



MASSEY UNIVERSITY  
FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL REVIEW 2021



# The Massey University Foundation

The Massey University Foundation is a trust and a registered charity (cc27593). Founded in 2004, the Foundation fosters philanthropy and administers gifts to the University.

The Foundation provides scholarships, research funds, staff, equipment and buildings that the University could not otherwise afford, and by doing so it helps to make Massey financially and academically stronger.

## TRUSTEES

Today, the Massey University Foundation has net assets of about \$56 million. Endowed funds are invested with approved fund managers, and the distribution of funds is overseen by the Foundation's board.

The board has a fiduciary duty of care to ensure all funds donated to the Foundation are managed, invested and distributed appropriately and according to the donor's wishes.

The Foundation board gives an annual report to the Massey University Council.



Dr Russ Ballard  
Chair

Professor Jan Thomas  
Vice-Chancellor

Paul Bayly

Dianne Kidd



Professor Wayne McIlwraith

Bryan Mogridge

Shelley Turner

Ben Vanderkolk

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## Message from The Chair

On behalf of the University and the board I'd like to thank the 1,219 alumni and friends who donated to the Foundation in 2021.

It was another difficult year punctuated again by lockdowns and uncertainty. But Massey alumni rose to the challenge, and the Foundation had one of its most successful fundraising years yet. Interestingly, we saw many people giving larger gifts, with a near-doubling of gifts over \$20,000; from 34 in 2020, to 66 in 2021. The same trend was also evident in gifts over \$10,000 and \$50,000. This increase in the number of larger gifts helped to double the Foundation's median gift (excluding staff salary-giving), from \$50 in 2020, to \$100 in 2021. While the median gift was up, for the first time in many years there were no single gifts over a million dollars. It was therefore more remarkable that the Foundation fundraised an incredible \$5.9 million in 2021.

Some of the more significant gifts received were a bequest of \$500,000 from the estate of John Illingworth and Helen O'Dea. This money was directed to the CV Fife Memorial Scholarship. A \$430,000 gift was received from Lotteries to support a research project to save alpine plants, and the Department of Conservation gave more than \$328,000 to support the activities of Wildbase.

Distributions from the Foundation were our largest ever, thanks to high returns in the two preceding years, and the fact that the Foundation gave the University \$3.6 million for the Refectory project. It is interesting to reflect that ten years ago, the Foundation celebrated when it managed to distribute its first million dollars – ten years later it has distributed over \$8 million (specifically \$8.2 million) for the first time. These distributions are now significant, and the work of the Foundation is starting to have a real impact on the quality of scholarship, research and teaching at Massey.

2021 was a steadier year in the investment markets for the Foundation. The Foundation's investments fluctuated throughout the year as the economy reacted to Covid, but the year-end showed returns of eight percent or \$3.7 million. This is testament I believe to the due diligence of the Foundation's board, which has structured the Foundation's investments with a long-term outlook capable of withstanding market fluctuations.

With the Refectory project complete, I have decided to step down from the Chair, effective from February 2022, but will remain on the Foundation board. I have handed the reins over to fellow board member and alumnus Bryan Mogridge, who has a wealth of experience in chairing philanthropic boards. We also welcomed Paul Bayly and Shelley Turner to the board in the later part of 2021. Paul and Shelley bring considerable experience and will strengthen the board's governance credentials. I'd like to thank the staff of the Foundation and the board for their hard work and diligence over what was another turbulent, but very successful, year.

The Foundation recognises, with sadness and profound appreciation, the passing of current and past trustees: Cathy Magiannis, John Luxton and Colin Harvey.

Most of all, thank you again to Foundation donors, your gifts are making a real difference to the staff and students at Massey University.

Ngā manaakitanga

**Dr Russ Ballard**  
Chair, Massey University Foundation



## Message from The Foundation Director

Both the board and staff of the Foundation were disappointed not to be able to celebrate the opening of the Refectory as we had planned, with a dinner and dance, due to high levels of Covid in March.

The project is the single biggest fundraising project that the Foundation has undertaken to-date, and more alumni have given to it than any other project. While it was a shame not to be able to thank donors in person for their generosity, we were able to release a video to celebrate (see pages 12-13 for details). Much to our delight, since then, we have seen a steady trickle of alumni and friends dropping in to campus to view the building, and we are always delighted to show people what we have achieved with their help.

On the pages of this review, you can read about some of the other exciting work that was undertaken in 2021 thanks to your donations.

If you have ever donated to our hardship bursary during the Annual Alumni Appeal, the stories on pages 18 and 19 of this review should give you comfort that your gifts are having a real and immediate impact on the lives of our deserving students.

Other initiatives that donors chose to support, like the MinDART project (page 7), could impact on the health and well-being of thousands in the future, while Emma Scheltema's PhD project on coccidia infections in kiwi (page 15) could help to save our iconic native bird.

Whatever you chose to contribute to in 2021, we are very grateful for your support. I am constantly humbled by the generosity of our donors and amazed by what we can achieve by working together.

It remains for me to thank the staff of the Foundation for their hard work and diligence and the board of the Foundation for their continued support, guidance and infinite wisdom. I look forward to working with you all again in 2022!

Ngā mihi

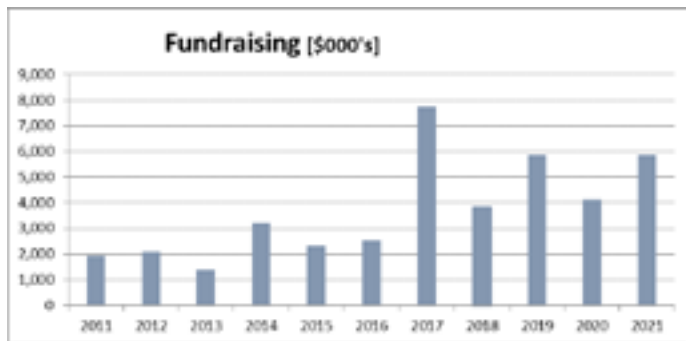
**Mitch Murdoch**  
Director, Massey University Foundation

# Financial Summary

## 2021 INCOME AND DISTRIBUTIONS

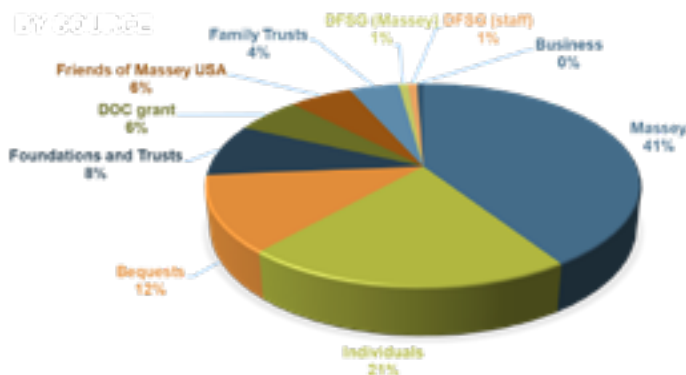
### 2021 Income

The Foundation has two sources of income; one from its investments and the other from funds donated to it each year. In 2021, the Foundation's invested funds returned \$3.7 million and it fundraised a further \$5.9 million, to give total combined income of \$9.6 million. In consideration of the highly volatile investment market and Covid still impacting on New Zealand in 2021, the Foundation was delighted with this outcome.



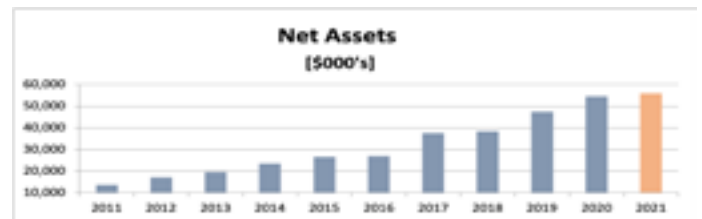
Gifts to the Foundation came from a variety of sources, but were largely attributable to individuals (through family trusts, bequests or gifts). Friends of Massey USA contributed a massive six percent of all donations to the Foundation in 2021, while Massey University gave 41 percent of donations. Donations from Massey to the Foundation included the Illingworth/O'Dea bequest of \$500,000, which was given to the University and then invested with the Foundation.

### Donations by source 2021



The Foundation board oversees the investment of gifts to the Foundation. Gifts are classified as Endowed or Current Use. Current Use funds are those that are going to be used in the immediate short-term, and these Current Use Investment Pool funds are held in fixed interest. In 2021, the Foundation held relatively little money in fixed interest and the returns were predictably low; a modest \$22,433.

Funds held in the Foundation's Endowment Investment Pool were invested mainly with Nikko Asset Management, with just a small portion (three to five percent) of the fund allocated to private equity company Continuity Capital. By year-end, the Foundation had \$56 million in net assets.



## 2021 DISTRIBUTIONS

In 2021, the Foundation gave away a record amount. Some \$3.6 million was gifted to the University to complete the restoration and refurbishment of the Refectory building. A further \$1.5 million went to scholarships, \$731,000 supported research and \$734,000 went to academic positions. The remainder supported equipment, prizes, other staff support and grants. Fund management fees accounted for \$266,792 of distributions.



# Dementia Therapy Trial a Triumph

A trial of a dementia therapy programme at Christchurch's Burwood Hospital is being lauded as a huge success, following a funding injection of more than \$135,000 for the initiative last year.

Clients in Burwood Hospital's specialist dementia ward who took part in MinDArT - a meditative, nature-based, drawing programme using traditional materials and digital devices such as tablets - have become calmer, happier and more engaged.

The pilot is further validation of the MinDArT programme, co-developed by Massey University, ahead of a larger-scale, two-year trial to quantify its benefits before it can be used by people with dementia and their supporters around the world.

MinDArT received more than \$135,000 from the New Zealand Community Trust, the Lindsay Trust and private donors last year to fund the larger trial, expected to begin this year.

Katja Segeth, an occupational therapist in Burwood Hospital's dementia ward, has facilitated MinDArT sessions with 11 clients she had previously established a rapport with. They were displaying a range of dementia-related behaviours, such as wandering, confusion, agitation and low-mood.

Clients showed significant improvement in their moods, engagement and communication during and after the sessions, Katja says.

"Those 11 clients were positive about the activity and were able to express that. Their language improved and we could cut through those dementia-related behaviours. They were able to talk not only about the past, but what they enjoy doing now, and what they don't like. It is just amazing to have a tool that I can give people to enhance their subjective feeling of wellbeing."

One client had been quite unsettled and agitated, Katja says, and was fixated on looking for his wallet and keys.

"Within 10 minutes of engaging with the MinDArT programme, all that disappeared. He was smiling, and saying, "this is incredible", and jokingly telling me he'd be on it all night."

The client spent about an hour using the programme, and a friend who visited afterwards reported it was the best he'd seen him in a long time, Katja says.

"He could engage in a conversation and his motor restlessness had gone. He could reminisce and he was relaxed."

That client used MinDArT three more times with similar results.

Some clients were not familiar with tablets and applications, but that had not been a barrier to the programme's success.

"The programme is so engaging and easy to use; they are not focused on the technology or the fact that they're navigating something new."

The hospital is seeing an increase in complex cases – clients displaying moderate to severe dementia-related behaviours, sometimes coupled with physical challenges, such as from strokes and Parkinson's disease, Katja says.

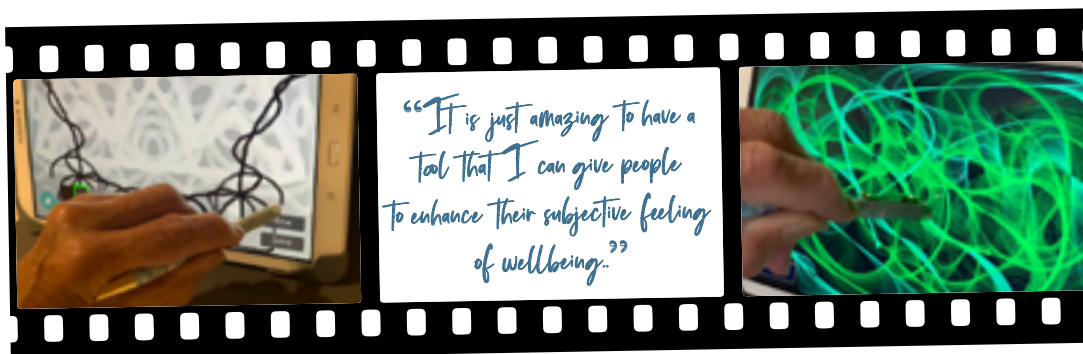
"For some clients the best we can hope for is for them to live in, and enjoy, the moment.

"It has been so fantastic to see that moment when the engagement and participation in the programme happens, and we can see that person enjoying and expressing themselves. It offers a pathway for them to express themselves without any expectations or judgement."

MinDArT seeks to maintain and enhance participants' fine motor skills, verbal and non-verbal communication and wellbeing. The development of non-pharmalogical dementia

therapies could mean people with dementia reduce their use of medicines, which can have side effects such as drowsiness and dizziness.

Close to 70,000 New Zealanders are living with dementia, and that number is expected to nearly triple by 2050.



A client at Burwood Hospital's specialty dementia ward draws using the MinDArT programme.

# Summary Audited Accounts

## ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the trust deed, the Charities Act 2005 and New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (NZ GAAP) where defined. The full financial statements comply with Public Benefit Entity International Public Sector Accounting Standards (PBE IPSAS) and other applicable Financial Reporting Standards as appropriate for Tier 2 Public Benefit Entity. The Foundation qualifies as a Tier 2 reporting entity as it does not have public accountability and is not 'large' as defined by XRB A1.

The summary financial statements are for the year ended 31 December 2021 and have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 43 Summary Financial Statements.

The financial statements have been prepared on an historical cost basis except for Managed Funds which have been measured at fair value.

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$000). The functional currency of the Foundation is New Zealand dollars (NZ\$).

The accounting policies adopted in these financial statements are consistent with those of the previous financial year. For further details of these policies please see the Foundation's full financial statements.

The ongoing Coronavirus pandemic has the potential to impact on global economies and therefore future income from invested funds, and the future value of invested funds remains uncertain. The Massey University Foundation continues to maintain a medium to long term investment strategy.

The Foundation is a controlled entity of Massey University, as the Trustees of the Foundation are appointed by the Vice Chancellor of the University. All transactions between entities were conducted on an arm's length basis using commercial terms. Massey University paid and provided staffing, provision of buildings and equipment to the value of \$742,437 (2020 \$657,904). The Foundation provided \$3,600,000 in funding to Massey University for the Restoration of Refectory project. This funding was the result of a multi-year fundraising effort by the Foundation and was paid to Massey University at the completion of the project.

## AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

The summary financial statements were authorised by the Trustees on 17 May 2022. These summary financial statements have been extracted from the Foundation's full financial statements dated 17 May 2022. The full financial statements were prepared in accordance with GAAP. The Foundation has made an explicit and unreserved statement of compliance with PBE IPSAS in its full financial statements. The full financial statements were audited by Audit New Zealand who issued an unqualified audit opinion.

The summary financial statements provide interested persons with a succinct overview of the past performance of the Foundation. Users of the summary financial statements should note that the information contained therein cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding as provided by the full financial statements.

The full financial statements can be viewed on the Foundation website: <http://foundation.massey.ac.nz> or by contacting Massey University Foundation, Private Bag 11222, Palmerston North.


  
 Chairwoman  
 17 May 2022



## Summary Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Gifts, Legacies & Grants	5,846	4,110
Distributions from Managed Funds	778	432
Net Gains from Managed Funds at Fair Value through Surplus or Deficit	2,969	5,390
Interest	22	116
Other Revenue	36	30
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>9,651</b>	<b>10,079</b>
Operating Expenses	286	331
Distributions and Grants	7,958	2,586
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>8,244</b>	<b>2,917</b>
<b>Surplus and Total Comprehensive Revenue</b>	<b>1,408</b>	<b>7,161</b>

## Summary Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at 1 January	54,616	47,454
Total Comprehensive Revenue	1,408	7,161
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>56,023</b>	<b>54,616</b>

## Summary Statement of Financial Position As At 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Current Assets	55,174	53,848
Current Liabilities	831	237
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>54,343</b>	<b>53,611</b>
Non-Current Assets	1,680	1,004
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>56,023</b>	<b>54,616</b>
Represented by:		
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>56,023</b>	<b>54,616</b>

## Summary Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Gifts, Legacies & Grants and Investment Revenue	6,388	4,993
Other Revenue	36	30
Distributions, Grants and Other Payments	7,650	2,844
<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>(1,225)</b>	<b>2,180</b>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Withdrawal of Investment and Term Deposit	4,370	7,852
Purchase of Investment and Term Deposit	3,144	8,889
<b>Net Cash Flows (to)/from Investing Activities</b>	<b>1,227</b>	<b>(1,037)</b>
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Capital Injection	-	-
<b>Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1,143</b>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the beginning of the year	2,053	910
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>2,054</b>	<b>2,053</b>



## Independent Auditor's Report

### To the readers of the Massey University Foundation's summary financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

#### Opinion

The summary financial statements of the Massey University Foundation (the Foundation) on page 8, that comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 31 December 2021, the summary statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, summary statement of changes in equity, and summary statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, and related notes, are derived from the full financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 that we have audited.

In our opinion, the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the full financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021, in accordance with PBE FRS 43 *Summary Financial Statements* issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board.

#### Summary financial statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the full financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

#### The full financial statements and our audit report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the full financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021 in our auditor's report dated 17 May 2022.

#### Trustees' responsibility for the summary financial statements

The Trustees are responsible on behalf of the Foundation for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with PBE FRS 43 *Summary Financial Statements*.

#### Auditor's responsibility

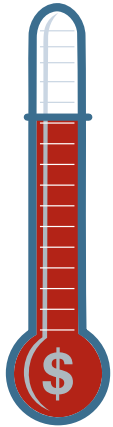
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the full audited financial statements of the Foundation, based on our procedures, which were carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Other than in our capacity as auditor, we have no relationship with, or interests in the Foundation.



S B Lucy  
Audit New Zealand  
On behalf of the Auditor-General  
Palmerston North, New Zealand  
17 May 2022

# 2021 Highlights



TOTAL  
FUNDRAISED  
**\$5.9**  
MILLION

**\$1.5 Million**

GIVEN IN  
SCHOLARSHIPS

TO **235** STUDENTS



INCOME FROM  
INVESTMENTS

**\$3.7**  
MILLION



**228**

NEW DONORS

**991**

REPEAT DONORS



ASSETS

**\$56**  
MILLION



**121**

MASSEY STAFF DONORS



**\$731,000**

GIVEN TO RESEARCH



## Annual Alumni Appeal

**936**

ALUMNI DONATED  
TO THE APPEAL

MORE THAN

**110,000**

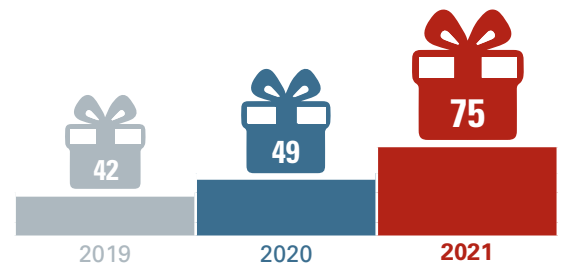
alumni contacted by  
telephone, post and email  
for the 2021 Annual  
Alumni Appeal

GIVING OVER

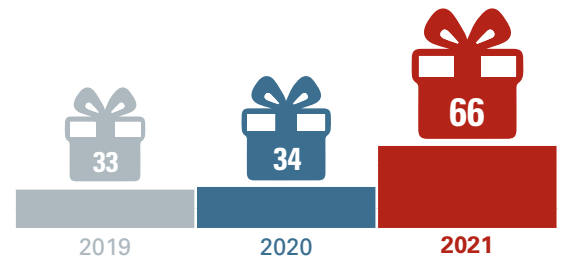
**\$152,000**

TOTAL NUMBER  
OF GIFTS WE  
RECEIVED  
IN 2021

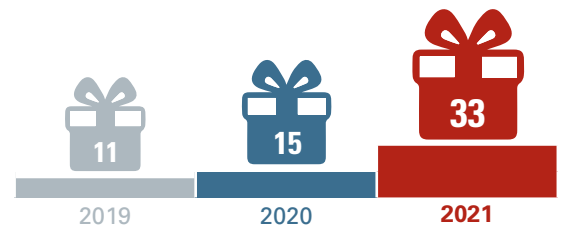
**1574**



GIFTS OF OR OVER \$10,000



GIFTS OF OR OVER \$20,000



GIFTS OF OR OVER \$50,000

Massey University Foundation's full, audited annual report is available online  
[massey.ac.nz/foundation](https://massey.ac.nz/foundation)

# Restored Refectory Reopens:

*“On behalf of the University, I thank all who those who have contributed to the restoration of this Massey taonga. A taonga that will now - thanks to a huge collective effort - stand for many generations to come.”*

Massey University Vice-Chancellor Jan Thomas

## THE REFECTORY

- Officially opened in 1931, one of the three original Massey Agricultural College buildings on the Manawatū campus
- Designed by Sir Roy Lippincott, member of the famous Chicago School of Architecture, in the Spanish Mission style
- The University’s original dining hall and common room
- Category II building under the Historic Places Act

## THE RESTORATION

- Work began in September 2019 and was completed in July 2021
- The Massey University Foundation secured \$3.6 million towards the project, which was also funded by the University
- 1472 donors



*“I doubt any of us involved... could have imagined the magnificence of the final outcome. The transformation is stunning.”*

Professor Emeritus Robert Anderson



*“Many generations of students, staff, alumni and citizens of Palmerston North will now use and love it as we have.”*

Massey University Foundation Chair Russ Ballard

*Take a virtual tour of the restored Refectory:*

# Our Sincere Thanks To All Our Donors

## REMEMBERING "MAGIC" TIMES IN THE REFECTORY

Alumnus Garth Cumberland, a major donor to the restoration, says he is delighted with the result and is excited to walk through the building that is the backdrop to many happy memories from his time at Massey.

"I used to organise meetings for students on current events and we'd host them at the Refectory. We'd get guest speakers in – politicians and scientists - including (former Agriculture Minister and later Deputy Prime Minister) Brian Talboys. That was magic."

Garth recalls many student hi-jinks at the Refectory and the meals – of varying quality – served there to students living in the surrounding hostels.

"It was a marvellous time. I had a letter from a fellow student asking if I thought they'd removed all the knobs of butter off the ceiling that we used to flick up there."

Garth says he had always admired the Refectory building, and is humbled to have helped restore – and even improve on – its beauty.

"It was always such a lovely, but also useful, space."

Garth completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Science at Massey in 1964 and went on to enjoy a varied and successful career in agricultural research, farming, animal breeding and forestry consulting.

He hopes to bring his family, including his 10 year-old grand-daughter, to tour the Refectory and the Palmerston North campus.

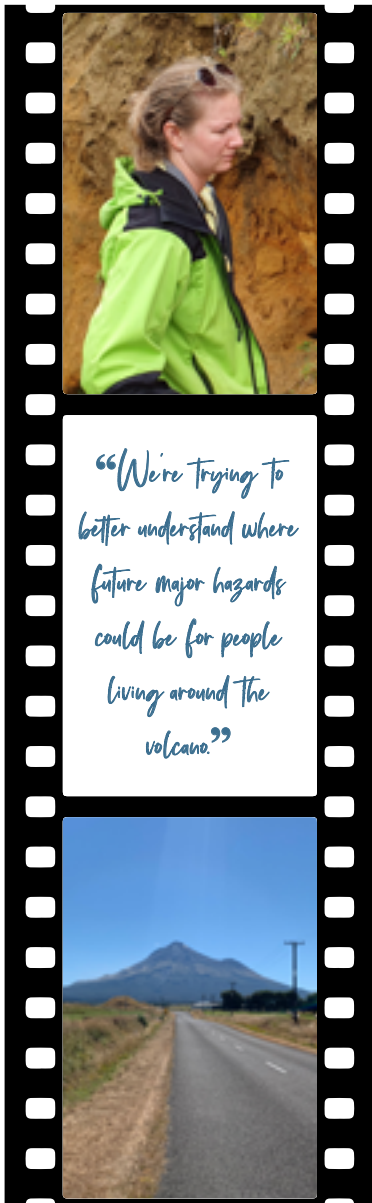
"I'm very keen to see it, and I'd love to inspire her to attend Massey."



*"The Refectory was a significant project for us: the building required major work and many of its heritage features needed to be remade by hand. We're really proud of our achievement."*

Nathan Harris  
LT McGuinness  
Project Manager

# Mt Taranaki Eruption Research Awarded New Scholarship



Shannen Mills (top) in the field on the ring plain of Taranaki looking at tephra deposits from Mt. Taranaki within soil layers. Photo courtesy: Jonathan Procter.

Research that could help protect people living around Mt Taranaki in future eruptions has received \$25,000 in funding.

Massey PhD candidate Shannen Mills is the inaugural recipient of the Dr Eileen Fair Earth Science Doctoral Scholarship.

Shannen says her research will investigate a sequence of eruptions from Mt Taranaki that occurred 20,000 to 30,000 years ago, and how they may have been affected by two major edifice collapses on the volcano during the same period.

“When a large chunk of a volcano falls away, a large weight drops off it. Removing that weight affects the types of eruptions you get afterwards, and different eruption styles present different hazards.”

Her research, in its third year, will feed into hazard and risk-assessment modelling to help deliver more accurate predictions on the volcano’s behaviour. It may also indicate what stage in its eruption cycle the volcano may be at.

“The more we know about past eruptions from a volcano, the more we know about future ones. We’re trying to better understand where future major hazards could be for people living around the volcano, if eruptions like the ones we’re studying occur again.”

Shannen says she will put the scholarship funding towards publishing her research and presenting it at conferences, including one she will attend in Greece mid-year.

Mt Taranaki, a stratovolcano, has experienced a number of edifice failures within its eruptive history, and the eruption sequence Shannen is studying includes two of its largest collapses.

Her research findings could be applied to other stratovolcanoes around the world, with allowance for local conditions, Shannen says.

“I’m extremely grateful to Eileen for the funding and the opportunities it’s allowed me to pursue – particularly getting my research out to a wider community. It has definitely taken some financial stress away.

“I met Eileen last year; she was really interesting and had great stories from her life and travels.”

Eileen gained a Masters in Science at Massey in 1969, her dissertation for which focused on dating the river terraces of the Manawatū River.

She completed a PhD in Geomorphology at Southern Illinois University in 1974, and went on to lecture in Physical Geography at Ohio University.

Eileen gifted \$75,000 to the Massey University Foundation last year to fund the scholarship for three years.

Shannen says she plans to pursue a career in volcano hazard and risk management in New Zealand.

“I’d love to keep researching and helping communities in New Zealand.”

# Research Tackles Kiwi Parasite Problem

Massey University research to identify and treat parasites in young kiwi has received \$180,000 from environmentalist Dr George Mason.

Its findings could improve the health and survival rates of young kiwi.

Massey PhD student Emma Scheltema was awarded the George Mason Doctoral Scholarship, managed through the Massey University Foundation and worth \$180,000 over three years, to fund her research.

It aims to optimise a previously developed molecular diagnostic test to identify which species of the parasite coccidia are present in kiwi and at what levels, and use this to discover which organs they are infecting, and which drugs are safest and most effective in treating the infection.

The species of coccidia found in kiwi are only known to affect kiwi, and can infect the native bird's intestines, kidneys and liver, Emma says, but little is known about which species affect which organs.

There is also evidence that the standard drug used for treating the infection in kiwi is losing efficacy, Emma says. Her research will test the performance of other drugs, already used with poultry, in fighting the parasite.

Infected kiwi can develop intestinal and kidney infections, struggle to put on weight and, in severe cases, can die. Kiwi with serious infections are often transferred to Massey's Wildbase Hospital for treatment.

"For some kiwi, infection with coccidia can have substantial clinical impacts. Their growth can be depressed, as they have a reduced ability to convert what they are eating into useful energy to grow."

The research will study young kiwi being reared in captivity as part of Operation Nest Egg – a programme to boost kiwi numbers, which sees kiwi eggs and chicks removed from their burrows and cared for in captive-rearing facilities until they are big enough to thrive in the wild.

While low levels of coccidia are naturally found in kiwi, captive chicks potentially have a higher risk of clinical disease – coccidiosis – as they are more likely to be exposed to coccidia-contaminated environments while their immune systems are not fully prepared to fight off infection.

Kiwi with coccidiosis may need to stay in captivity longer – until they have put on sufficient weight – potentially reducing the overall number of kiwi that can be cared for by facilities.

Emma hopes her research will yield recommendations for captive facilities, such as the ideal treatment plans for various coccidia infections, and how long to leave pens empty before they can be used again.

"It's the most limiting disease impacting captive-reared kiwi; most facilities have to regularly deal with coccidia in their chicks."

"I am so thankful to George Mason for the opportunity to conduct this research. We have a better chance of getting a good outcome, because I can dedicate the time to it and not be as restricted by financial limitations. We can have a really good crack at getting some answers."

Dr George Mason has donated more than \$5 million towards scholarships, educational funding and grants through the George Mason Charitable Trust.

He says Emma's research could help meet the challenge of increasing kiwi density in the wild.

A plant ecologist and physiologist, George co-founded agri-chemicals firm Taranaki NuChem, now Zelum, in 1988. He established the trust in 1995, using equity from the research-focused firm.

The funding for the trust came from applied science, George says, and so it's fitting that it returns there.

"This is my way of being able to return something to the science field."



*"It's the most limiting disease impacting captive-reared kiwi: most facilities have to regularly deal with coccidia in their chicks."*

# Labs to Laptops: Grant Brings Science Lessons to Student Screens

Massey University agriculture and horticulture students will use educational videos to assist their learning in the lab and out in the field, thanks to a \$40,000 gift from the Jack and Gladys Howe Educational Trust.

The videos also mean those students learning remotely – the number of which has increased during the Covid-19 pandemic - can still see the practical context of the material they are studying.

The gift will fund about 30 short videos, says Paul Kenyon, head of Massey's School of Agriculture and Environment. The videos, some of which are still in production, are not meant to replace practical learning, but run alongside practical activities, such as dissections.

"They'll watch the video first, and understand what they're about to do from an educational perspective and also how to do it safely.

"Other videos are focused on adding learning, for example, videos have been produced to help students identify pasture species. They will cover the attributes of species and then how they are used in the production system."

Today's students are accustomed to learning online through short videos, he says.

"These are equivalent to a short YouTube clip - they are focused around the subject and aligned to the learning objectives for the given course or programme."

The videos, available from next semester, will be embedded within online course material so students can access them at any time.

"Our staff members are really excited about using them, and believe they will really help students in their learning.

"The School of Agriculture and Environment is very grateful for this funding. It has allowed us to create educational resources that we have wanted to create for some time, and we are now starting to see the real value of them.

"We plan to continue creating videos over time, especially as digital learning platforms become more common."

The Jack and Gladys Howe Educational Trust, managed by Perpetual Guardian, will award an annual gift to the Massey University Foundation, to be used to provide reference books or visual aids for agriculture, horticulture or veterinary science students. Last year's gift was the first from the trust.



Videos produced with the grant will accompany practical learning activities, such as lab and field work.



# Alpine Seed-Saving Mission Gears Up

Seeds from some of New Zealand's most endangered plant species will be collected and stored in the next few months, as climate change threatens to wipe out their alpine habitats.

The project can go ahead thanks to \$430,000 in funding received from the Lottery Grants Board – through the Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund - last year.

Mesu Tora, seed collecting and relationship co-ordinator for the project, says there are more than 700 species of vascular plants in the alpine zone, and 93 percent of them are found only in New Zealand.

They include species that are culturally significant (*taonga*) to Māori, such as taramea (*Aciphylla* spp.) and tikumu (*Celmisia spectabilis*), and also provide food and habitat for native birds including keas, as well as geckos (*Mokopirirakau granulatus*), and insects that serve as key indigenous pollinators in alpine ecosystems, for example, the endemic short-tongued bee (*Hylaeus agilis*) and the black butterfly (*Percnodaimon pluto*).

It has been predicted that an increase in alpine temperatures of three degrees could result in the loss of 200 to 300 species, Mesu says.

“These are very distinctive ecosystems, and the flora we’re looking to protect play a crucial part in them.”

Climate change reduces alpine habitat and encourages invasive plant species to take over any suitable terrain that remains.

The project team has established a database of alpine plant species, says Mesu. It is now prioritising the collection of seeds based on a matrix that involves factors such as the plant’s flowering season, seed storage behaviour, conservation status, rarity, accessibility to these plants and whether they are taonga species.

Project leader and Massey senior research officer in seed science and technology, Craig McGill, says the team has also brought together a kāhui – a group of Māori advisors with expertise in conservation and environmental management.

The kāhui will help incorporate Mātauranga Māori into the work of the seed bank, and support and advise on seed collection and the storage process to ensure proper and strong tikanga protocols are followed.

Gina Aubia, seed banking and data management officer for the project, says the kāhui will provide a conduit for iwi involvement in the project, and its input will be essential to the seed bank’s success.

The project team is in the process of contacting iwi for consultation and to seek permission to collect seeds from their rohe, or tribal territory. Iwi will also be consulted prior to any collection activity as to which species should be included and prioritised, and invited to take part in the collection process.

“This is a very exciting process. It’s a new way of partnering with tangata whenua,” Gina says.

Once collected, the seeds will be stored in the New Zealand Indigenous Flora Seed Bank – a collaboration between Massey University, the Department of Conservation, AgResearch, Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research, the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network and Rangitāne o Manawatū.

Craig says the seed banking team is very grateful to the Lottery Grants Board for its financial support, and to the Massey University Foundation for its assistance in securing it.

“This is critical work. With climate change, many of these species have nowhere to go.”



(L-R): Members of the NZIFSB kāhui group at their inaugural hui, Nick Roskrige, Soraya Pohatu, Te Mauri Apiata and Hema Wihongi. Not pictured: Rawiri Smith and Gina Solomon.

(L-R): Taramea (*Aciphylla aurea*) and tikumu (*Celmisia spectabilis* subs. *Spectabilis*). Both plants are observed flowering. Photo credit: John Barkla (NZPCN); Mike Thorsen (NZPCN).

# Record Year for Hardship Bursaries

A record \$100,000 in Bootten Bequest Bursaries was awarded to Massey University students facing financial hardship in 2021.

The unprecedented disbursement followed a \$100,000 donation to the bursary fund - managed by the Massey University Foundation – last year.

There has been a marked increase in students seeking support as the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic impacts their costs, income and the level of assistance their families can provide.

Thirty-two recipients received Bootten Bequest Bursaries last year, 14 of whom were each awarded the highest grant of \$5000.

Prior to receiving the bursary, second-year Bachelor of Business student Amelie Seubert was up at dawn milking cows before university each day in order to make ends meet.

Amelie moved to New Zealand from Germany in 2018, and as she is not yet a permanent resident, does not qualify for a student loan or allowance, or for a free first year of university study.

She worked on a dairy farm in the Wairarapa before starting university, saving up enough to cover 18 months of course fees, and milked at a Manawatū farm last year to pay for her living costs.

“It was pretty full-on. I was getting up at four in the morning and I started working at 5am. I’d finish by 8am and then head into university for the day’s lectures. I would sometimes milk in the afternoon too. It was challenging, but I am hard-working, and I just had to stay focused.”

Amelie had planned to work full-time during her mid-semester break last year, but Covid restrictions made that impossible.

The Bootten Bursary has helped cover her living costs this year, and she has been able to swap the dairy farm job for a casual role at a childcare centre in Palmerston North.



Bootten Bursary recipient Libby Firmin plans to work as a photographer in the film industry.

"I don't miss the early starts – especially with winter coming. I'm really grateful for the Bootten Bursary. I'm working fewer hours and can concentrate more on my studies – which are more challenging now that I am in my second year."

Amelie plans to obtain a Masters in Agribusiness and pursue a career in that field in New Zealand.

Bursary recipient Libby Firmin, who is in her second year of a Bachelor of Design with Honours - majoring in Photography, says the \$5000 grant meant she could cover her rent for the second semester — about \$4000.

Libby had worked as a cleaner prior to university, but had been unable to find a job in Wellington, as most positions – such as in hospitality - required previous experience in the industry. That had been hard to accumulate as a high school student from her hometown of Mangamahau, a rural community 45 minutes' drive from Whanganui.

"I am very thankful to have been awarded a Bootten Bursary. It's helped a lot."

Since receiving the bursary, Libby found casual work in data administration for a law firm, and is saving her wages to cover her accommodation for this year. She hopes to get a job as a photographer in the film industry after completing the four-year degree.

Amy Heise, Executive Director - Student Experience at Massey, says more than 3200 students

applied for an Emergency Covid-19 Hardship Grant last year, and most were awarded some support. More than \$1.2 million was allocated through the grants, funded by the Tertiary Education Commission and Massey.

"The grant specifically targeted students experiencing financial challenges as a result of the Covid-19 alert-level changes. These funds were to be used towards basic living costs or access to the internet."

The pandemic has affected student finances on several fronts. Students faced increased living costs, and the loss of employment opportunities through lockdowns and as industries traditionally hiring students - such as hospitality - suffered and retrenched. Some students have also lost financial support from their families due to Covid-19.

The funds for the Bootten Bequest Bursaries were endowed to the Massey University Foundation by the estate of the late Mrs C Bootten, to provide financial assistance to help students complete their study. The Boottens farmed for many years in Eltham, Taranaki.

Massey University Foundation director Mitch Murdoch says it was delighted to receive the \$100,000 donation to the bursary fund, and to support the record year of giving through the Bootten Bursaries.

"We are very grateful to those who have donated to the fund. Their generosity directly benefits many deserving students facing significant financial obstacles."



*"I'm really grateful for the Bootten Bursary. I'm working fewer hours and can concentrate more on my studies."*

### **Amelie Seubert**

**Before receiving a bursary, Amelie milked cows on a dairy farm every morning before university to cover her living costs.**

# Thank you for your support during 2021

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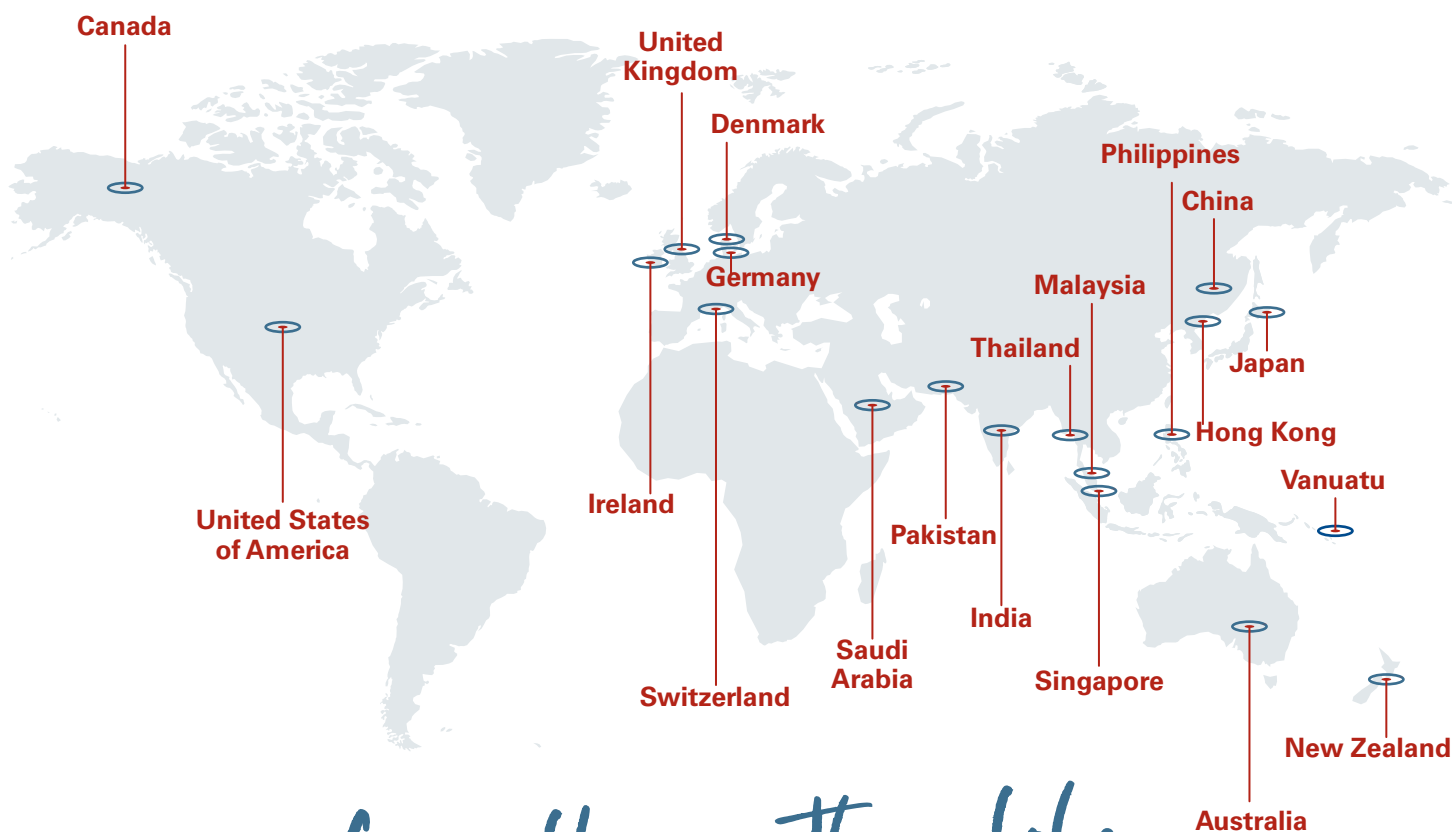
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