



What if ...

Philanthropic Giving Campaign Report 2019





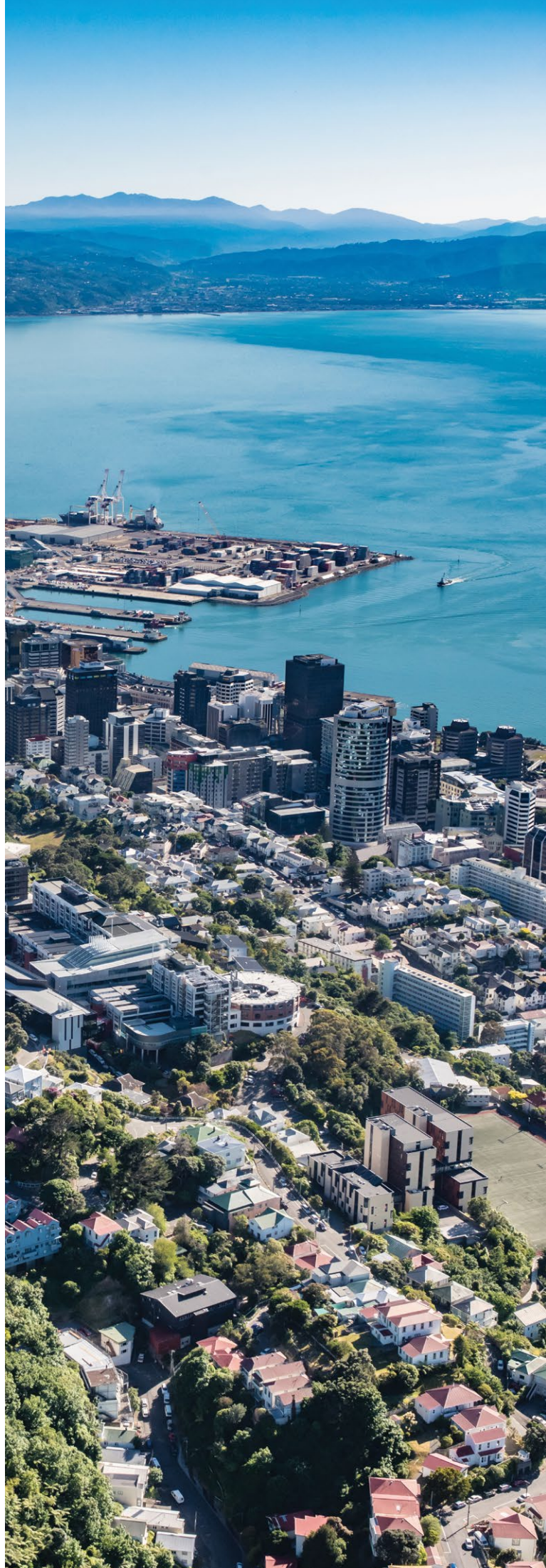




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2019 highlights

540 DONORS

gave or pledged a total of

\$14 MILLION

\$3.4 MILLION

was raised towards Great Futures, the University's philanthropic scholarship programme launched in 2018

78

members of the
Victoria Legacy Club

316

members of
the Victoria
Benefactors'
Circle

371

donors gave
to the alumni
appeal, which
raised funds for
undergraduate
scholarships

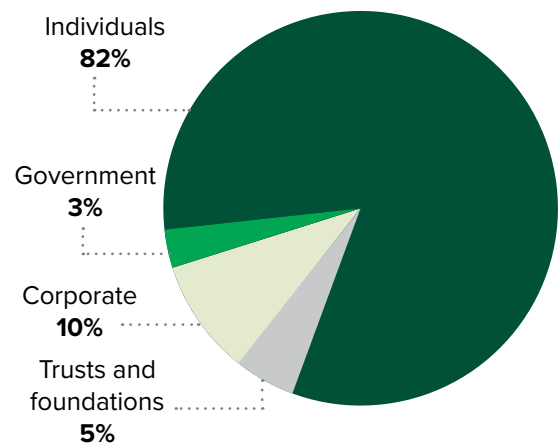
24 SCHOLARSHIPS

for 2020 are being awarded thanks to
donations to the alumni appeal

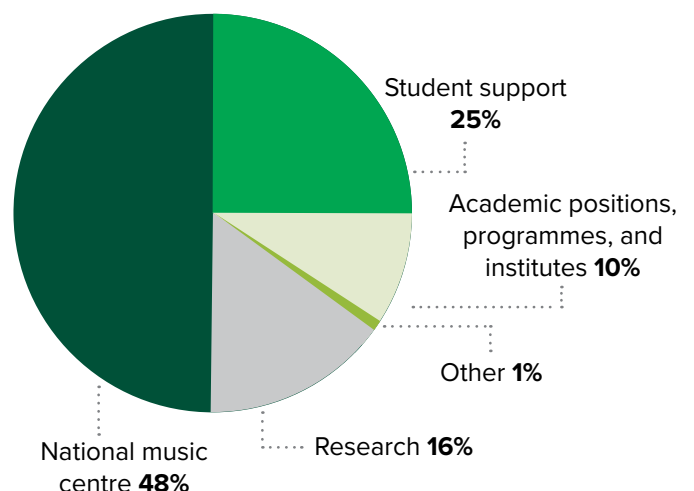
\$18 MILLION

has been raised to date to support the
national music centre

Our donors



What our donors supported





From the chair

This message to you was to be written just as New Zealand went into Level 4 lockdown. Despite our somewhat uncertain future, the Foundation's support, and therefore its work, is pleasing. I hope you are pleased with the work the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation has been able to achieve. We are grateful to you for all the support you give to make this possible.

The Foundation was established in 1990 with a vision to advance knowledge through education and research funded by philanthropic gifts to Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington. Every year, alongside the Foundation, you help students access a university education and achieve their potential, and you support ground-breaking research and projects that advance the University's wider vision.

In 2019, the Foundation received \$7.1 million in donations and distributed \$4.7 million.

One of the main responsibilities of the board of trustees, and one it takes very seriously, is management of the investment fund. Much of the Foundation's funds are endowed to ensure the longevity of the projects the fund supports, and our board ensures that those funds are invested ethically and with as little risk as possible, in line with the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment. Thanks to your generosity and careful management by the trustees, the Foundation's total investment fund increased to \$70.2 million in 2019.

The launch of the 'What if ...' campaign was one of the highlights of the year. You are at the heart of this campaign. It aims to grow the University's capacity to undertake ground-breaking research, advance academic innovation, and promote meaningful engagement. By imagining 'What if ...', this campaign asks you to ponder the changes your philanthropy could make and offers five key areas of interest to support. By imagining 'What if ...' together, we are transforming the lives of individuals and communities.

One way we do this is through our Great Futures scholarships programme. Philanthropic scholarships are typically awarded to those who may otherwise have been unable to attend university through financial disadvantage. They not only help our students to attend university, they also afford them the opportunity to focus fully on their studies without

financial worries and to take advantage of any opportunities that may present themselves—creating a real platform for them to achieve their full potential.

The trustees are committed to Great Futures and proud to support the Trustees' First in Family Scholarship awarded annually to someone who is the first in their family to attend university and who might otherwise be experiencing financial difficulty.

We know from the feedback we get from our current students and from the stories we hear from our alumni that scholarships really do change lives. We never know where the next big discovery could come from, and we are proud to give as many people as possible the chance to pursue their dreams. In 2019, scholarships totalling \$1.3 million were awarded to students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the trustees for their commitment in 2019. Each of them gives so much of their time and expertise to ensure the ongoing success of the Foundation.

And finally, on behalf of the board of trustees, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our donors, for the support you give. It means so much to those who benefit from it.

In these uncertain times, your philanthropic support is more important than ever, and I look forward to seeing all the things we have yet to achieve together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Stevens'.

Craig Stevens
Chair, Victoria University
of Wellington Foundation

From the vice-chancellor

With university life undoubtedly altered for the foreseeable future, it strikes me that philanthropic support for education and research that can effect change has never been so important. Through supporting research programmes, scholarships, and academic positions, the gifts you give can really be transformational.

The support you give is vital to the futures of both the University and our students, and I would like to thank you all sincerely on their behalf.

In 2019, the Foundation publicly launched a significant new philanthropic campaign. The 'What if ...' campaign asks you to imagine the change your gift can make, offering the opportunity for you to contribute to various programmes and projects split across five themed areas of interest you can support. As you will see in the following pages, the 'What if ...' campaign supports research, scholarships, and academic progress right across the University.

I was pleased to see the campaign for a new national music centre reach almost two-thirds of its fundraising target in 2019. This project, a collaboration between the New Zealand School of Music—Te Kōki, the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, and Wellington City Council, will enrich the culture and vibrancy of both the University and the city of Wellington.

We also launched the Living Pā, an ambitious project that will see the space around our marae, Te Herenga Waka—the very heart of the University—transformed into a marae complex based on the principles of the internationally recognised Living Building Challenge, the gold standard for sustainable development.

The Living Pā will be a purpose-built 'living lab', a place where multiple disciplines will come together to discuss how we can build a more equitable, fair, and sustainable society.

Elsewhere, the Autism Research Centre is truly changing lives for children and the caregivers of children with autism. Your generous support of this project means that more and more nurses and health practitioners across New Zealand are being trained to detect autism at a much earlier age, making a huge difference to the lives of the children and their whānau.

Together we continue to support the great futures of our students through numerous scholarships that you make possible through our Great Futures programme. Thanks to you, many students who may not otherwise have been able to attend university can access education and reach for their goals. The University aims to provide a student experience that is second to none, where as many students as possible can access the same opportunities for learning and growth.

In 2019 we saw several new scholarships and prizes established, including the Annette E. Black MA Scholarship in History worth \$25,000; the First-in-Family Law Scholarship worth \$30,000; and the Sir Roy McKenzie Deaf Scholarship, previously funded on a year-by-year basis but now endowed, securing it far into the future.

Partnership and engagement are at the heart of the University's vision to be a world-leading capital city university and a great global–civic university. We take immense pride in our relationships with, and connections to, the city's culture and economy. Together we are creating a brighter, bolder, more sustainable, and more inclusive future for the University, our students, and the wider community.

Thank you once again for your commitment to the University and support you give to the projects close to your heart. We are able to do the things we do because of you, and I look forward to being able to share more stories of transformation and change as we continue this important work together.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Guilford', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Professor Grant Guilford
Vice-Chancellor



Victoria University of Wellington Foundation

We asked you “What if ...?” and you answered—through the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation, your gifts are changing lives and transforming communities.

Established in 1990, the Foundation manages your gifts to meet the strategic goals of the University. Since then, thanks to your generosity, the Foundation has contributed more than \$58 million to support the University’s key priorities through scholarships, prizes, academic positions, and research programmes.

The Foundation is governed by an independent board of trustees that is responsible for managing your donations, investing gifts to the endowment portfolio, and distributing funds in accordance with donor wishes, but none of this would be possible without you. Your gift—no matter the size—is transforming futures every day, through education, research, and engagement.





What if ... your gifts were invested in the future of our students and university?

The Foundation not only assists the University by supporting the current needs of students, researchers, and academics, it also strives to ensure a successful and sustainable future for the University and its students through the endowment portfolio. Endowed gifts are carefully invested and managed to ensure resources for the University's priorities for generations to come.

When a donor advises that a gift is to last in perpetuity, the Foundation invests that donation in the endowment portfolio to earn an annual income. That annual income is then used to provide ongoing support to the University's students and projects as per the donor's wishes. An endowed fund can be named in honour or in memory of a family member or cherished member of the donor's community.

Seven new endowed funds were established in 2019, bringing the total number to 158. These were the Doris Macdonald Award, Ilse B. Steinberger Prize in Primary Teaching, J.R. McKenzie Trust Deaf Development Fund, John Bassett Hunter Research Scholarship, Sir Lloyd Geering Scholarship in Religious Studies, and the Sir Owen Woodhouse Memorial Fellowship.

By making an endowed gift, you are investing in the future of our students, teaching, and research.

The Foundation's audited financial statements are available on the website.

i www.wgtn.ac.nz/foundation



Our commitment to United Nations principles for responsible investment

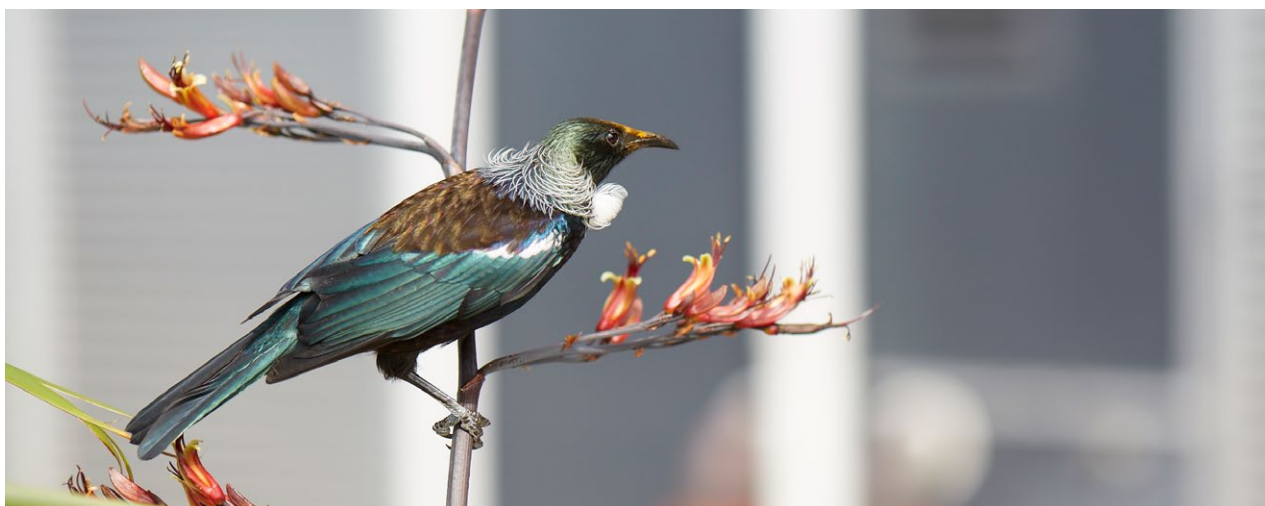
In 2018, the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation became the first New Zealand university foundation to become a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI), joining more than 3,100 organisations across the world that have committed to these principles. As a signatory, the board of the Foundation pledges to integrate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations into its investment decisions.

The UNPRI provides an internationally accepted framework for investors such as the Foundation to

manage ESG issues in a manner consistent with improving long-term investment returns, focusing on six principles for responsible investment. The Foundation is committed to meeting and exceeding these principles while enhancing its stewardship of philanthropic donations.

To learn more about UNPRI, go to www.unpri.org

To see the Foundation's 2019 UNPRI assessment, learn about its investment policies related to ESG, and see its Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives, go to www.wgtn.ac.nz/foundation



What if ... you could effect change beyond your own lifetime?

Leaving a bequest in your will allows you to leave behind a legacy that will keep giving far into the future.

Most bequest donors choose to endow their gift, ensuring income to support the University's endeavours every year. It is a meaningful way to extend your giving and continue to be part of the University's success long after you are gone.

Emeritus Professor Roger Hopkins and his late wife, Ruth, chose to leave a bequest to the University to support students taking up accounting and electing to focus on developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Roger, who led the way in establishing accounting as a professional career in New Zealand, chose academia so that he could use his passion to inspire others.

As a boy, Roger's role model was his parents' accountant for their grocery business, and later, as a young man, he was influenced by Richard Mattessich, a professor in accounting at the University of British Columbia. Richard became a mentor for Roger throughout his career. Motivated by this experience, Roger and Ruth sought to create more opportunities with their gift.

By making the decision to leave a bequest to support a student at the Wellington School of Business and Government, Roger and Ruth's legacy of inspiration will continue for a long time to come.

If you'd like to talk about leaving a gift to Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington in your will, contact Rosalene Fogel at rosalene.fogel@vuw.ac.nz or call +64 4 463 6030 for more information.

*Your philanthropy,
your impact*



What if ... you create great futures through life-changing scholarships?

For many students, scholarships are the only way that a university education is possible. Scholarships open up a world of opportunity to those who think that a university education is not within their reach and allow them to fulfil their potential. A scholarship can help a student with living expenses, academic needs and supplies, or cover fees after their first year.

The University launched the Great Futures programme in 2018 to encourage donations in support of scholarships. These donations go towards a broad range of scholarship funds designed to meet students' needs across the University, including alumni appeal scholarships for undergraduate students, History Master's scholarships, and many other scholarship funds created by donors to support areas of interest to them.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, Aphiaphy Forward-Taua is one of many students who can pursue her goals to help her community through education.

"This year I was fortunate enough to receive a number of scholarships. Without them, I don't think I would have been able to complete my degree. They have helped me with my living costs, particularly as I take care of my siblings, a responsibility which is very important to me.

"To the donors, I can only offer the biggest thank you for their support; even thinking about it makes me quite emotional. Scholarships have helped me to take care of my family, take care of myself, and enable me to realise my dreams. This absolutely would not have been possible without their support, and it is wonderful knowing someone out there cares about me, even from a distance.

"I hope that in years to come I'll be part of a movement where our society cares more about each other, where we might see the evolution of a sharing economy and that, however hard, we put aside our differences to be kinder to one another."

"I want to help advance Māori. I want to work for my people and the betterment of Māori communities. That's where my passion lies."

Aphiaphy Forward-Taua, Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Hinerangi, Waikato-Tainui
Student, Bachelor of Laws



Jack Pearce history scholarship allows students to delve deeper

“Thank you for giving me the opportunity to fulfil my potential, for allowing me to continue doing what I love, and for giving me the confidence and drive to continue with my studies.”

Libby Bowyer, recipient of the Jack Pearce History Scholarship 2019



Jack Pearce
Image: Courtesy of Brenda Joyce

The Jack Pearce Postgraduate Scholarship in History was established in memory of Jack Pearce (1911–1994). Always a scholar, Jack did well in school and had dreams of a university education, but it wasn't an option for him as a young man. Instead, he went on to work for Barclay's Bank, starting there on leaving school and returning there after serving in World War II.

Ultimately, Jack was a family man who worked hard, was involved in his community, and enjoyed the simple pleasures in life such as his garden and travelling with his wife.

This scholarship, worth up to \$25,000 for students undertaking postgraduate research in New Zealand or English History, was set up by Jack's daughter, Brenda Joyce, so students have the opportunity to further their education, something both Brenda and Jack held dear.

“After he retired, my father completed his degree through the Open University. He really believed in the power of education and in the importance of being able to access it.

“History is my passion and, just like my father, I was unable to go to university when I was younger. That's why this scholarship is the perfect way to honour him.”

Libby Bowyer was the recipient of the scholarship in 2019.

“I knew during the last year of my degree that I wouldn't want to stop studying history. I wanted to go further and research deeper—Honours then on to Master's—but postgraduate study is not always attainable.

“It is hard for me to find the words that convey how much this scholarship means to me.”

Scholarships shaping Pasifika futures

The Teresia Teaiwa Memorial Fund was set up in 2018 in honour of the late Teresia Teaiwa, who led teaching of the world's first undergraduate major in Pacific Studies at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington from 2000.

As a poet, mother, activist, and scholar, Teresia was a much-loved role model and inspiration for women across the Pacific region. She believed in the power of education to transform lives and the power of Pacific scholarships to open the door to a better future for the region and its people.

Thanks to the heart-warming support from Teresia's family, friends, alumni, colleagues, and the community,

the fund, now in its second year, exceeded its target of \$280,000 in 2019. This means that Teresia's dream of establishing two scholarships—one for an undergraduate student and one for a postgraduate student majoring in Pacific Studies—can be realised in 2020 and into the future.

Scholarships like this are vital to help ensure that as many people as possible can pursue their dreams of a university education and a better future for themselves and their communities. They lessen the need for current students to supplement their income through employment, giving them not just less financial stress but more time to focus on their studies.



Kaitlin Abbott and Esther Patu were awarded scholarships for 2020.

Trustees' scholarship paves the way for a great future

Each year, the trustees of the Foundation award a scholarship to a school leaver who will be the first in their family to attend university. This award is valued at up to \$10,000 per year to cover fees and living expenses and can be retained for three years, as long as the student maintains their grades. Recipients of this award also benefit from an exclusive mentorship programme tailored to their needs to help with the transition to university life.

In 2019, Lachlan Paulsen was selected to receive this award for study commencing in 2020. Enrolled in a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Engineering and Computer Science, Lachlan is passionate about robotics, programming, and engineering and can't believe the opportunity he now has to pursue his career ambitions.

"I was so excited when I found out I had got the scholarship; I was unable to come to terms with the opportunity that had been made available to me through this award. I just feel so lucky. And now that I have been awarded it, it drives me to give 100 percent to my studies."

Lachlan's road hasn't been straightforward, but he was always determined to pursue his dreams and go to university. His family life has been happy but not always easy. Lachlan's dad suffers from multiple sclerosis and, for the past five years, he's been in a wheelchair and unable to work. As primary carer for her husband, Lachlan's mum can work only part time, so Lachlan knew going to university would be difficult. But he was prepared to take the chance to gain an education and create a better life for his family as well as himself.

One of the most important things for Lachlan was to continue living at home and be on hand to help his parents. Thanks to this scholarship, he's in a much better position to do just that. He won't have to find a job, and he can afford to commute between home and university.

"To everyone who donates to this programme already, thank you so much. Without you, this scholarship that will change my life wouldn't have been possible. Who knows what the people you support now could become in the future?"

Thanks to the generous support of Foundation trustees, Lachlan Paulsen certainly has a great future ahead of him.



"Now that I have been awarded the scholarship, the door has opened to opportunities that I could only dream of, and I am excited to find out how far I can go from here."

Lachlan Paulsen

Student, Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Engineering and Computer Science, and Foundation Trustees' Scholarship 2020 recipient



What if ... we contributed to a sustainable and resilient future?

The University is committed to leadership in sustainable practice and in undertaking research that will help to create a more sustainable, resilient future. By supporting research and projects such as the Centre for Biodiversity and Restoration Ecology and the Living Pā, your philanthropy is helping to protect the planet for future generations.

“Thank you not only for supporting my journey, but also the unique journeys of the other recipients so we can bring about positive change together.”

Emara Feasey-Weiss

Student, Bachelor of Architectural Studies

Thanks to your support of scholarships, Emara Feasey-Weiss has a great future in sustainable architecture ahead of her.

Emara chose to pursue architecture because of a desire to explore what it means to create sustainable and socially connected communities. Her dream is being made possible with the help of a scholarship through our Great Futures programme.

“I aspire to create a school one day and a community around this, hoping to further explore how we deal with this environmental crisis and life in a digital age.

“To the donors of this award, I want to thank you for your support and generosity towards students at the University. It means a great deal to know that there is the support of a wider community, reminding me that what I am doing is an important contribution to society, and it is achievable.

“I like to imagine that, in a few years, I will have built a sustainable community in New Zealand that is connected in its social and environmental values. A community that creates a ripple effect, that helps people think about how they can change the way they live their daily lives and become more connected in this world.”



The Living Pā

“This will be a game changer, not just for Māori and the University, but for the very idea of higher education. More than a sustainable building, the Living Pā will model a multidisciplinary, holistic form of teaching and learning. In its structure and its scholarship, the Living Pā’s mission will be to teach us how to build sustainable communities. It will draw on the ancient and the new in Aotearoa New Zealand.”

**The Honourable Justice Sir Joe Williams,
Ngāti Pūkenga, Waitaha, and Tapuika,
and Living Pā ambassador**

Our marae, Te Herenga Waka, is the heart of the University. In 2019, the University launched an ambitious project that will see the space around the existing wharenui (meeting house) transformed into a world-leading ‘living lab’—a place where sustainability projects are used as learning tools.

The Living Pā aspires to be one of the world’s most environmentally and culturally regenerative buildings. It will be a hub where innovation is nurtured, where students, staff, iwi, local community, industry, innovators, and philanthropists can come together to explore what is possible and what is needed from us as kaitiaki (guardians) of the whenua (land).

If you would like to know more about how you can support the Living Pā, contact Claire Carruthers at claire.carruthers@vuw.ac.nz



Images: Stantiall's Studio





Regenerating wetlands, exploring kauri dieback

Generous support of forward-thinking donors can boost research on projects that help preserve and restore our damaged habitats and ecosystems.

Landscape ecologist and postdoctoral research fellow Dr Stephanie Tomscha works on the Wetlands for People and Place (WPP) project. The project aims to discover where we should restore wetlands to enable the best outcomes for both nature and people. The postdoctoral fellowship is funded thanks to the generous philanthropy of the Holdsworth Charitable Trust, and this gift has enabled the entire project to grow. Initially, Dr Tomscha worked to understand how wetland loss in the Wairarapa had affected people. This work generated high-resolution maps that illuminate where land is being well utilised and where best practices could include restoration. These important results have since contributed to participatory management plans for wetland restoration groups in the region.

Dr Tomscha then led research to understand the farmers' and landowners' motivations and values around restoring wetlands. Working in collaboration with Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, the WPP team seeks to generate holistic understanding of the Wairarapa moana and wetlands ecosystem to support and enhance management of our taonga.

Elsewhere, research led by the University's Dr Monica Gerth, in collaboration with kaitiaki (guardians), has discovered that molecules from native New Zealand plants could hold the key to solving and preventing kauri dieback.

Kauri dieback is caused by microscopic spores that can 'sniff out' kauri trees and swim towards them via streams and wet soil.

Dr Gerth's research into the spores aims to discover what is in our native plants that attracts them and what the spores' weaknesses are. She has been working with kaitiaki and mātauranga Māori knowledge holders to try to find plants that might affect the spores' ability to seek out kauri.

"Māori have extensive knowledge about kauri and how plants interact with the forest, and we hoped that we could combine their mātauranga Māori and our molecular approaches to address the serious problem of kauri dieback disease."

This work was originally funded by a Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Smart Ideas grant. Dr Gerth and her colleagues hope to obtain new funding so that they can explore how their findings can be applied to protect kauri trees in the field. Ultimately, they hope to find a long-term and self-sustaining solution to kauri dieback.



What if ... the power of the arts and creativity could effect change?

Nurturing creative capital—the ability to imagine and express new ideas through creative practice—is at the heart of what we do.

Creative capital is the genius behind art, literature, and music. It inspires and innovates. We know that nurturing creativity and the freedom to be curious are vital to innovation and development in society.

In July, the University and the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra (NZSO) hosted a black-tie dinner in the University's Council Chamber to acknowledge the impact that private philanthropy has had on realising the vision of a national music centre. We were honoured to have the Governor-General, the Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy, and her husband, Sir David Gascoigne, in attendance.

Among the guests of honour was Verna Adam. Dame Kerry Prendergast, chair of the fundraising committee for the music centre, spoke of the importance of the Adam Foundation's leadership gift of \$4 million in enabling the committee to secure other philanthropic support. Mrs Adam and her late husband, Denis, have been strong supporters of both the University and the NZSO, and their early understanding of and support for the vision has been vital to our success to date.

On the night, it was announced that entrepreneur and philanthropist Chris Parkin had generously donated \$1 million to the centre, which would take the total to \$18 million, almost two-thirds of the target. The gift will see Mr Parkin named as a founding benefactor and will include an artwork to be commissioned and displayed in the Christopher Parkin Hall in Wellington Town Hall.

In his speech, Mr Parkin said, "It gives me great satisfaction to be able to support a project which is so strategically significant for Wellington city. Wellington has done much for me. This is my opportunity to return the favour."

The University and the NZSO have committed to raising \$30 million for the project that will see Wellington's Civic Square and Town Hall transformed into a state-of-the-art performance and education facility.

On completion, it will be home to both the New Zealand School of Music—Te Kōkī and the NZSO. This collaboration between the University, the NZSO, and Wellington City Council will nurture music performance, education, culture, and the arts for future generations.

If you'd like to know more about the national music centre and how you can support it, contact Jill Robinson at jill.robinson@vuw.ac.nz or +64 4 463 5325.

Chris Parkin speaks at the dinner.





Philanthropy nourishes the arts

Wellington is renowned as a city that nurtures creative talent, and the Miramar Creative Centre (MCC) is a state-of-the-art purpose-built facility designed to do just that.

The MCC is a collaboration between the University and Miramar Creative Limited. Nestled among the Weta Group buildings on Park Road in Wellington, the MCC allows our Master of Design Technology and Master of Fine Arts (Creative Practice) in Film and Sound students to immerse themselves completely in their craft.

This facility, established in 2017, endeavours to be New Zealand's premier postgraduate film and visual effects (VFX) training institution. To fulfill this ambition, the MCC seeks funding so it can continue to support students through scholarships, ensure those students have access to the latest equipment, and, ultimately, establish a Chair in Film or VFX.

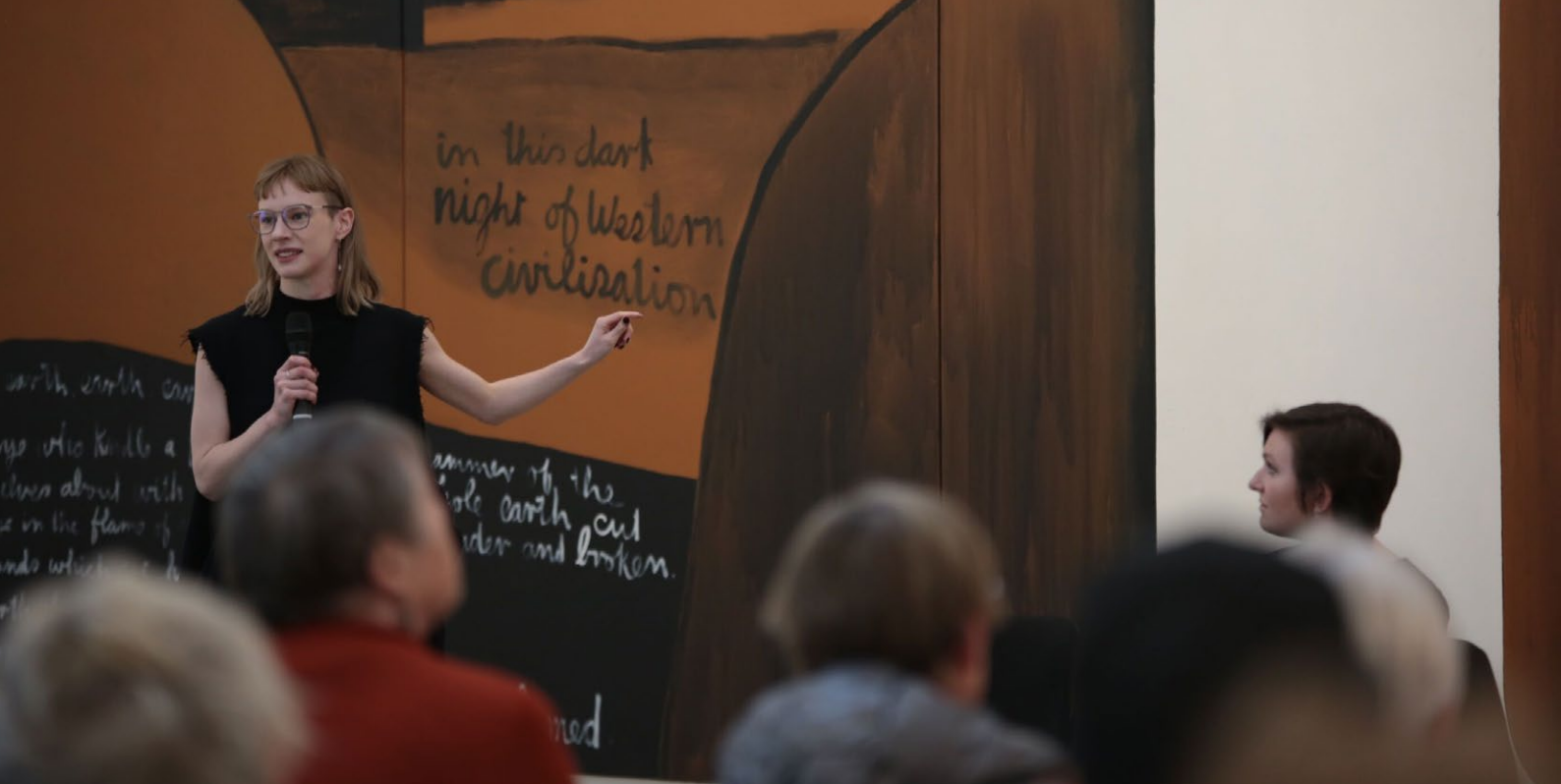
In 2019, the inaugural Geoff Murphy Emerging Filmmaker Prize was awarded to Master of Fine Arts student Shreyas Beltangdy for his film *1347*.

The prize—established in memory of Kiwi director Geoff Murphy (*Goodbye Pork Pie*)—will be presented annually to a student 'whose work and approach embodies the independent spirit' of the legendary filmmaker.

Prizes like this, which recognise talent, are invaluable to our students, giving them the opportunity to continue to pursue their ambitions and hone their skills.

At the MCC, students not only have some of the top creatives in the country to guide them, but they also have access to world-class film studios, editing suites, and recording facilities, allowing them to produce work to the highest standard.

You can support the future of New Zealand's film industry by contacting Corinne Barnard at corinne.barnard@vuw.ac.nz



Adam Art Gallery intern Nina Dyer.

Adam Art Gallery internships lead to great futures

“Without opportunities afforded to young adults, like the Adam Art Gallery internship, the culture of the sector overall would be distinctly different. It is thanks to a few generous supporters of the arts that my generation is able to get their foot in the door and feel that they have a place in the industry.”

Nina Dyer, Adam Art Gallery intern 2019

A combination of generous philanthropic support and a passion for art has provided a paid internship at the Adam Art Gallery Te Pātaka Toi, giving an invaluable career development opportunity to a top student with ambitions to become a curator.

An intern at the Adam Art Gallery gains behind-the-scenes insight into the operations of a professional art gallery that runs a respected programme and manages the University’s art collection. They not only enjoy hands-on experience in collection management and exhibition and public programme planning, but also have the opportunity to develop their own project, all under the watchful eye of gallery director Christina Barton and her team.

In 2019, Art History student Nina Dyer was selected as the new intern at the Adam Art Gallery. Nina worked at the gallery while also studying for her Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Art History.

“I saw myself as a potential candidate for the role because the interdisciplinary nature of the programme aligned with my own curatorial ethos and

aspirations, and I wanted to pursue a career pathway where I could apply art historical methodology to contemporary art as well as historic works. I was also inspired to pursue a career in the industry by Christina Barton, the gallery’s director, from the day that she first took volunteers on a curator’s tour of the gallery.

“One highlight of the internship was co-curating *A Way Through: Colin McCahon’s Gate III*, an exhibition that toured the painting of epic proportions that has lived at the University since its purchase in 1972. It felt right bringing the work to Waitakere’s Te Uru Gallery because it was originally created in Auckland, and McCahon was likely picturing Auckland’s West Coast as he painted the cliffs that make up a third of the work. The painting’s message, communicated through biblical quotations and Buddhist haiku, was a warning against the very real threat of a nuclear explosion off the coast of Aotearoa. It also felt timely to be highlighting the University’s role in supporting artists like McCahon, who—hard as it is to believe now—was thought to be too radical for much of his lifetime.”

The 2018 intern, Lachlan Taylor, also found his time at the Adam Art Gallery to be a valuable and important experience.

“The skills and experience I gained by working as the curatorial intern at Adam Art Gallery Te Pātaka Toi were invaluable. The support of the Adam team, and the generosity of Barbara Blake as patron, created a foundation from which I was able to progress into further positions in the New Zealand arts sector, first as assistant curator at Artspace Aotearoa, and now as gallery coordinator at Michael Lett.”

What if ... we contributed to the health and wellbeing of our communities?

From scholarships to assist our future nurses, midwives, and health practitioners, to supporting ground-breaking research undertaken by our Faculty of Health, philanthropic support to advance teaching and learning at the University has the power to change lives.

Empowering Deaf New Zealanders

For more than two decades, funding from the J.R. McKenzie Trust's Deaf Development Fund has promoted the trust's vision of creating a socially inclusive Aotearoa. In 1992, Sir Roy McKenzie established the fund to support New Zealand's Deaf community and promote the wider use of New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL).

Since then, the fund has supported more than 200 Deaf people to participate in a two-year programme that trains them to teach sign language, as well as an undergraduate and postgraduate scholarship for Deaf students each year.

The NZSL programme is a particularly special part of the University's portfolio. Recently retired research director of the Deaf Studies Research Unit and senior lecturer in NZSL Studies Dr David McKee was the founder of the Deaf Studies programme. He was also the first Deaf academic to teach in a New Zealand university, and for many of his students, their first Deaf teacher. He worked closely with Sir Roy McKenzie and the trust on the publication of the *Dictionary of New Zealand Sign Language*.

For Dr McKee, the programme has contributed to making NZSL more widely understood and recognised in New Zealand society.



"Empowering Deaf students is what the programme has been about. It changes people's perception of what's possible; it gives students confidence and knowledge.

"For many Deaf students, this is the first time they've ever had a Deaf teacher. Some have been in schools where they weren't allowed to sign. Twenty years ago, there were no Deaf teachers in New Zealand, so it's empowering for Deaf students to be able to learn directly without the use of an interpreter."

Graduates have gone on to further study or careers in education, policy, and Deaf community development and advocacy.

Almost all Deaf New Zealanders who teach NZSL have come through the University's programme.

"We've had close to 200 students go through the course since it began in 1997, and it's having a ripple effect in the learning and teaching of NZSL in the wider community," says Dr Rachel McKee, director of the NZSL programme.

Twenty-three students—the largest cohort to date—graduated from the Certificate in Deaf Studies: Teaching NZSL in 2019.

The wide use of NZSL can largely be attributed to the philanthropy of Sir Roy McKenzie and the work of Rachel and David McKee on the University's Deaf Studies programme.

With this long and special relationship in mind, the Foundation was honoured to be entrusted by the J.R. McKenzie Trust to administer the fund in perpetuity. This new arrangement means the fund can be endowed, ensuring that Deaf Studies and scholarships for Deaf students will continue at the University.

If you're interested in empowering Deaf New Zealanders, contact Jill Robinson at jill.robinson@vuw.ac.nz or +64 4 463 5325.

"We are honoured to manage these funds, as agreed, to continue the wonderful work that the J.R. McKenzie Trust has supported at the University through its Deaf Development Fund."

Extract from a letter from Vice-Chancellor Grant Guilford to the J.R. McKenzie Trust.



Philanthropy supports ambitious research that changes lives for communities across New Zealand

Children with autism, and their families, are benefiting from a partnership between Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington’s Autism Clinic and Autism New Zealand.

This close, ongoing relationship has led to successful collaborative fundraising applications and to two new clinic rooms being opened at Autism New Zealand’s new premises in Petone.

Over the past four years, almost \$200,000 in philanthropic funding has enabled researchers from the Autism Clinic to research, evaluate, and adapt the Early Start Denver Model, an extremely promising early intervention approach from the United States for children aged one to five years with autism spectrum disorder.

This work was made possible with grants from the IHC Foundation and the Autism Intervention Trust.

The Early Start Denver Model aims to accelerate child learning and skill development through a combination of behavioural principles and fun, everyday interactions with parents, caregivers, and therapists.

The Autism Clinic team, which supports 50 families per year, evaluated the Early Start Denver Model programme by coaching parents to use the techniques or by providing a less intensive version of the therapy in the home and in kindergartens. They found the children showed improvements in imitation, communication, and engagement.

With the IHC funding, university researchers have the resources to reach into the wider community, partnering with the Autism Intervention Trust, Autism New Zealand, Plunket nurses, and kindergartens to find the best ways to support children with autism and their families. This collaboration has led to the creation of a platform to deliver the programme, helping to leverage further funding for a community adviser role, training, and research assistants.

The partnership with Plunket involved training 200 nurses in Auckland and Wellington to identify early signs of autism within their regular checks. Most children can be reliably diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder before the age of two. It is hoped that this training will significantly reduce the age at which children are diagnosed and that it can eventually be delivered to nurses in more centres around the country.

Researchers at the Autism Clinic are continuing their work in early identification with community partners, and more registered Early Start Denver Model nurses are being trained in the autism diagnostic observation schedule, the gold-standard diagnostic tool for those who have been identified as on the spectrum. This should have a significant effect on the current one-year waiting time for a diagnosis.

Philanthropic funding is vital in ensuring more New Zealand families can access effective intervention in the early years. If you’re interested in supporting this programme, contact Corinne Barnard at corinne.barnard@vuw.ac.nz

Lady Todd Memorial Prize ‘an honour’ to receive



“We hear of people who have gone on to make an enormous impact on the world and it started with the kindness of a stranger. This is your practical version of belief in us in both heart and action.”

This is what prizes like the Lady Todd Memorial Prize can do for people. Thank you for your continued will to improve care and the financial support to do so.”

Michelle White

Lady Todd Memorial Prize in Nursing and Midwifery 2019 recipient

The Lady Todd Memorial Prize in Nursing and Midwifery is gifted annually by the children of the late Sir John Todd, in memory of Lady Todd. It is awarded to a student who shows excellence in their postgraduate study in Nursing or Midwifery.

Michelle White, a nurse working in the cardiology and cardiothoracic high dependency unit at Wellington Hospital, was the recipient in 2019.

Thanks to this prize, Michelle was able to enrol in a paper that has allowed her to improve her practice around clinical reasoning and advanced health assessment.

“It was an honour to win this prize. I’d had the worst time recently; I cried receiving this prize. Winning an award like this is something you remember forever. The financial assistance makes a huge impact on those who receive it in enabling further study and easing financial burdens. It’s a blessing.

“A big goal of mine at work is patient education. How often do we address patients and they have no idea what is going on in the business of their care? Completing postgraduate studies in pathophysiology has improved my patient education immensely, and patients are grateful for the knowledge and education they receive.

“Thank you again for the encouragement to keep pursuing postgraduate studies. This prize has made a huge difference to my year, and your kindness will be carried on in my practice.”

Bequest supports biological sciences

John Bassett Hunter passed away in 2018. He never studied at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, but before he died, John decided to leave a significant bequest of almost \$900,000 to set up an endowed PhD scholarship to support research in any area of the biological sciences with the potential to benefit the health of New Zealanders and the environment.

Mr Hunter’s generous bequest was received late in 2019, creating a new endowed fund. We look forward to awarding the inaugural scholarship in 2021. While a student has yet to benefit from this generous gift, this endowed scholarship will allow talented students to conduct innovative research that could change lives for years to come.

“A specific fund for Biological Sciences helps us support a lively and industrious postgraduate community in the School. The fund is generous enough to allow a student to work full time on their project and supports a potential overseas trip to attend an international conference. We are proud that our top-class PhD students contribute on an international stage and go on to be leaders in their fields of expertise.”

Professor Nicola Nelson

Head of School, School of Biological Sciences

What if ... we contributed to innovation and entrepreneurship?

Supporting the development of new businesses, fostering the next generation of entrepreneurs, and encouraging innovation are three ways in which we support those seeking to find cutting-edge solutions to a range of global issues.

Funding ground-breaking research

The University's Ferrier Research Institute shares Breast Cancer Foundation New Zealand's vision of a world with zero deaths from breast cancer. Thanks to a seed grant from the foundation, researchers at the Ferrier Research Institute are able to investigate applying their unique vaccine approach to breast cancer trials.

In collaboration with other groups, researchers at the Institute have been able to develop a synthetic cancer vaccine technology that can activate a patient's own immune system to provide a targeted response to their cancer.

One of the complications of the treatment of breast cancer is that, during the early stages, tumour cells can spread undetected and lie dormant in other parts of the body for years before reactivating. The Ferrier scientists are developing a vaccine that will hopefully provide long-lasting immunity in tissues targeted by breast cancer cells, thereby improving the long-term wellbeing of breast cancer patients.

In another project, Dr Olga Zubkova is leading research that aims to halt the spread of cancer in the body. The enzyme heparanase is overexpressed by cancer cells, and this weakens the elements that hold cells together, allowing the cancer cells to escape and spread to other tissue. Dr Zubkova's research aims to suppress heparanase using sugar-based compounds and reduce the chances of the spread of cancer cells.



Innovate Fund supports new ventures to market

Our researchers and innovators are always developing new ideas that could have major impact on our daily lives and could hold the answers to a range of issues. Often, once these ideas have reached a certain point, they require funding in order to break into the commercial market.

The University and Wellington UniVentures have launched the Innovate Fund to move exciting and innovative projects through the development pipeline, increasing their chances of success before their public launch.

The Innovate Fund aims to build a \$10 million non-endowed fund to support projects as they move from the research stage into the commercial market. All interest and a percentage of returns from any resulting spin-off companies will be reinvested into the fund to ensure financing for future projects.

If you choose to donate to the Innovate Fund, every dollar will be matched by the New Zealand Government via KiwiNet's Pre-Seed Accelerator Fund, plus you may be contributing to the launch of 'the next big thing'.

Contact Patricia Danver at patricia.danver@vuw.ac.nz to learn more about the Innovate Fund.



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Benefactors' Circle members have given private donations of \$10,000 or more during their lifetime, or organisational sponsorship totalling \$50,000 or more.

For more information about the Victoria Benefactors' Circle, contact Chrissy Boulton at chrissy.boulton@vuw.ac.nz or +64 4 463 5127.

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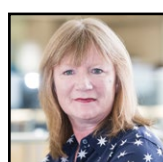
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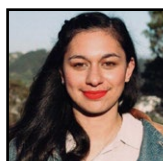
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