social Connections in Ōtautahi Christchurch through an Indigenous Lens: An Evaluation of the #WellconnectedNZ Project". Associate Professor Malcolm Campbell and Professor Simon Kingham supervised Sophie's Master of Urban Resilience and Renewal thesis, in collaboration with colleagues at the former Canterbury District Health Board and University of Otago.

UC has also engaged with Christchurch City Council on new results around remediating concrete construction buildings. Jo Horrocks, Chief Resilience and Research Officer of the Earthquake Commission and Christchurch City Mayor Phil Mauer visited UC's Structural Engineering lab to learn more about the research Professor Santiago Pujol is leading. This research connects reinforced concrete walls to foundations to provide vital insights for improving construction standards.

Associate Professor Cheryl Brown was selected as one of 12 research mentors for the Commonwealth of Learning's Open and Distance Learning Practitioner Research Training and Mentorship programme.

Dr Susannah Stevens (Faculty of Health) spoke to RNZ about new research suggesting the time of day you exercise may affect your risk of developing cardiovascular diseases.

UC Art Curator Lydia Baxendell has recently published an essay in the exhibition *Presentation Layer: NFT forms, platforms and transference*. Titled "Curating and Collecting Non-fungible Token (NFT): A case study at University of Canterbury", the essay details her work in 2022 to acquire an NFT for the UC Art Collection. The Art History and Theory department, Faculty of Law and School of Fine Arts were all interested in using the NFT for teaching and learning. Lydia's essay details how the acquisition of the first NFT for the UC Art Collection, Motoko Kikkawa's *Hot Spring*, contributed to academics' professional learning as well as that of students.

UC continues to redevelop our e-research management and infrastructure. Following an extensive procurement process, the UC Library has chosen to adopt the Future of Libraries Is Open (FOLIO) Library Services Platform provided by EBSCO Information Services. FOLIO will replace our current Horizon system, which has been in use since 1995. It is an open-source solution (also chosen by the Library of Congress) that manages and presents library information resources in the digital age, using a microservices architecture and taking a modular approach, which makes it flexible and easily customisable in the future. This means that users will have a better experience as they access bibliographic information on the web. EBSCO will also be releasing a new discovery service, which we expect will be available by the end of 2023.

Congratulations to the UC scholars who won the Faculty Research Awards for Arts. Associate Professor Justin DeHart (Music) won the Faculty of Arts Research Award in Humanities, Social Sciences or Creative Arts. Dr Madi Williams (Aotahi) won the Kairangahau Māori Research Faculty Award. Dr Jonathan Dunn (Linguistics) won the Faculty of Arts Early Career Research Award in Humanities, Social Sciences or Creative Arts.

People – Nurturing Staff, Thriving Students

The number of students registered with Te Ratonga Whaikaha | Student Accessibility Service has nearly doubled in the past year, now at about 1,000. The service attributes this huge growth partly to a greater emphasis on communicating to students about what it can provide. Accessibility issues include learning difficulties such as attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and dyslexia, mental health issues and chronic illnesses. The service provides note-taking services, reader-writers for tests and exams, and one-on-one support from advisors.

The School of Mathematics and Statistics is delighted that student Jack Aimer has been awarded the prestigious William Georgetti Scholarship, enabling him to further his studies at Cambridge University. Jack is currently completing his Master of Mathematical Science, with Dr Chris Stevens supervising his thesis.

In 2019, UC created a service-level agreement (SLA) between five UC sports clubs – rugby, netball, hockey, football and basketball. Within this SLA, UC has committed to providing services and resourcing with direction from the previous reviews to improve the overall experience within the clubs. These services, all provided by UC RecCentre, include:

- levy-funded strength and conditioning, and performance analysis services in our high-performance space for all Premier teams
- administrative support and upskilling of all interns placed in the programmes
- coach and player development via internal and external resources (regional and national sports organisations, UC)
- club support – for example, with administration, direction, strategy, marketing and resourcing
- alignment of UC branding

Over the past four years, these clubs have developed their performance and participation data significantly. The following achievements are especially notable:

UC Netball: Four years ago, the UC Netball Premier squad was promoted from Premier 2 grade to Premier 1 grade. They made the Premier finals in 2022 and are looking at another promising year in 2023, with four athletes named in the Tactix and most of the team members named in the National Netball League. UC Netball is also home to over 21 teams, the largest club in Canterbury.

UC Rugby: Four years ago, the men's Premier Rugby team was ranked 12th of 12. Today they are placed 1st of the 12 and hold the DCL Shield. After housing many Crusaders through the years, they most recently have 11 players in the Crusaders Academy squad and two athletes who were named in the U20 All Blacks. The women's team holds the Challenge Shield and is second on the table, qualifying them for the Premier women's final. They have 18 players in the Canterbury Farah Palmer Cup wider training squad and four athletes were named in the Super Women's Rugby Aupiki 2023. UC Rugby has 14–16 teams, the highest number participating from a club other than junior sides in Canterbury in 2023.

UC Basketball: The men's Basketball team competes in the Premier division, overseen by Piet van Hasselt, the New Zealand 3x3 coach. They also have one athlete in the New Zealand 3x3 team and Canterbury Rams. After going through a rebuild, the women's Premier team has regained a place in the Premier division this year.

UC Football: In 2019 the UC Football club was not a competitive Premier club, despite its large membership (which has reached over 1,000 this year). Since then the UC women's Premier team has qualified for the Southern League (top six teams in South Island). The women's second team has also moved up to the Premier competition. The men's Premier team is currently sitting in third place and very close to qualifying for the Southern League next season.

UC Hockey: The Premier men's team has been at the bottom of the table for the past few years, however, they remain competitive in the grade. A few players compete in regional representative hockey, including the goalkeeper for the Otago National Hockey Championship winning team. The Division 1 women's team came third in the competition last year after spending a few years competing for the wooden spoon. Their goal is to gain a place in the Premier division. UC Hockey remains the club with the largest senior participation in Canterbury. Last year 280 players across 18 teams participated in the winter competition alone, and a further seven teams entered the Master and Summer hockey competitions.

The Staff Wellbeing team ran a successful Menopause Café networking function in mid June. This is part of a series offered in 2023.

A Sleep Smarter Strategies webinar was run for staff in late June. Attendees learnt about the science behind sleep and gained tips on how to improve their sleep hygiene.

As part of the 150th celebrations, staff have been offered the opportunity to take a day's approved paid day of work to volunteer for a charity of their choice. In this way, staff can give back to our wider community and spread manaakitanga.

Along with the online orientation system Enboarder, our inaugural Staff Quarterly Connection event took place this month. Hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, this gathering enables new staff to connect with their colleagues and to learn more about University-level issues and aspirations.

Internationalisation – Locally Engaged, Globally Networked

On a recent visit to the University of Queensland, Professor Bronwyn Hayward (School of Language, Social and Political Sciences) spoke about the challenges, opportunities and need related to teaching sustainable citizenship in universities. In doing so, she drew on some of the insights from the new Bachelor of Social and Environmental Sustainability programme.

The Wireless Research Centre has recently welcomed seven European interns who will be with the Centre for the next three months: four are fourth-year engineering students from Bordeaux Institute of Technology (INP), while one student comes from each of CESI Toulouse, Polytech Montpellier and Jacobs University Bremen. These internships support a strategic relationship with Bordeaux INP in particular. The students will be working on a combination of projects, including assisting our engagement with the RaceRanger start-up, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and

Employment Smart Ideas project on harmonic radar for insect tracking, and indoor positioning to support new initiatives on behavioural studies of preschoolers.

UC engages frequently with Universities New Zealand (most recently 15 June), Education New Zealand (12 June) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Manaaki scholarship scheme (2 June) on strategy, source market focus, and priorities. This longstanding initiative of the New Zealand Government has helped to bring hundreds of students from the Asia-Pacific region to UC, building human capacity in our region and helping to extend UC's impact across the globe. Education New Zealand complimented UC for its strong management role in the Manaaki programme and the very high level of support it delivers to its Manaaki scholars.

On 2 June, the International Relationships Office met with Mr Sam Yao, President of the Malaysian Community Association in Christchurch. Integration of our international education activity with Malaysian community leaders and alumni is critical for our continued positive engagement with Malaysia, one of UC's top four markets. As planned, we announced Malaysia international student scholarships and disseminated information about this initiative in the community, in addition to undertaking work aimed at increasing our capacity to accommodate Malaysian international students in Christchurch.

On 8 June, UC hosted Professor Sandeep Singh from the Department of Earth Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee. IIT Roorkee hosts India's most advanced earthquake engineering research and is India's second oldest IIT, celebrating its 175th birthday this year. Professor Ian Wright led discussions focused on collaborative research and research training.

Associate Professor Jeremy Moses (School of Language, Social and Political Sciences) visited Canberra on 24 May to speak at the Australian National University Law and Philosophy seminar series. Jeremy presented work in progress in which arguments about algorithmic bias are being used by the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots and how this reveals the limitations of international humanitarian law.

Organisational Efficacy – of a sustainable scale by 2030

Digital Services and the UC Online team launched the latest version of the UC Online platform in June. This new release enabled a new identity management experience for online students, allowing them to 'bring their own identity' without needing to have an identity or email account provided by UC. The platform also went live with payment services provided by Stripe, a global payments platform, so that students could access a comprehensive modern online payments experience. The release included a great range of other minor improvements. The combined product team continues to develop the UC Online experience to enable an amazing learning experience and to support the growth of the course and programme offerings.

Our new Ako ā-Mahi | Work Integrated Learning platform (UC Placements) continued its roll-out, with the training and onboarding of the Faculty of Engineering now under way. When complete, the new platform will facilitate the management of student placements within the community for over 1,100 students. Roll-out to Clinical Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy, PACE and Social Work is complete. The roll-out continues as the project targets completion by the end of Quarter 1, 2024.

Environmentally Sustainable

Construction works for the Ilam Coal Boiler Replacement have started. All design documentation has been issued, services relocation is under way, and the main contractors are mobilised and on site. Hoardings are in place around FM and six new piles have been successfully sunk into the ground ready for the construction of the woodchip silo.

The programme for the ground source heat pump in the Science Precinct has been re-established after a break for exams, and the main contractor and sub-contractor procurement has been finalised. The heat pumps have arrived in New Zealand. One was slightly damaged but has been successfully repaired. The first bore has reached target depths.

The Dovedale Coal Boiler Replacement feasibility planning has begun. A draft programme has been developed to satisfy the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority funding agreement, which was notified last month.

The roof replacement is completed in the journey to improve the thermal envelope for the Ann Ballin building, and the upper floors are approaching completion.

The UC Waterways Plan review is completed and is now out for stakeholder consultation.

Engaging staff and students in the UC Waste Plan 2019–2024 proved successful, with waste-awareness events attracting almost 200 people throughout May. A worm farm has been installed outside Chilton's Café in partnership with the UCSA as an education space and to divert food waste from UCSA kitchens.

World Biodiversity Day was further celebrated with a well-attended talk by Dr Sara Kross, School of Biological Sciences, on the recent sightings of a resident kārearea | New Zealand falcon on UC campus. This taonga species is the only remaining endemic bird of prey in Aotearoa. A total of 120 staff and students engaged in biodiversity-related events in May.

Following the Community Feast and surrounding stakeholder engagement, *The Community Feast Evaluation Report* has been published and is available on the University website.

The School of Biological Sciences gave out the monthly Pipettor Award to encourage and reward sustainability in research and teaching across biological sciences. The latest recipient was Angela van Diepen, who has spearheaded a move to recycle all of the polystyrene packaging that surrounds deliveries to the school. This work involved coordinating with Facilities Management and a good deal of deconstruction to reduce the size of the packaging material before sending it to recycling.

Biology students collaborated with Wairewa Rūnanga to collect biodiversity data on Te Kaio farm (450 hectares) near Te Kaio Bay on Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū (Banks Peninsula). The trip, led by Ana Gray and joined by Rūnanga members, provided stories about the farm and surrounding land. Ranger Alison Evans and botanist Colin Meurk also participated in the activities, enhancing the opportunity for our students.

After the survey for Semester 1 was closed, we have identified 211 taught courses across all faculties that align with one or more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.