

# Vice-Chancellor's Report to Council

## February 2023

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### Introduction

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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 Hōrea Tūka Orientation Day on Friday 17 February.

On 2 February I had the privilege of hosting a Welcome Breakfast for all staff which was

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Distinguished Professor  
current strategy re...

### Engagement

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

In preparation for our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the university commissioned Civic 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

- Leadership impact
- Environmental impact

For each of the above areas of impact the report provides key facts, background and context, 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

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 multiplatform 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 Mark Craik and Thomas McGuinness (both Bachelor of Science) for their product Nailed it Nutrition, a plant-based protein powder made primarily of soy and faba bean and containing amino acids.

Over its ten years, UCE has assisted over 500 students start over 600 ventures, awarded over \$1 million in scholarships, and provided over 1000 hours of support.

UCED continues to share their expertise with the Department of Statistics and the Department of Mathematics.

The exhibition 'Art, Revolution and the Silk Road', on display at the University of Canterbury, is a collaboration between the Department of Art and the Department of Chinese Studies. It features a collection of silk road artifacts and a multimedia presentation about the Silk Road.





Earthquake Engineering PhD candidate Felipe Kuncaris working on a ground motion simulation model that will improve understanding of how different neighbourhoods are impacted by shaking 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 in(t)1]TJ 0fact BM.9 ( f)2.8 22.913A7 ( 05 00.326 0 Td [(th2n)



The government is currently running a programme called Manaakitia te whānau | 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

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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 Wisconsin 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

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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 faculties impacting new enrolling students as well as lots of other stuff.



