

Together

2024 DONOR IMPACT REPORT

UC



UC
UNIVERSITY OF
CANTERBURY
Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha
CHRISTCHURCH NEW ZEALAND

University of
Canterbury
Foundation

In this report:





Thanks for Your Support

Kia ora

Building on the momentum of our 150th anniversary celebrations, 2024 was a year of renewed purpose and progress made possible by you, our generous donors and alumni.

Thanks to your support, we continued to make education more accessible and equitable, empowering students and researchers to thrive and contribute meaningfully to Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond. The stories in this report highlight the lasting ripple effect of your generosity: **one life transformed can impact countless others.**

For over 150 years, graduates of Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury have gone on to serve their communities, shape industries, and spark discovery. Today, that legacy continues through those who once benefited from a UC education and are now helping the next generation succeed.

Christine, Lady Brownlie, a distinguished UC Law alum, established the University of Canterbury International Law PhD Scholarship. Her generous gift will enable talented students to explore critical global issues, ensuring New Zealand maintains a strong voice in the field of international law.

UC alum John Rutherford, who once faced the prospect of abandoning his master's degree due to financial hardship, is now giving back by creating a scholarship to support second-year students in need, just as a scholarship once

helped him continue his studies.

And a generous anonymous donor is now opening doors for UC Business students to travel to Asia for intensive three-week study tours. These experiences allow students to immerse themselves in different cultures and gain a deeper understanding of how commerce is transacted across borders.

These acts of generosity, and many others like them, reflect something much greater than a single thoughtful gesture; they embody the power of a connected community working together to shape the future. Every opportunity created, every student supported, and every dream realised drives change far beyond our campus.

You are vital to this shared mission. Thank you for walking alongside us. We look forward to the incredible impact that we will create together.

Ngā mihi,

Thea Kleiber
Kaihautū | Director of Advancement

Your Support Matters

In this publication, you'll read stories of what you, our donors and supporters, have made possible. From a generous \$10 million donation for postgraduate scholarships, to laboratory equipment for chemistry students, and gardens that grow health, happiness and connectedness – every dollar makes a difference.

\$16,885,871

Funds raised for research, scholarships, and programmes

26,433

Students enrolled in 2024

10 countries

Donations received from supporters in 10 countries



1,956

International students

257

Research degree enrolments (doctorates)

Sowing the Seeds of Community



Tucked into a wild green corner of UC's Ilam campus, orange and yellow calendula blossoms stand against a backdrop of plants going to seed as cold weather sets in. Strawberry plants and pumpkin vines sprawl over raised garden beds. A pair of pīwakawaka (fantails) flit by, performing a mid-air dance around a pergola. An aged wooden sign says: Waiutuutu Community Garden.

Photo by Katelyn Greer on Unsplash

“

Students love being outside in nature. It's good for their physical health to be in the garden, and it's good for their mental health too.

— JAM KELLY

UC is the first university in Aotearoa New Zealand to set up a community garden for students, staff, and other community members.

Volunteers descend on the garden every Friday – composting, looking after the plants, and sharing in the harvest.

“It's really nice to weed next to a nineteen-year-old who's enthusiastic and not sure what to do with their life. As you get older, you get more cynical, but students have a great outlook,” says Dr Elizabeth Steele. Her family's foundation, the United States-based Steele Family Foundation, has donated US\$20,000 towards the garden.

Each year, she and her siblings nominate charitable causes and organisations to receive support.

“It's a great way for me to give back to the community that I live in,” says Dr Steele.

“I lived right next to the garden when I first arrived in Christchurch,” she says, pointing to the tan corrugated iron roof on the other side of the fence. “I saw on Google Maps there was a garden right here.”

Dr Steele, an anaesthesiologist, and her cardiologist husband moved to Aotearoa New Zealand from the United States in October 2020. Her husband had been a medical student in New Zealand, and they both wanted to live internationally again.

“Those first couple of months living here, I was like, *What have I*

done?” Dr Steele felt she was at a loose end.

She met Jam Kelly, UC Community Gardens Coordinator at the Office of Sustainability, while volunteering at the Waiutuutu Community Garden. They hit it off, united by a shared interest in sustainability.

“Jam's a really genuine person, very welcoming, and I think she's created a nice community here. Sometimes we would just sit here and weed together. **Digging in the dirt, seeing things blossom and bloom, and meeting young people – it's really good for the soul.**”

The feeling appears to be mutual. “Elizabeth's donation and support for the garden is so amazing,” says Kelly. “She recognises the importance of having a community space where people can meet others and learn about growing their own food.”

Kelly runs several workshops out of the garden, including worm farming and composting. She's had interest from other Aotearoa New Zealand universities about establishing their own community gardens.

“Students love being outside in nature. It's good for their physical health to be in the garden, and it's good for their mental health too,” says Kelly.

Kelly has many plans for the garden now that she has financial support but ultimately her goal is to see the garden continue to be a gathering place for our community.



Dr Elizabeth Steele found a sense of community at UC's Waiutuutu Community Garden when she first arrived in Ōtautahi Christchurch from the United States.



The Power of Paying it Forward



Image credit: ChristchurchNZ



“I count it an honour and privilege to help others receive the same educational benefits that I received.”

— JOHN RUTHERFORD

John Rutherford almost didn't finish his master's degree in computer science at the University of Connecticut because he was running out of funds.

Luckily, he received a last-minute scholarship that made it possible for him to complete his studies.

Today, the University of Canterbury alum, who graduated in 1972 with a BE(Hons), is a successful financier who has co-founded two major investment firms in the United States. He's never forgotten how that scholarship changed his life's trajectory.

Now, through the John Rutherford Scholarship, he's helping students who find themselves in similarly tough financial positions.

Focusing on second-year students, who have the fewest scholarship options, Mr Rutherford wants to support students who've proved their mettle and commitment by successfully navigating the first year of their studies.

“I am very proud of the excellent education the University of Canterbury provided me,” he says. “I count it an

honour and privilege to help others receive the same educational benefits that I received.”

He has always been committed to providing educational opportunities for students, having previously supported UC Centre for Entrepreneurship's Summer Startup Scholarships and Māpura Bright Start Scholarships, as well as contributing to the new UCSA building. His real interest, however, lies with students who are in the middle of their studies and find themselves needing to make the difficult decision between finishing their degree or abandoning it for the job market because of financial constraints.

“We are immensely grateful to John for his significant contribution,” says UC Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic Professor Catherine Moran. “His gift not only enhances educational opportunities for UC students but also sets a powerful example of how philanthropy can directly impact students' lives at university and beyond.”

The John Rutherford Scholarship will play a crucial role in helping talented students achieve their academic and career goals, ensuring that financial barriers do not stand in the way of their success.

Solar Sunflower Gift Powers Innovative Learning



and daily life,” says Founding Director Shawn Huang.

The Solar Sunflower is the first of its kind in New Zealand. It stands about five metres tall when fully unfurled and has photovoltaic ‘petals’ that track the sun's movement to maximise electricity generation. Golden Solar BIPV also installed a semi-translucent solar glass panel awning outside UC's Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) Library.

Both the Sunflower and the awning will allow students to witness practical and architectural applications of solar technology. Such understanding is a vital step on the journey towards widespread adoption of renewable sources of energy.

The electricity generated by these systems will directly contribute to significantly reducing the University's carbon emissions.

Dr Jannik Haas, Director of Studies for Renewable Energy in UC's Department of Civil and Natural Resources Engineering says, **“Donations like these will let students see the theories they're learning in class transformed into action. They'll be a huge inspiration for what can be done with the application of theory and a little bit of creativity.”**

Golden Solar BIPV is a Christchurch-based company dedicated to the research, development, and application of Building-Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV). “We specialise in seamlessly integrating solar power generation into architectural design and building materials.” Founding director Shawn Huang is excited to have more opportunities to collaborate with the Faculty of Engineering and continue enriching student learning experiences going forward.

With a click and a quiet mechanical whir that's barely audible over the wind's bluster on a fresh Canterbury day, the black circular fan of solar panels turns two degrees west.

Set into a squat concrete stem near where the iconic Mushroom Building once stood, the Solar Sunflower is one of two solar energy systems generously donated to the University of Canterbury by Golden Solar BIPV, a Christchurch-based company that specialises in integrating photovoltaic technology into building materials.

“The Solar Sunflower project exemplifies the powerful synergy between innovation, education, and sustainability, demonstrating how clean energy solutions can seamlessly integrate into both architectural spaces

“Donations like these will let students see the theories they're learning in class transformed into action. They'll be a huge inspiration for what can be done with the application of theory and a little bit of creativity.”

— DR JANNIK HAAS

From Canterbury to the World Stage:

A donor's vision for international law



◀ Lady Brownlie signs the gift agreement in London

UC has announced its first donor-funded International Law PhD Scholarship, enabled by a generous gift from distinguished alum Christine, Lady Brownlie.

This prestigious scholarship will support one full-time PhD student annually, fostering excellence in doctoral research in International Law.

The scholarship reflects Lady Brownlie's dedication to promoting academic achievement and perseverance in a traditionally male-dominated field. As one of only four female students in her Bachelor of Laws (LLB) class and the only woman who went on to earn a Master of Laws (LLM), Lady Brownlie graduated from UC in 1968 before becoming a law lecturer at UC. Her legacy now inspires the next generation of legal scholars.

Speaking about the scholarship, Lady Brownlie expressed her hope that it will inspire students to explore the role of international law in international affairs and its impact on global governance.

"The observance of international law has never been more important than in the current state of world affairs," she said.

In addition to the scholarship, Lady Brownlie has long supported UC's Ewart Hay Prize in Public International Law, which she established in 2009 in memory of her uncle, Ewart Hay.

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The observance of international law has never been more important than in the current state of world affairs.

—
LADY BROWNLIE

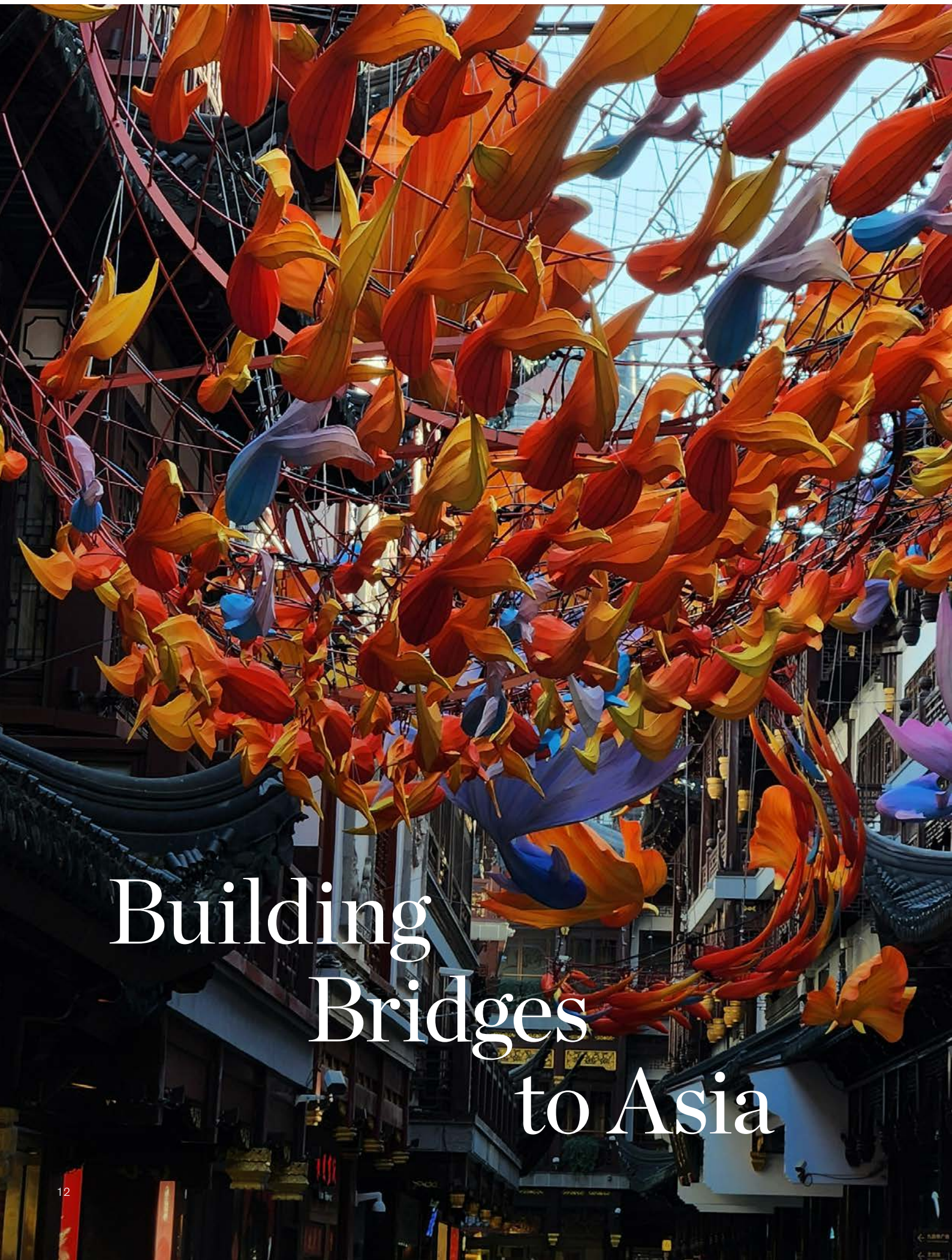
A graduate of what was then Canterbury College, Ewart Hay had a distinguished legal career in Ōtautahi Christchurch, a remarkable record in the Second World War, and was an avid sportsman.

Executive Dean of UC's Faculty of Law, Professor Petra Butler, expressed her gratitude for Lady Brownlie's generosity.

"We are immensely grateful to Lady Brownlie for her generous donation for the PhD scholarship in International Law," said Professor Butler. **"Her significant contribution will not only empower an aspiring international lawyer to pursue advanced legal research but also enhance the academic rigour and prestige of our Law School.** Lady Brownlie's support is a cornerstone of opportunity, reflecting her unwavering commitment to academic excellence and the advancement of legal education."

The selection panel for the scholarship includes world-renowned legal scholar and UC alumni Professor Benedict Kingsbury, alumni Victoria Hallum (Deputy Secretary, Multilateral and Legal Affairs, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade), Professors Karen Scott and Petra Butler from UC's Faculty of Law, and UC Vice-Chancellor Professor Cheryl de la Rey.

Professor Butler says, "It's inspiring to see alumni like Lady Brownlie recognise the importance of our Law School and value the quality of legal education at UC. Through her vision and generosity, Lady Brownlie is not only investing in leaders of international law, but she is also helping to safeguard the principles of justice and peace. Her legacy will resonate far beyond the walls of UC, shaping global conversations for years to come."



Building Bridges to Asia

“
This gift doesn’t just support international learning; it shapes globally minded graduates who will carry these lessons throughout their lives.”

— PROFESSOR PAUL BALLANTINE



Study Tour students in Jakarta

Kate Clements has long been interested in China – curiosity which eventually led her to join a UC Business School study tour, where she had the chance to experience the country first-hand.

UC’s study tours to China and Southeast Asia are supported by an anonymous donor passionate about fostering deeper understanding between Aotearoa and its closest Asian neighbours. His support has helped students like Kate gain insights into cultures and economies that can’t be learned from a textbook.

Thanks to the donor’s generosity, the cost to students was halved – making it more affordable for the 22 domestic students who participated.

“Asia is completely unfamiliar to most Kiwis,” the donor explains. “My hope is to help build the cultural fluency we need for the future.”

“These tours are about learning through cultural immersion,” says UC Business School Director of Internationalisation Will Shannon. Students come away with practical

knowledge of what it takes to function effectively across cultures.

The tours have a practical focus, requiring students to work in teams to research and develop real recommendations for New Zealand businesses interested in entering Asian markets. Students return with greater confidence, cross-cultural awareness, and a better understanding of global business.

For Kate, the three-week China tour revealed how much business success depends on relationships and trust. “It wasn’t about speed; it was about rapport,” she says.

Her experience in China deepened her appreciation for innovation and adaptability.

What stayed with her most, however, were the connections. “We met people from Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, and Japan. Now, when I go to Malaysia, I’ve got people to see.” UC student Patrick Beggs also joined the Southeast Asia tour and visited Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia – places he might never have otherwise explored.

“It’s amazing how a city the size of Lake Taupō could become a global trade powerhouse,” he says of Singapore.

The most valuable lessons came from cultural insights – such as respect for hierarchy and the importance of ‘saving face’. These experiences transformed his perspective, even influencing how he interacts with people back home.

“We are deeply grateful for the generous support that has made these study tours accessible,” says UC Executive Dean of Business, Professor Paul Ballantine. **“This gift doesn’t just support international learning; it shapes globally minded graduates who will carry these lessons throughout their lives.”**

“For the students who take part, the impact of these tours goes far beyond the itinerary. It changes how they see the world – and their place in it,” Professor Ballantine says.



Study Tour students in Guangzhou, China

WHAT WE DO NOW

**ECHOES *IN*
ETERNITY**

UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY

**LEGACY
SOCIETY**





THE UC LEGACY SOCIETY

For more than 150 years, gifts through wills and bequests have transformed the lives of students, contributed to ground-breaking research discoveries, and enriched the University's cultural collections and libraries for the benefit of the whole community.

At the University of Canterbury, bequests have always been more than just financial gifts; they are lasting legacies that shape the future. Through the generosity of those who came before, today's students have access to greater opportunities, resources and support.

Each of these gifts tells a story of gratitude, aspiration and belief in the transformative power of education. They will continue to make a difference in the lives of students for years to come, ensuring that knowledge, mentorship and opportunity remain accessible to all.



Dr Alene Wilton



LEGACY GIFT FOR THE FUTURE

"I believe in the importance of education and the opportunities it brings to people, whatever their background," UC alum Dr Alene Wilton says. Having gained her Bachelor of Arts in History with Honours in 1990, she credits her UC education – and her lecturers in the History Department – with laying the foundation for her DPhil from Oxford and her subsequent career.

Since graduating, she's maintained close ties with UC and has included the History Department in her will to help future students receive the education and opportunities she did. "It's about being able to give something back, but also leave something for the future," she says.

Alene particularly appreciates the breadth of learning that UC offers, where an engineering student can take an English course simply because they are interested and without having to narrow down on a subject at the undergraduate level.

"There's a strength around learning for its own sake, not just for a job," she says. "Having well-rounded and well-educated people is important to the communities in which we live now and into the future – to be able to understand different perspectives and ideas and to remain open to the wider world, not just our own viewpoint. It helps us recognise and appreciate that there's more out there – more complexity, more diversity, and more potential for connection."





While sorting through her father's belongings, Tracey Limond discovered a 20-year-old copy of his will, marked with handwritten updates, including his wish to leave part of his estate to the University of Canterbury. Her dad, civil engineer Wal McQuarrie, passed away unexpectedly in December 2023 before he could finalise these changes.

To honour his memory, Tracey established the Wal McQuarrie Memorial Scholarship for postgraduate civil engineering students.

"I couldn't think of a better way to immortalise his legacy," she says.

Wal, who graduated from UC in 1971, worked as an engineer at Watercare for 53 years and was dedicated to mentoring young engineers. "He was a generous person who had time for everyone," recalls colleague Shreesh Basnyat.

Tracey says her father valued education, even though university was a challenge for him. "Ultimately, as hard as university was, it got him to where he needed to go."

Wal McQuarrie



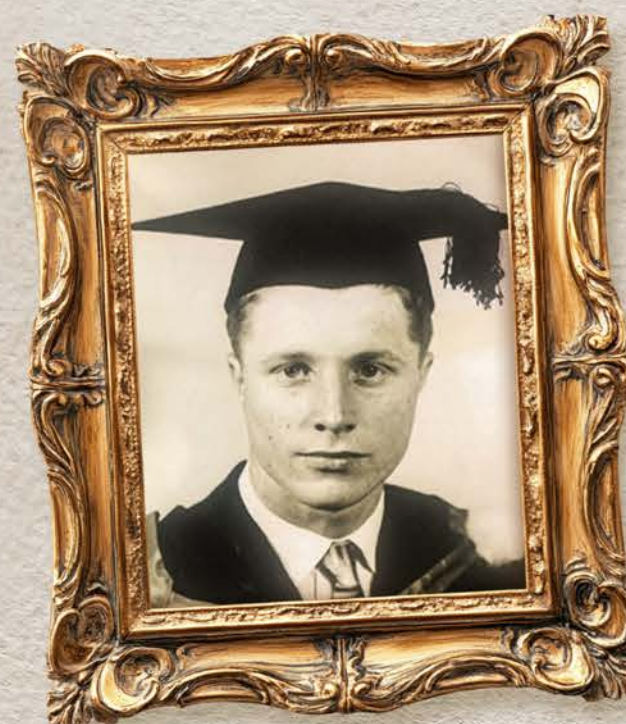
MEMORIAL GIFT

"He was so loyal, humble, and appreciative, and he would be chuffed to know about this scholarship. That his legacy will continue in such a way brings me great peace."
Tracey Limond

Dr Alan Happer



A LEGACY REALISED



Alan Happer, a University of Canterbury graduate and long-time lecturer, left a \$1.1 million bequest to support undergraduate chemistry students through the Dr Alan Happer Chemistry Equipment Fund.

A dedicated teacher and much-loved and respected colleague, Dr Happer was known for his passion for chemistry, intelligence, kindness, and genuine care for students – especially those who struggled. "He was a really supportive lecturer and would provide his students with an outline of his lecture right back in the 1980s, before it was a done thing, just to make sure that they got the gist of what he was saying," says former colleague and friend, Emeritus Professor Murray Munro.

The first in his family to go to university, Dr Happer always understood the importance of a quality education. He made his first gift to UC – quietly and anonymously – in 1998 and continued giving until his death, when, upon the realisation of his bequest, he was willing to be named.

Dr Happer's endowed fund will support the purchase of lab equipment for undergraduate chemistry students at the University of Canterbury.

DR ALAN HAPPER
—
CHEMISTRY EQUIPMENT
FUND

If you have left a gift to the University in your will, we would love to hear about it.

Please visit our website: www.canterbury.ac.nz/legacygift and if you have any questions or would like to talk to our team, contact Charu on +64 27 451 8091 or at charu.uppal@canterbury.ac.nz.



Fuelling Discovery:

How a Transformational Gift of \$10 Million is Powering Science

“

An endowment of this magnitude in the Faculty of Science secures a lasting legacy of innovation and discovery.

— PROFESSOR CHERYL DE LA REY

The facts are undeniable.

Postgraduate students are pivotal to scientific research, not just in New Zealand, but worldwide. During their time as students, these budding scientists provide crucial foundational research support – gathering data, creating experiments, adjusting scientific models and progressing research in exciting new directions.

“They really are the engines driving scientific discovery,” says Associate Dean of Research at UC’s Faculty of Science, Professor Angus McIntosh.

When anonymous donors endowed a \$10 million gift to support scholarships for postgraduate students in science, the Science Faculty was thrilled and immensely grateful.

“I know first-hand what a difference a scholarship can make,” Professor Malcolm Campbell says. “For the students who receive them, these scholarships will be life changing.” Now the director of UC’s GeoHealth Laboratory, Professor Campbell’s research focuses on how local and national contexts shape health outcomes and health inequalities.

But the value of this extraordinary new scholarship programme goes beyond the research impact it will enable. Historically, most of UC’s postgraduate scholarships have been reserved for PhD students. With limited

funding available for master’s students, UC has often struggled to retain top graduates – many of whom are drawn to larger universities offering more competitive support.

“This scholarship programme fills an important gap in UC’s postgraduate scholarship offerings,” says Dean of Postgraduate Research Brigid McNeill. “When they are offered, in 2026, these scholarships will help ensure we have a pathway for undergraduates who want to continue their studies with a master’s degree at UC. When students go offshore to pursue a master’s degree, many never return; we risk losing them from New Zealand permanently.”

“An endowment of this magnitude in the Faculty of Science secures a lasting legacy of innovation and discovery,” UC Tumu Whakarae | Vice-Chancellor Professor Cheryl de la Rey explains. “Talented students can pursue advanced research, building strong scientific foundations to address the challenges of our world.”

This gift strengthens our resilience as an institution, enabling researchers and students to make a meaningful impact for generations to come. And more importantly, it provides us with a crucial competitive edge. If we can give our best students a reason to stay here in Canterbury, in our University community, all of New Zealand will benefit.”

More Than
a Scholarship:

A Whānau, a Foundation, a Future.

Support of the Te Kakau a Māui Scholarship Programme is doing more than funding education – it’s uplifting futures, building community, and inspiring the next generation of change-makers. Because of donors, students are finding the freedom to dream bigger, reach higher, and give back in meaningful ways. Wiseson, Maximilian, and Neve are just a few of the many whose lives have been shaped by your generosity. From all of us at UC – and especially from the students whose journeys you’ve helped shape – thank you. Your belief in them makes all the difference.

Wiseson Kuang



Bachelor of Commerce –
International Business

3rd Year Student | Te Kakau
a Māui Scholar



Wiseson Kuang, originally from Timaru and now based in Christchurch, is a driven and community-minded Bachelor of Commerce student majoring in International Business. As a first-generation Kiwi and the first in his family to attend university, Wiseson’s journey is one of courage, curiosity and commitment.

A recipient of the **Te Kakau a Māui Scholarship**, Wiseson reflects on it as a life-changing opportunity that opened the door not only to university, but to a wider world of growth and discovery. “It was the push I needed at the start of my journey,” he shares. “It removed a large financial barrier and gave me the confidence to explore.”

Wiseson has immersed himself in the UC community through a wide range of leadership and extracurricular roles. His contributions include:

- AIESEC (Singapore Management University) – Member Experience Associate

- UC Commerce Society – First-Year Representative, Case Competition Officer
- UC Political Science Society – General Executive
- 180 Degrees Consulting (Canterbury) – Student Consultant
- Global China Connection (Canterbury) – Vice President
- Christchurch Youth Council – General Member
- UCSA Class Representative – For multiple courses

He has also completed a semester-long Effective Altruism course, participated in Tūhono, and joined the Kapu Kawhe programme for multiethnic young leaders. His excellence has been recognised in numerous business competitions, where he’s earned several first and second-place finishes.

Beyond campus, Wiseson’s passion for international cultures and policy has taken him from small-town New Zealand to global stages, including study abroad in Singapore and a visit to the United Nations Headquarters.

Wiseson’s motivation stems from his parents, both of whom work in fast food, and whose dedication inspired him to aim high. “Watching them work hard for me made me realise I need to work hard for them,” he says. “I don’t take the opportunities I have for granted.”

Though his future path isn’t set in stone, Wiseson is drawn towards meaningful work – potentially in policy, diplomacy, or humanitarian fields. What remains certain is his desire to give back and lead with purpose. “Success will look different for each person,” he says. “We owe it to our younger selves to be proud of how far we’ve come.”

The Te Kakau a Māui scholarship, with its mentorship and support network, has helped Wiseson shift from working hard out of necessity to working hard with intention. “It didn’t just support my studies – it helped shape my identity, my confidence, and my community.”

Maximilian Hunt



Conjoint Bachelor of Engineering with Honours and Bachelor of Product Design

1st Year Student | Te Kakau a Māui Scholar



For Maximilian Hunt, creativity and curiosity aren't just passions, they're guiding principles. Now in his first year at the University of Canterbury, Maximilian is pursuing a unique conjoint degree in Engineering and Product Design, a pathway that perfectly blends his love of problem-solving, design and real-world impact.

Raised in Timaru, Maximilian is the eldest of four children in a family that knows the value of hard work. His dad is a builder and his mum runs a cafe. A proud alumni of Roncalli College, he served as a Deputy Head Student in his final year, organising events like the school ball and a charity concert while learning how leadership begins with service and relationships.

This commitment to community has followed Maximilian into university life. Now based at Arcady Hall, he chairs the Student Council, where he leads collaborative efforts to address student feedback, reduce food waste, and create meaningful events for his

peers. "I may be leading the meetings," he says, "but it's the council as a whole that's making progress."

Maximilian's passions extend far beyond the classroom. He climbs regularly with the UC Climbing Club, practices karate at a competitive level (currently training for nationals) and participates in the ENTRE Club's Enterprise Challenge. A long-time hockey player and dedicated performer with the Aidan Theatre in Timaru, he is also keen to connect with Christchurch's theatre scene and is always sketching and designing on the side – currently crafting logos for both his karate dojo and a group of friends.

A defining moment in Maximilian's pre-university journey was attending the London International Youth Science Forum in 2024, where he joined students from 42 countries to explore the unifying potential of science. "It showed me how science and relationships cross boundaries – cultural, international, and disciplinary."

Maximilian approaches life with a refreshing mindset focused on process over perfection. "I break big goals into small checkpoints," he explains. "The lid is off the jar – I just need to jump."

The Te Kakau a Māui Scholarship has provided both the lift and launchpad for Maximilian's journey. "It took off the financial pressure and opened the door to so much more," he says. **"I've benefited hugely from personal coaching, mentoring, and the supportive community. I've met incredible people and gained insights that help me grow every day."**

Looking ahead, Maximilian hopes to lead teams developing ethical and practical innovations, from assistive technologies to sustainable systems. He's still exploring where he'll land, but one thing is certain: he'll be driven by curiosity, grounded in service and guided by the belief that great ideas – when built on strong relationships – can truly change the world.



Bachelor of Health Sciences, Major in Health Education and Māori and Indigenous Health

3rd Year Student | Te Kakau a Māui Scholar

Neve Canton



For Neve Canton, connection is at the heart of everything she does – whether it's studying the complexities of health inequities or simply sitting down over a cup of coffee with an elderly friend. Now in her third year at the University of Canterbury, Neve is pursuing a Bachelor of Health Sciences with a double major in Health Education and Māori and Indigenous Health, a combination that speaks deeply to her values of empathy, service and justice.

Born and raised in Christchurch, Neve credits her parents for shaping her outlook on life. Her dad, with quiet dedication and consistency, showed her what it means to work hard and be reliable. Her mum, a steady and nurturing presence, taught her the power of simply being there for someone. "She showed me how valuable it is to listen – really listen – and offer aroha with honesty and patience," Neve says.

Those values now guide her work with the Age Concern visiting service, where she volunteers time each week to connect with an elderly individual experiencing loneliness. "Sometimes people just need someone to be present with them, to hear their stories and help them imagine a future again," she explains. "It's simple, but it's real."

Neve's passion for wellbeing is shaped by personal experience. Having been bullied at school, she understands how unseen struggles can impact behaviour, and how kindness and understanding can shift perspectives. "Looking back, I now realise the people who hurt me were likely hurting too. That realisation taught me compassion.

It's why I want to be the kind of person my mum was for me – someone who shows up."

Her long-term goal is to work in mental health or addiction support, particularly within Māori and Indigenous communities. Though she says it's hard to put her aspirations into neat boxes, her purpose is clear:

"I want to help others. Whether it's one person or an entire community, I want my work to leave a positive impact."

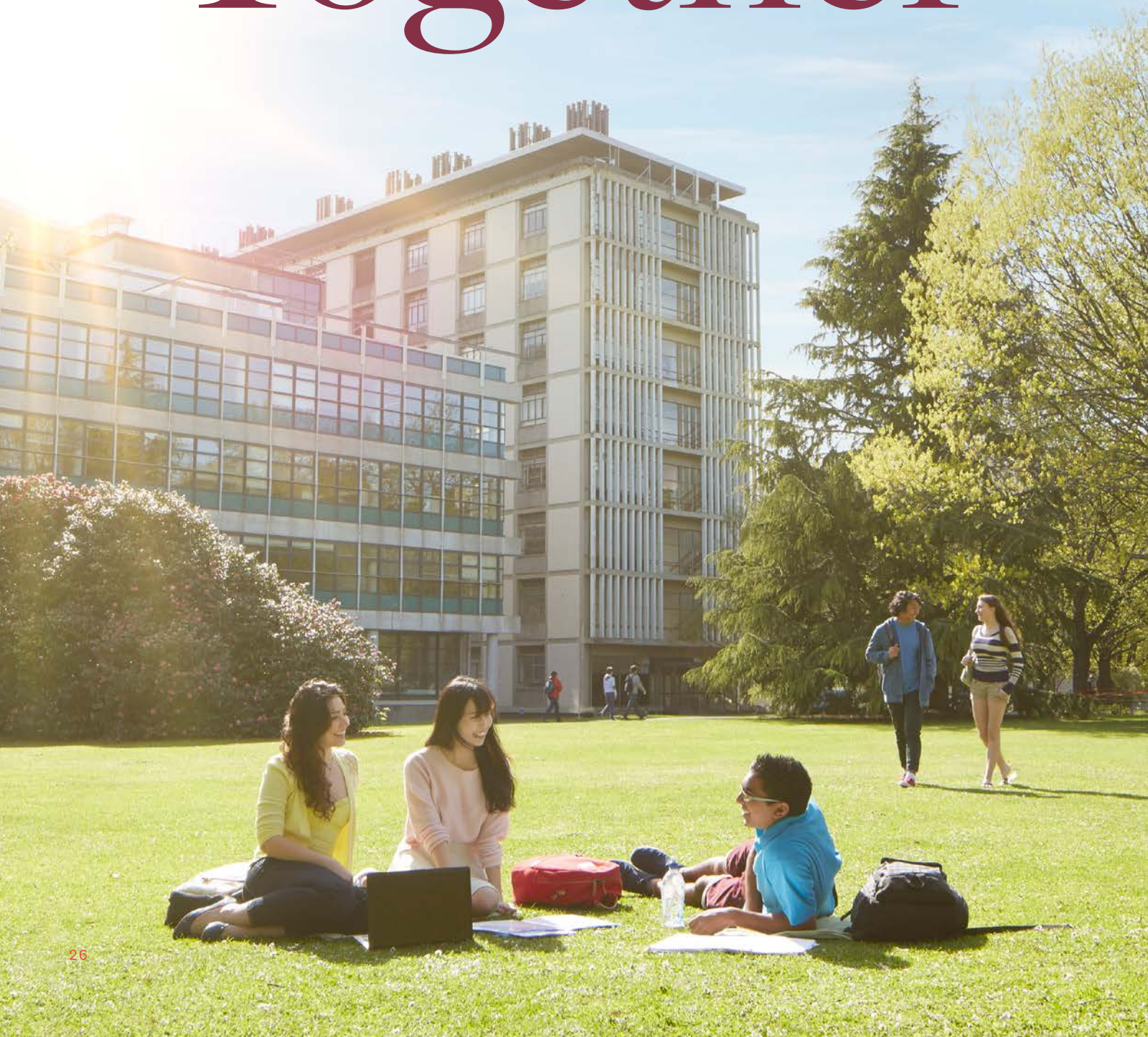
The Te Kakau a Māui Scholarship has been a turning point in her journey. "This scholarship gave me the freedom to pursue a career based on passion, not pressure," Neve shares. "Many of my friends feel forced to chase high-paying jobs just to manage student debt. I've had the privilege to follow a path that aligns with my values, where I can do work that truly matters."

The scholarship programme's mentorship and support have been equally impactful. "Angus and the other mentors have always reminded us that we can make a difference. They've never stopped believing in us, and that belief has kept me going."

As Neve reflects on her university experience, she shares a whakataukī that resonates deeply: **"Ahakoa he iti, he pounamu"** – *Although it is small, it is a treasure.*

"This scholarship may seem like a small moment in the course of my life," she says, "but it's been a treasure. It gave me the freedom to pursue meaning, the confidence to stay the course and the encouragement to become someone who can give back. And that means everything."

Shaping the Future of Education Together



As we reflect on the past year at the University of Canterbury | Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha, I extend my sincere thanks to you, our generous donors, alumni and friends. Your contributions have a significant impact on our academic, research and student success.

With your support, we continue to fulfil our mission to provide a superlative education experience, while embracing our broader responsibility to lead in times of change. I am optimistic that through collaboration, innovation and a supportive network of alumni and friends, we will continue to drive the outcomes we aspire to achieve.

Within these pages, I hope you find both inspiration and a clear picture of the impact of your generosity. From enabling students to pursue their studies through scholarships, to supporting researchers in tackling local and global challenges, your

contributions are helping to build a legacy of progress and opportunity. Our feature story, 'What we do now echoes in eternity', celebrates donors whose visionary gifts through legacy and memorial giving will empower generations of students to come.

We are also proud to be strengthening the economic and social fabric of Ōtautahi Christchurch and the wider Waitaha Canterbury region. Through partnerships with local businesses and employers, UC graduates are entering the workforce equipped with the skills and confidence to make a positive difference. Our researchers are working with industry and the community to deliver innovation that meets the real-world needs of the people we serve.

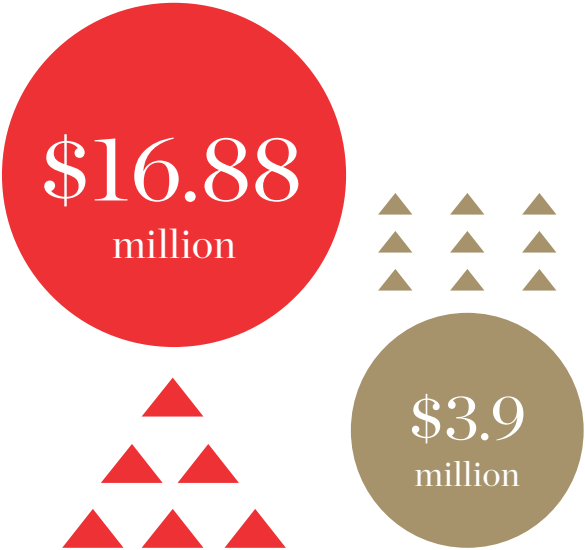
Thank you for your ongoing generosity and trust. We look forward to continuing this journey with you – growing opportunity, creating knowledge, and flourishing together.

Ngā mihi,

Professor Cheryl de la Rey
Tumu Whakarae | Vice-Chancellor

Financial Report

In 2024, the University of Canterbury Foundation received \$16.88 million in gifts and made distributions of \$3.9 million.



Summary statement of comprehensive revenue and expense

For the year ended 31 December 2024	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Total philanthropic revenue	16,885,871	4,809,414
Distributions	(3,908,626)	(3,712,144)
Operating expenditure	(336,423)	(281,060)
Net operating surplus/(deficit)	12,640,822	816,210
Investment revenue	1,891,479	1,202,507
Fair value unrealised gains less losses	2,994,127	1,999,229
Net surplus and total comprehensive revenue and expense	17,526,428	4,017,946

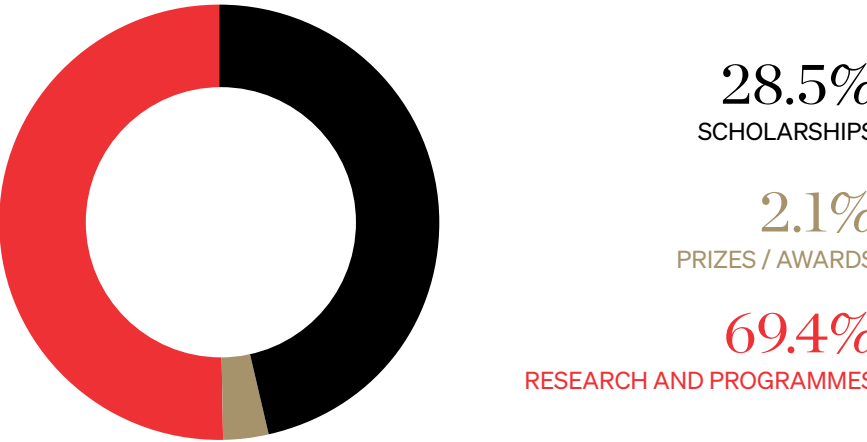
Consolidated summary statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 31 December 2024	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Equity at the beginning of the year	42,171,478	38,153,532
Operating surplus for the year	17,526,428	4,017,946
Equity at the end of the year	59,697,906	42,171,478

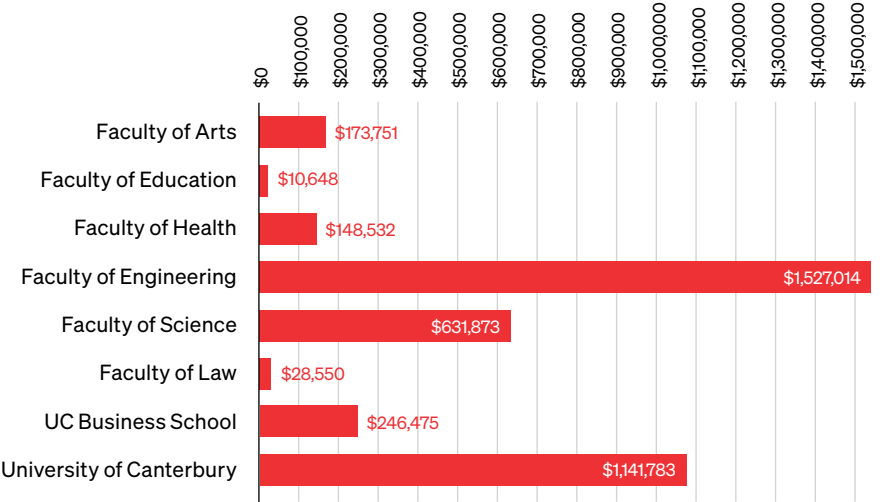
Consolidated summary statement of financial position

As at 31 December 2024	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Current assets	17,582,486	17,925,050
Non-current assets	43,804,282	26,077,684
Current liabilities	(1,688,862)	(1,831,256)
Equity at end of year	59,697,906	42,171,478

Distribution summary



Distribution of philanthropic funds per faculty



* Figures are taken from the Foundation's audited 2024 financial statements; however, this summary itself has not been audited. They are provided to give interested persons a succinct overview of the Foundation's financial performance. Additional information may be requested from Thea Kleiber, Director of Advancement, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch 8140.

Thank You for Standing with Us in 2024

Your generosity is more than a gift, it's a powerful act of belief in what education makes possible. This year, your support helped open doors for students who are striving to reach their full potential, regardless of their background or circumstances. Through scholarships, research funding and learning opportunities, your philanthropy is empowering the next generation to dream bigger, aim higher and achieve more.

“

Try as I may, words cannot fully express how thrilled and deeply gratified I am to be receiving this award. It was such a nice feeling to be recognised for the commitment and hard work I have put into my studies over the past 4 years at university.

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“Thank you again for your generous support. Your generosity has inspired me to work hard so that I am also able to hopefully give back to others and support them, just as you have supported me.

LIBBY, ELAINE P SNOWDEN SCHOLARSHIP IN ASTRONOMY

“The Kelliher Economics Scholarship has been instrumental in supporting my studies. By reducing my financial burden and allowing me to work fewer hours, I have been able to dedicate more time to my academic pursuits, significantly enriching my learning experience.

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