

**MECH SEMINAR SERIES 2026**  
*Department of Mechanical Engineering*

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**Friday, 20 February 2026**  
**Venue : E6 Lecture Theatre**  
**Time : 11.00 – 12.00**

**Title : Tonga Biomedical Outreach Programme 2025–26:  
It's a Wrap!**



**Speakers : UC Biomedical Outreach  
Staff and Students**

*Department of Mechanical Engineering*

*University of Canterbury*

**Abstract :** The Tonga Biomedical Outreach Programme brought together University of Canterbury staff and students with local hospital technicians to repair medical equipment and build long-term biomedical engineering capability in Tonga. Like many Pacific Island nations, Tonga relies heavily on donated medical devices, which often arrived incomplete or non-functional and required repair before they could be safely used. When equipment could not be repaired or was unsuitable, it became a costly burden to store and manage.

From 10 November to 19 December, eight Mechanical and Mechatronics students completed six weeks of intensive training at UC, covering hospital equipment operation, fault diagnosis, and common failure modes, alongside cultural awareness, introductory Tongan language classes, and research project mentoring. From 9 January to 7 February, the student and staff team spent four weeks in Tonga, working side-by-side with hospital technicians to deliver hands-on training, address maintenance backlogs, diagnose faults, and progress individual research projects within the hospital environment.

This wrap-up seminar presents student projects, key achievements, and reflections on working in a real-world, resource-constrained healthcare setting, and celebrates the outcomes of the 2025–26 programme.