

February 2023

Introduction

The 2023 Academic year has begun and there is vibrancy and a buzz across the campus. It is the first year since 2019 that the full suite of orientation programmes has been offered and we have seen record participation levels with many new initiatives to foster a sense of community and belonging amongst the new UC students. About 2,700 new students and their whānau attended Herea tō waka | Orientation Day on Friday 17 February.

On 2 February I had the privilege of hosting a Welcome Back morning tea for all staff which was very well attended. The monthly Staff hui series has begun with People and Culture hosting the February hui.

The calendar of events in Christchurch reflects a return to pre-Covid levels of activity with many companies hosting annual client recognition events and other agencies hosting notable speakers. One of the notable events I attended over the past month was the Canterbury Regional Mayoral Forum hosted by the Chamber of Business.

In the week of 12 - 17 February I participated in a Tertiary Education Commission delegation that attended the Achieving the Dream Convening in Chicago. The delegation comprised leaders from New Zealand universities and tertiary organizations. I spoke on behalf of the Tertiary Education Commission delegation in a panel session that discussed cross-country similarities and differences in addressing student success and equity. Liz Brown, Amokapua Pākākano Tuarua | Deputy Assistant Vice-Chancellor Māori, also represented UC in the delegation. Liz Brown and I will be sharing our learnings with the Kia Angitu team.

After consultation with the UC Pasifika community, I was delighted to announce the appointment of Distinguished Professor Steven Ratuva to the role of Te Amorangi | Pro-Vice-Chancellor (PVC) Pacific. Distinguished Professor Ratuva will lead the revision and redevelopment of the UC Pasifika Strategy as the current strategy reaches its end date in 2023.

Engagement

Student enrolments have risen again in a competitive environment and domestic undergraduate enrolments as well as international graduate enrolments have already exceeded target for the full year. On 22 February, Stuff headlined Canterbury as 'the cool place to be' noting waitlists for halls of residence whereas Wellington and Auckland still have vacancies.

In preparation for our 150th anniversary, the university commissioned Public First and Research First to undertake an assessment of our community impact. It is the first utilisation of an established UK framework for civic engagement outside the UK.

The report develops seven domains of a university's civic commitment and engagement:

- Economic impact
- Social impact
- Health and wellbeing impact
- Cultural and creative impact

- Leadership impact
- Environmental impact

For each of the above areas of impact, the report provides key facts, background and case studies, context about the changing world universities operate in, and the need to demonstrate social purpose. It also provides 15 facts about UC's impact which are summarised below:

Growing Canterbury

UC has spent over **\$500 million** in the Canterbury region since 2019 via its procurement and supply chains; **65%** of UC's total spend in this period was in the local area. Between 2018 and 2022, **372 businesses** have been incubated or spun out of UC by university staff, academics or students – of which **147 were established as social enterprises**. **49%** of UC graduates who go into employment in New Zealand work in **Christchurch and the surrounding area**. Since 2021 UC has signed over **450 contracts** establishing **work between UC and Christchurch based agencies or businesses**. Over **\$4 million** has been raised by businesses incubated by UC between 2020-2022. Over **5,500** people from Christchurch businesses and other local organisations have **attended an industry engagement event** held by UC in the past five years.

Serving Canterbury

UC's Student Volunteer Army carried out **9,340** hours of volunteering in Christchurch in 2021 – to the equivalent of **\$220,891** of service given back to the local community. **\$5 million** will support **150 Te Kakau a Maui scholarships in 2023 and 2024**, fully funding UC course fees for **300** students from TE Waipounamu South Island who are keen to make a change in their world. **Over 40% of UC graduates go into public service**, including roles in education, health and social care, or public administration. **22,000** students from the Canterbury region, of all ages, have enrolled on a course at UC since 2019. UC trains **450** new teachers a year – and over **60%** of those trained stay and teach in schools in the Canterbury region. UC works with **70%** of Canterbury's secondary schools to offer outreach and widening participation events for your people considering higher education.

Enriching Canterbury

79% of Christchurch residents say that UC is “extremely” or “somewhat” important to them. Over the past five years, **12,000** local residents have attended more than **300** public engagement events at the Arts Centre in the heart of the city, including public lectures, concerts and exhibitions. Since it opened in 2017, the Teece Museum has had more than **60,000 visitors** – of which around **74%** are Canterbury residents.

The report is now available on the UC Staff intranet here with a public release planned for March.

The 150th anniversary also brings the opportunity for increased engagement. Participants from Alaska, Hawaii, Montana, and British Columbia joined the First Nations Conference hosted by the Ngāi Tahu Centre in partnership with UC. Professor Bronwyn Hayward chaired a public discussion on 'The Path to a Sustainable Future' with international thought-leaders in the fields of ecosystems, water science and the sustainability of the Pacific Islands.

First Nations Leaders also attended a ceremony in the Council Chamber where mana whenua, Ngāi Tūāhuriri, Pou Whakarae Professor [Te Maire Tau](#) presented a patu parāoa to Tumu Kaunihera | Chancellor Hon Amy Adams to acknowledge the iwi's relations with the University. The whale bone was carved by [Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu](#) master carver [Fayne Robinson](#), and named Māuru, a term associated with the Nor'West wind.

The UC Centre for Entrepreneurship completed its 10th edition of Summer Startup. Twenty-four students worked on 19 ventures during this summer programme. \$99,000 in scholarships were funded by a US-based benefactor. The Innovation Award went to [Krzysztof Maliszewski \(Master of Science\)](#) whose venture PiJ Tech features software to improve the quality of images provided by optical coherence tomography (OCT), a light-based imaging device that's used to diagnose eye problems and diseases, including diabetes and cancer. Krzysztof was interviewed on national radio about his invention.

The Impact Award went to **David Pethybridge (Master of Engineering Management)** for his venture RoadVac, a portable device that removes surface-layer dust from gravel roads, offering a solution to a significant environmental problem that has adverse health effects.

The Most Well-Developed Award went to Monique Lau (**Bachelor of Product Design**) who created endoSoothe, a skin cream that uses natural ingredients such as ginger root oil, yarrow and cypress leaf oil to help relieve the symptoms of endometriosis. Lau, who is herself an endometriosis sufferer, developed the product as part of her third-year project in the UC School of Product Design.

The Presentation Award went to **Marcus Davidson (Bachelor of Engineering)** for his multi-player card game that he says is perfect for families and friends. Coop's cards are illustrated by Marcus' sister and depict chickens that are named after their family's hens.

The audience at last week's showcase also had the chance to vote for their favourite venture. The People's Choice Award went to **Jack Carrick** and **Thomas McGuinness (both Bachelor of Commerce)** and their product Nailed it Nutrition, a plant protein made primarily of soy and faba bean and containing amino acids.

Over its ten years, UCE has assisted over 1,500 students start over 600 ventures, awarded over \$1 Million in scholarships, and provided 100,000 fruit bursts to fuel UC's creative minds.

UC academics continue to share their expertise with external stakeholders and to convene conferences and meetings in their disciplines. The Department of Classics hosted the biennial conference of the Australasian Society for Classical Studies at the Arts Centre.

The exhibition 'Wars, Revolutions and Social Change: Sixty Years in China', on display on level two of the Puaka-James Hight Library until 4 April, informs viewers about the history of twentieth-century China, and the life of Cantabrian Rewi Alley, who lived in China through much of it. Curators Associate Professor Richard Bullen (Art History and Theory) and Associate Professor James Beattie (Victoria University in Wellington) selected items from Canterbury Museum and the Macmillan Brown Library which bring to life this tumultuous period, which included the fall of the last imperial dynasty, wars with foreign states, and the communist and cultural revolutions.

Professor Dr Ben Kennedy organised, VolcanoFest in Rotorua to bring volcano science to the local community. The event was part of the IAVCEI Scientific Assembly conference with more than 900 scientists from 41 countries attending seminars, workshops and fieldtrips over five days.

UC is participating in space technology events being held at Tūranga, including an exhibition featuring a space plane simulator, how clean, green fuel could power the future of space travel and interactive activities where children can build a satellite and launch a rocket.

The Faculty of Engineering held the annual WiE CAN, Women in Engineering Residential Programme, in January. 60 young women from across Aotearoa came to Christchurch to experience hands-on engineering workshops and stayed in the Tupuānuku hall of residence. Feedback from the students has been overwhelmingly positive. When asked how likely the students were to study Engineering in 2024 (at any university), 92% answered likely or extremely likely (compared to 68% pre-event). When asked how likely the students were to study at UC in 2024, 88% answered likely or extremely likely (compared to 60% pre-event).

Mechanical Engineering has signed an agreement with Scott Technology which includes sponsoring a Final Year Project, funding a Women in Engineering Scholarship (\$5,000 towards tuition fees, \$1,000 stipend, and an offer of a paid internship with Scott Technology), an academic achievement award (prize of \$1,500), and will participate in guest lecturing, and will also facilitate Scott Technology tours for our students.

Education – Accessible, Flexible, Future Focused

Orientation is not only an opportunity for students to get a sense of the campus and meet new people, but it is an opportunity to start their academic journey. As part of orientation this year, UC offered Thrive Lectures. Seven UC THRIVE lectures were given to first-year students in Halls of Residence and to students living off-campus. In total, approximately 2,000 first-year students attended these sessions in person, which was a massive turn-out. The lectures shared information for students on how to feel prepared to study at UC which in turn assists student engagement. Students learned about the differences between high-school and university and how they can navigate those differences for academic success. Members of the Wellbeing, Student Care, Kaitoko and Students Success teams also spoke about the work that their teams do to support our Ākonga as they begin their journey.

In its second year, Te Pātaka was once again a hub of activity for students seeking information and making arrangements for a successful year. The support services, including kaitoko (first-year advisors) were a point of contact for many students as they commenced. Feedback from students on the range of services present including Security, Health Centre, and Timetabling was positive. In addition to supporting our students who were present, Kaitoko, Student Care and other support services were also reaching out to students stranded in the North Island who had concerns about the timing of the return to campus.

Throughout 2023, our Te Kakau a Māui scholars have a full and enriching programme of social connection and coaching support to help guide them through their studies. In an exciting commencement to the 150th celebrations, the scholarship programme kicked off on O-day with a welcome breakfast for approximately 160 first year scholarship students. The breakfast event hosted students and whānau and was the first opportunity for these students to meet their homebase leads and social groups for 2023. Homebase groups comprised of around 15 students and one university staff volunteer who have committed to supporting them. Already there have been a few follow-on social events for the homebase teams, ensuring that our scholars start the year feeling a sense of connection to their peers. Along with the full tuition scholarship, the programme aims to support students through removing the barriers that they might face to set them on the path of life-long learning. At the welcome breakfast, students met their home-base advisors, their success coach and many of the Executive Deans as part of the programme.

The third iteration of the Takere programme concluded February with a celebration event making the end of another successful campaign. Students and whānau were invited to the closing ceremony for all 48 Takere students and Kai was shared afterwards. Students have now enrolled across the range of programmes on offer at UC and have embarked on their first semester with a head start of their first 15 credits under their belt.

It was also exciting to see the launch of our new offering, the Bachelor of Digital Screen (Honours). With a large cohort of students joining the first year, the classes have been lively, and it has been an excellent start to the year. The Bachelor of Digital Screen brings together creativity with industry and students have commenced courses ranging from 'Story Telling' to 'Product Design'. The numbers of students enrolled in the programme exceeded expectations and it has been pleasing to see this programme come together.

For the start of the year, we have also been pleased to be able to welcome international Erskine Visitors back on campus. After a long hiatus with COVID, we have finally been able to start the year with our international guests. We are welcoming 38 Erskines for Semester 1, 33 who are already here for Term 1. The welcome event for our Erskine Fellows will be held on 15 March.

For the start of 2023, UC Online had 8 courses live: six micro-credentials, and two smaller courses. The Faculty of Education has launched two of the micro-credentials in 2023: Instructional Design Basics and Mentoring Pre-service Teachers. These short courses have several launch dates throughout the year.

In an aim to broaden access the Faculty of Health is currently working with the Te Whatu Ora South Canterbury and Te Whatu Ora Te Pae Haoura o Ruahine o Tararua MidCentral to deliver postgraduate Talking Therapies courses in Timaru and Palmerston North during 2023.

This month also saw staff engaging in professional development workshops around Academic Integrity and new technology. With artificial intelligence (AI) being topical, Future Learning and development Academic Developer Trevor Nesbitt, and Distributed Leadership in Teaching Fellow, Deidre Hart led a workshop session on academic integrity and teaching and learning in an AI world. Several academics presented and the workshop was well attended. Since the presentation well over 100 academics have viewed the seminar and downloaded the support materials. Based on Deidre Hart's work, an academic Integrity Module was rolled out to new to UC students for 2023. This excellent initiative will be scaled more widely in future.

Research – Impact on a Changing World

UC research is making valuable contributions to better impact local and global challenges.

The 2nd edition of Research.com ranking of the best scientists in Business and Management was published recently. It is based bibliometric data that only includes papers and citation values for an examined discipline. UC has 3 academics in the top 10 list with Professor Michael Hall (Marketing) leading the list.

Former UC Council member and current law lecturer Rachael Evans has been awarded an \$80,000 scholarship for PhD research investigating how iwi can exercise rangatiratanga (sovereignty or autonomy) through the development of fiscal authority. The scholarship is from the Michael and Suzanne Borrin Foundation and Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, New Zealand's Māori Centre of Research Excellence.

Sara Tolbert (Faculty of Education) is part of the team leading the New Zealand curriculum refresh, as one of two subject matter experts for the science learning area. The goal of the refresh is to ensure that the curriculum honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi, is inclusive and easy to use, and focuses on learning that matters. Sara has also been a co-author on a Ministry of Education commissioned paper, Enduring Competencies for Designing Science Learning Pathways, which will be used to help inform curriculum and subject expert group teams.

Associate Professor Laura Revell (School of Physical and Chemical Sciences) is leading a research team including Dr Karin Kvale from GNS Science and Dr Nikolaos Evangeliou from Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU) to carry out world-leading analysis investigating future microplastic-climate effects. A three-year Marsden grant will support the research project exploring how microplastics in our air and oceans could be influencing the global climate.

In addition, UC Staff have been engaging externally on renewable energy solutions. This has included attending the inaugural New Zealand hydrogen symposium in Dunedin, feeding into consultation workshops on the Government's roadmap for hydrogen, exploring potential partnerships with industry (including Meridian Energy and Christchurch International Airport's hydrogen consortium) and making new connections in exploring the potential of offshore windfarms. Two of the workshops were held in the Just Transition regions of Southland and Taranaki, where UC is actively developing closer connections with local stakeholders, including WITT (a UC research and teaching collaboration partner) and Murihiku Regeneration (a rūnunga initiative to build a new local regenerative economy). The goal of this work is to position UC as New Zealand's leader in this area, and preferred research partner of choice, both locally and internationally.

Professor Simon Kingham was a keynote speaker at New Zealand's first forum on Driverless Passenger Transport. The conference theme was "The Role of Autonomous Transport Solutions in solving Public Transport's First and Last Mile Challenge".

Earthquake Engineering PhD candidate, Felipe Kuncar, is working on a ground-motion simulation model that will improve understanding of how different neighbourhoods are impacted by shaking to better inform engineers and make buildings more resilient to large earthquakes. Kuncar has been using data from the dense Christchurch network of twenty strong motion sensors (accelerometers) to analyse localised seismic activity. In the next few months, he expects to include more than fifty of these instruments from across Aotearoa New Zealand in his analysis and says the modelling technique could be used to improve the seismic resilience of buildings all over the world.

Jennifer Berry, an outstanding final year Mechanical Engineering student, has become the first non-US university recipient of the prestigious Universities Space Research Association (USRA) Distinguished Undergraduate Award.

Two Child and Family Psychology students Humaira Hakeemi and Zara Kashkari have been awarded scholarships for their studies at UC from Te Whatu Ora "Building the Muslim Mental Health Workforce." Humaira is undertaking her MSc thesis and Zara is a current student in the Child and Family Psychology programme and will be embarking on her research thesis this year.

With border restrictions easing, UC is prioritising opportunities to further build our international reputation and connectedness. Professor Wolfgang Rack and Dr Daniel Price (School of Earth and Environment) are collaborating with Lincoln Agritech, the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research (AWI) in Germany, Australian Antarctic Division, NASA, and ETH Zurich University to map and measure a vast stretch of Antarctic Sea ice. This research is supported with a Marsden grant and seeks to reveal the role sea ice plays in the global climate system.

The Faculty of Education has hosted Dr Heather Worth, Director of Te Puna Vai Marama, Cook Islands Centre for Research, University of South Pacific (USP), as part of UC's ongoing partnership development in the education sector in Raratonga. Associate Professor Heather Wolfram (School of History) has completed a European sabbatical during which she had short visiting fellowships at both the Institute for the History and Ethics of Medicine at Friedrich-Alexander University in Erlangen (Germany) and the History Faculty at Utrecht University (The Netherlands). In Utrecht, Heather joined the European Research Council-sponsored Forensic Cultures in Europe (FORCE) Project, leading a workshop on 'Emotions and Forensic Medicine/Psychology.' Heather is collaborating with FORCE team members on an edited collection to be published by University of Manchester Press in the middle of 2023.

Publication in prestigious journals is ongoing. This month in *Nature Communications*, Dr Thomas Robinson has published research that identifies for the first-time areas and communities most in danger from glacier flooding and has attracted significant international media attention. The research identifies high populations of communities at risk from glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) that can happen without warning when a natural dam fails. Similarly, Professor Ben Kennedy, is a co-author on a paper published in *Scientific Reports* which looks at the damage amplification during repetitive seismic waves in mechanically loads rocks.

There are also emerging opportunities to build the outreach and impact of UC research. From 1 January 2023, the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) is requiring all peer reviewed research outputs arising from research that they fully or partially fund to be made Open Access. In a typical year, approximately 52% of external funding for UC research is from MBIE, and the Library is providing guidance documentation and tailored support for researchers to understand what this means for their research outputs, and how they can best comply with this requirement.

UC continues to provide access and share "state of the art" research equipment, facilities, and e-infrastructure. The Human Interface Technology Lab (The HIT Lab) New Zealand recently hosted the Third International XR (eXtended Reality) Workshop, in partnership with Auckland and Victoria Universities. XR is an emerging umbrella term for technologies that extend the reality we experience by either blending the virtual and "real" worlds, or by creating a fully immersive experience. The XR workshop theme was

Designing XR for Immersive Games and combined taught lectures with hands-on project work. This gave a unique opportunity to learn how to develop XR applications from world leading experts in the field.

Throughout 2023, the Library will be upgrading various search and collection management platforms to support the University teaching, learning and research. The most significant upcoming technological changes will be the move to a new Library Management System, the beta launch of *VuFind* and the roll-out of *Figshare*. These three changes will enhance the ability of academics and students to access and utilise collections as well as make publicly accessible their research data on a secure locally managed platform.

As part of the development of Te Kura Tāura, | UC Graduate School a researcher development team is being established. On 1st February, Dr Katharina Stirland commenced as Poutoko Pechenga Rangahau | Researcher Development Team Leader. The role of the Researcher Development Team Leader is to develop and implement proactive, customised and data informed practices to support the academic research journey of graduate research students. One of the first priorities is the development of online professional development in supervisory practice.

People – Nurturing Staff, Thriving Students

Wellbeing support has been offered for students and staff whose whanau might have been affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. The Accommodation Services team worked with Halls to enable special consideration about accommodation fees for Orientation week when some first-year students were unable to join us on campus. The students had all arrived by the start of lectures. The University community was made aware of the range of cyclone relief funds to which it could contribute.

As usual this time of the year has been busy for the Accommodation Services team. In line with the high level of domestic enrolments, the residential halls are full. The team has been working closely with the Halls on a variety of events in the lead up to first years arriving, for example information webinars for whanau of first year residents, and marae-based training for Taurima | Residential Assistants. Another collaborative initiative has been the provision of a structured six-week programme for first years, including a range of scheduled sporting, cultural and social events. A highlight of the first week were the Thrive lectures where students learnt about classroom and study techniques and support available to help with their studies and student experience. The approximately 2000 students who attended wore bright coloured t-shirts to denote their respective Halls and made for a striking sight as they moved en masse across campus.

The Student Wellbeing team continues to grow and diversify its skills. A recent recruit is an experienced registered social worker and will work in the role of Mental Health and Wellbeing Advisor.

February sees the start of a new monthly series of Student Voice meetings between the University of Canterbury Student Association (UCSA) President and colleagues and UC Leaders from Student Wellbeing and Accommodation Services. These meetings sit alongside an existing monthly meeting between UCSA and the University about facilities issues. These two meetings aim to align with priorities agreed at the Student Levy Advisory Board. Favourable feedback was recently received from the UCSA about the bright rainbow design painted on the front steps of Haere-roa.

Thirty staff have undergone training for the Kaihāpai Oranga/Wellbeing Supporter Programme, a peer support scheme that aims to provide assistance to staff to further help themselves with their wellbeing. On a similar note, the Learning and Development Team offer a programme for staff focusing on Mental Health First Aid, run by the Mental Health Foundation. Also offered has been a webinar called Unleash Your Potential which focuses on self-management of wellbeing. At the time of writing about 170 staff had attended.

UC staff are again taking part in the annual Aotearoa Bike Challenge. Last year 235 staff commuted over \$24,000 kilometres and one of the aims is to better that this year.

The government is currently running a programme called Manaakitia te whare tangata | Period products in schools. This programme provides access to free products for those who need it in all state and state integrated schools. This programme doesn't extend to tertiary providers, but Student Wellbeing and Facilities Management ran a successful nine-week UC trial of a customised UC version in 2022, with 3400 products being taken by UC community members. We have now committed to funding period products for staff and students at UC in 2023 and started doing so on 20 February.

Internationalisation – Locally Engaged, Globally Networked

Prof Ian Wright, Brett Berquist and Monique van Veen travelled to India earlier this month to engage in partnership meetings and deliver a Masterclass on Developing Sustainable Cities at the QS India Summit. Both the summit and the meetings provided helpful context for UC's engagement with India, especially understanding the implications of India's updated National Education Policy which affords Indian universities greater collaboration with foreign partners. Christchurch City Council's Assistant Chief Executive, Lynn McClelland, pre-recorded her contribution to the summit Masterclass which was very well received by a full room of higher education leaders from India and beyond.

UC also had the pleasure of hosting the Chief Executive and Secretary General of Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), Dr Joanna Newman at the end of the month. Dr Newman delivered an address on How global higher education is driving sustainable development.

Dr Martha Johnson, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, CEA/CAPA, gave a talk on curriculum integration as a catalyst for outbound mobility. Examples of how the University of Minnesota increased internationalisation by integrating outbound opportunities to degree programmes are relevant to current discussions on our revisions to our internationalisation strategy.

Very pleasingly, there has been better than expected recovery in the international graduate market with the full-year forecast being exceeded.

Organisational Efficacy – of a sustainable scale by 2030

The Digital service desk team have been busy supporting the start of the semester, dealing with record levels of calls and enquiries, juggling high volume incident management calls from several incidents impacting new enrolling students as well as lots of new staff enquiries and support. Digital is exploring how it scales its help services across UC campus and builds further self-service automation to enable service desk agents to provide valuable in-person consulting and support.

The Service Experience team continued its development and scaling of People & Culture team services available through UC's unified service portal. In addition, following feedback from stakeholders on the service portal design further iterative improvements were released in February, with plans to continue these experience and form workflow improvements as we progress through the year.

Digital Services also launched its internal pilot of using UdemyPro, a global community learning platform with significant strengths in Digital technology skills. This pilot is focused initially for Digital Services continuing staff development investment. This focused technology skills learning investment further compliments the range of courses available from LinkedIn learning and UC, available through DevelopMe which also launched in January.

Digital also participated in a pilot of new staff member "pop-up" event to help answer questions and deal with any setup technical issues being encountered by staff. The event was very positively received.

The finance team is heavily involved with the Annual financial audit process hosting a large team from Audit NZ. The audit is progressing well currently with no major issues, so we are still expecting the planned timelines to be met.

Environmentally Sustainable

As per the Sustainable Food and Drink Plan, a large collaboration of organisations in the local food system was initiated in January 2023. This is specifically to support the delivery of an inclusive Community Feast as part of the 150th celebrations. This event will highlight the University's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals, especially No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Wellbeing, and Partnerships for the Goals. In addition, two members of the Sustainability Office attended the fourth Aotearoa SDG Summit at Waikato University in February, and we are providing initial support for planning the fifth summit. This effort was highlighted during the recent Summit.

Mechanical Engineering is delighted to welcome A/Prof David Denkenberger to the department. He is a new academic who teaches building energy efficiency and does research on energy. He also co-founded and directs the Alliance to Feed the Earth in Disasters (ALLFED) to implement preparedness for global catastrophe.

We are participating in the Aotearoa Bike Challenge where staff and students committed to take part ride a bike for 10mins or more during the month of February. Rides are logged and submitted to the national Bike Challenge database. On 21st February there was a group photo taken of all campus members who have joined the initiative.