

Vice Chancellor's Report to Council

September 2021

Introduction

Since the last report to the Council, the major event has been the lockdown on Tuesday 17 August when a community case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Auckland.

At 11.59 that night, all of New Zealand entered Alert Level 4 lockdown for an initial three days. Over the coming days, the Government confirmed the case was the Delta variant, and daily case numbers rose in Auckland and cases were also found in Wellington. The South Island entered Level 3 at 11.59pm on 31 August, and Level 2 at 11.59pm on 7 September.

UC's Incident Management Team (IMT) was activated on the evening of Tuesday 17 August and remained active until 8am, Monday 13 September. The campus was closed for the duration of Level 4, operating online only, and access was very limited during Level 3. Even though there were many unknowns and uncertainties while the IMT awaited updated Delta variant guidance from the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) at each alert level change, the experiences and lessons learned from last year's lockdown, combined with the overlapping mid-semester break, reduced pressure on staff, students and campus facilities.

During the initial 48 hours of Level 4, people around the country were allowed to travel home; and many students did so with approximately 55% of students remaining in UC halls throughout the lockdown period. All lectures, tutorials and labs were cancelled for the rest of that week (three days, 18–20 August). Online help sessions for online teaching/lecture recordings were offered to staff and the results of the most recent student Readiness to Study Online survey were reviewed to find out how many students needed support with devices, data cards and other necessities for online learning. From Monday 23 August, all teaching and assessment began online-only delivery, with the IMT continuing to provide student and staff support throughout. Fortunately, when Term 3 ended on 27 August IMT had been able to fulfil more than 100 student requests for technology and internet access, which enabled students to continue with their learning during the lockdown period.

Significant effort went into student pastoral support during lockdown. IMT staff volunteers completed various proactive phone callouts to targeted student groups to identify any barriers they were experiencing. Concurrently, a staff pulse survey was conducted. Its findings showed high trust in communications received and in the Senior Leadership Team; however, wellbeing and job security scores were lower than scores in previous pulse surveys. Feedback from both students and staff throughout the lockdown period was overwhelmingly positive despite the challenges our community faced.

IMT began the transition back to business-as-usual leadership during the shift from Alert Level 3 to Level 2 and considerable work was completed to ready the campus for the new Alert Level 2 restrictions that were introduced based on safety requirements for the Delta variant. Term 4 began on

13 September with the campus open for teaching under Level 2 restrictions; classes continue to be offered online for those students who cannot or do not wish to return to campus, and all end-of-year exams are being prepared for online delivery. Any face-to-face exams will be held by exception only due to space limitations under [Tertiary Education Organisation Alert Level 2 guidance](#) and also to ensure that UC is prepared for any quick return to Level 3 or 4.

Among the other work that has continued, our Believe U Can campaign has now been converted into broadcast quality. UC is now seeking approval for the advertisements from the Commercial Approvals Bureau so that we can launch the campaign on Māori TV at the start of October, which will make UC the first New Zealand university to advertise on this platform. The engagement levels of Māori and Pasifika with this campaign have exceeded our already high engagement levels for all audiences, and we are excited to be leading the way in university advertising on Māori TV.

Engagement

Due to Alert Level 2, Rā Tōmene | Open Day could not be run on campus; instead a Mini Online Open Day was held on 9 September 2021. Attendance numbers were good, with 1,195 unique logins by students and whānau, which was over double last year's virtual attendance. Over the next few months additional campus tours, meeting Level 2 guidelines, will be held to allow students and whānau an opportunity to learn more about UC. At Level 2 tours of halls are not permitted.

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori | Māori Language Week from 13–19 September was embraced throughout the University. By meeting the Alert Level 2 guidelines, we could still hold a number of events on campus, ranging from movie and quiz nights to exercise classes. We publicly showed our support for te reo Māori by displaying a banner on our website's home page and having key billboards in Ōtautahi Christchurch flip from an English version to a version in te reo Māori.

The Southeast Asia Research Initiative, led by Professor Alex Tan, Associate Professor Jim Ockey and Dr Naimah Talib, hosted a two-day online international workshop on “Democratic Recession in Southeast Asia”. Presenters, speakers and participants at this two-day conference included scholars from London School of Economics (UK), Bilkent University (Turkey), University of Maryland (USA), Indiana University (USA), University of the Philippines, British Council, Mae Fa Luang University (Thailand), Bina Nusantara University (Indonesia), International Islamic University Malaysia, University of Indonesia and State Islamic University (Indonesia). A panel with selected papers will also be presented at the New Zealand Asian Studies Conference at Massey University.

COVID-19 has had an impact on the production and distribution of Canterbury University Press (CUP) publications. However, Stuff interviewed UC lecturer Madi Williams about her new book *Polynesia, 900–1600* and reported in the [story](#) that followed, “Williams’ book incorporates oral histories, historical analysis and archaeology to add to the understanding of the development and expansion of pre-modern Polynesia.” The book was commissioned by UK-based publisher Arc Humanities Press, which specialises in medieval history, and the Aotearoa New Zealand edition is published by CUP.

Professor Alessandro Palermo is the new face of a campaign with Tourism New Zealand calling for leaders, visionaries, creators, innovators and pioneers to host an international conference. Professor Palermo previously hosted the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering Congress. The campaign is currently in market and has been spotted in bus shelters near campus.

WORD Christchurch Festival has been rescheduled to 11–13 November in light of the recent lockdown. While this has required some reshaping of the festival, we are aiming for an even better WORD Schools day to be run on 11 November at Haere-roa by our in-house UC team.

The Art of Science competition received 180 applications from school students in years 5 to 13 around New Zealand. This year the competition was run in conjunction with WORD Christchurch Festival and an exhibition of the work will be shown at the revised WORD secondary school's day.

The School of Physical and Chemical Sciences open day to celebrate Ernest Rutherford's 150th birthday has been postponed to Sunday 10 October.

UC's Summer Science camp has been moved forward by a week to run from 13–17 December so that it can accommodate revised National Certificate of Educational Achievement exam dates.

Reuben de Lautour had the honour of being invited to adjudicate the composition award in the New Zealand Community Trust Chamber Music Contest. There were 21 entries from school students around the country. The winning entry was an outstanding work for string ensemble "7 Scenes for String Octet" by Vadim Fong, a year 10 student from Whangārei.

The professional development day for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) teachers has moved forward by two weeks and will be delivered on Friday 19 November for 60 teachers from around the South Island.

Dr Christoph Teschers, School of Educational Studies and Leadership, spoke on a panel at Kōrero Café, a Zoom webinar for youth workers in Aotearoa. This event was organised by Ara Taiohi, a partner in the Bachelor of Youth and Community Leadership, and focused on "Defining Youthwork in Aotearoa". The seminar was recorded by Ara Taiohi and is being circulated to the youth work sector across the country. Dr Teschers also wrote an article on the same topic for Ara Taiohi's journal, *Kaiparahuarahi*.

Due to lockdown disruptions the physical version of the Primary Principals Day, 8 September, has been replaced with two online opportunities. This event welcomes principals from all over the South Island to campus, where they engage with student-teachers, discuss upcoming employment opportunities and give advice on applying for roles and progressing a teaching career.

Education – Accessible, Flexible, Future Focused

Education was at front of mind for staff and students with a successful finish to Term 3 as students adjusted to the new circumstances. Both students and staff welcomed the short period of adjustment (three days of no teaching) and overall the transition was smooth. Term 4 has seen classes once again in blended mode. Many students are back on campus, while support has been put in place for students who could not return. Once again it was a pan-University effort as staff across UC participated in making the learning experience as good as possible for students, while managing their own personal circumstances at the same time.

Te Kura Pūtaiao Koiora | School of Biological Sciences has been working through the accreditation process with the Royal Society of Biology (RSB). The School received very positive feedback from the RSB Accreditation Board at the recent virtual meeting and expects to receive a formal report soon.

Future Learning and Development ran daily Zoom drop-in sessions for academic staff to support the sudden change to remove online teaching. Topics included:

- online assessment
- online assignments
- lecture capture and delivery
- general help with LEARN and Echo 360.

Further, weekend support was offered to assist academic staff with the swift move to online delivery and the Academic Development team recorded a webinar about online assessment and invigilation.

Alert Level 4 saw the Professional and Community Engagement (PACE) Programme supporting its 85 students through changes in their internships. The vast majority of these students were able to continue their internships from home. A small number needed to adapt by pivoting their focus, taking on a smaller project from another team within the organisation or simply being on hold until the alert level was lowered.

Many students found that because of the pressure of Level 4 and their UC workload, they needed to take some time for self-care. I am grateful that UC's partners have continued to provide ongoing support to students and are being flexible in their approach and requirements.

During the COVID-19 lockdown period, researchers within the Child Well-being Research Institute who have developed the Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA) and are leading its national rollout into schools (Professor Gail Gillon, Professor Brigid McNeill, Dr Amy Scott and their team) have been busy supporting literacy specialists and new entrant/year 1 class teachers around the country. BSLA micro-credential Programme Coordinator Dr Amy Scott has hosted multiple Zoom meetings with hundreds of teachers to support their continued implementation of evidence-based literacy teaching with five- and six-year olds during lockdown. An analysis last month of preliminary data for over 5,200 children aged five years demonstrated the usefulness of the online oral language and phonological awareness tasks our UC team has developed and showed children are making rapid progress in response to BSLA.

Initial Teacher Education in the School of Teacher Education implemented a number of rapid responses to the sudden change to Alert Level 4. Students from Auckland returned home while following alert level rules. Approval was sought and granted from the Teaching Council for students' online teaching and learning environments to count toward completion of their Professional Practice placements, and for our graduate diploma and postgraduate diploma student-teachers who are not able to engage in online teaching and learning environments to have alternative assignments.

The Teaching Council was also alerted to changes to the Year 2 Bachelors (Early Childhood and Primary) Professional Practice schedule due to Level 4 constraints. Teaching courses have been shifted to earlier in the semester, requiring staff to re-work their curriculum in those courses for a different schedule without the Professional Practice Experience as a foundation for the course work. The Professional Practice Office and lecturers gathered data from schools and early childhood centres about online teaching and learning environments available in their schools, which they could then use in the shift to the revised Professional Practice placement schedules, doubling up our students in placements at the end of Semester 2.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with Lincoln University to enhance postgraduate study opportunities in sport and recreation. As we have aligned programmes at master's level, our intention is to collaborate so that together the two universities can give students a greater diversity of courses to choose from, without a proliferation of courses at either institution. This MOU

supports the UC Strategic Vision for Education, in providing accessible, flexible and relevant learning pathways for a more diverse student body, and in providing opportunities for research that makes a difference locally and globally.

The Centre of Entrepreneurship (UCE) team has continued to deliver events online including Makerspace TinkerCad workshops, Entré mentoring, Hatchery workshops and Summer Startup information sessions. The weekly UCE/ThinkLab panel clinic session has also continued online, providing value to students who are considering commercialisation options for their ventures.

In collaboration with Trimble and the Smart Christchurch team at Christchurch City Council, UCE had been planning to be the Christchurch host of GovHack on the weekend of 23 August before a last-minute pivot online. Teams were not disadvantaged in any significant way thanks to the nature of the hackathon-style event, which had a rush of last-minute entries as weekend plans were disrupted due to Alert Level 4. Winners of the Christchurch bounty statements are yet to be announced. The winning team will be invited to participate in the opening of the new convention centre Te Pae (now postponed). For more information, see UC's [summary of the event](#).

Research – Impact on a Changing World

Across many parts of the University, the quick move to higher alert levels happened relatively easily, but it created other pinch-points elsewhere. The Library has responded speedily to the needs of staff and students throughout the changes in alert level. At Alert Level 4, the library services were fully online, with AskLive again providing a vital communication channel to students seven days a week. Additionally, the Library continued to support online teaching including the purchase of additional online information resources. At Alert Level 3, selected staff returned to campus to support scanning of print books and journals (for use in LEARN|Ako) and to help post hundreds of physical items to UC staff and students. At Alert Level 2, the Puaka-James Hight Library opened on 9 September with restricted staff and student access. The first day saw more than 200 students making use of the study space and access to physical resources.

Most New Zealand research funders are putting considerable effort into extending application and reporting deadlines, and are working with institutions to make contract variations.

Before lockdown, Associate Professor Liz Macpherson of the School of Law gave a presentation to a workshop with the Vice-President and Ministers of Bolivia on “Harmony with Nature in the Context of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework”. She gave a New Zealand (scholarly) perspective on changes needed to the first draft of the framework, which is developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Associate Professor Macpherson also gave a presentation titled “Agua y Constitución: Perspectiva Extranjera” [“Water and the Constitution: A Foreign Perspective”] to the 23rd Water Law Conference of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. In addition, she has gained recognition for her professional success through her election to the International Academy of Comparative Law. Membership of this prestigious academy, which has been in existence since 1924, is by election only and is restricted to candidates able to provide evidence of their academic excellence in the field.

A review of New Zealand's 66-year-old adoption law has been announced. UC Māori health lecturer Dr Annabel Ahuriri-Driscoll, School of Health Sciences, has lived experience as an adoptee and her PhD investigated identity in Māori adoptees. Dr Ahuriri-Driscoll joined filmmaker and writer Barbara

Sumner to discuss the issues on Newshub Nation: [Advocates blast lack of lived experience informing Aotearoa's adoption law reform | Newshub Nation - YouTube](#).

Professor Nick Draper and Associate Professor Arin Basu of the School of Health Sciences are part of a group of UC and external researchers that has received \$120,000 from the Neurological Foundation to fund a study of collisions among male and female rugby players during the 2022 and 2023 seasons.

Professor Ian Shaw has co-edited a new book, *Plastic Legacies: Pollution, Persistence and Politics*, with Massey University Senior Lecturers Trisia Farrelly (social anthropology) and Sy Taffel (media studies). *Plastic Legacies* brings together scholars from the fields of marine biology, psychology, anthropology, environmental studies, indigenous studies and media studies to investigate and address the urgent socio-ecological challenges brought about by plastics.

Postgraduate students continue to be supported by their supervisors, departments or schools and the Te Tari Rangahau Tāura | Postgraduate Research Office during the latest COVID-19 lockdown. For doctoral and research master's students with final submission deadlines in September and October, a two-week extension has been provided to relieve some of the stress associated with Alert Level 4, when they had no access to the campus. Further discussions are underway on how to best support our research students who have been adversely affected by the lockdown period.

The Kopa Iti grant has been reactivated to support students facing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown. Students may apply for it via the University of Canterbury Students' Association student welfare team.

UC has seen a 46% increase in doctoral enrolments at the end of July 2021 compared with the same time last year. Given our borders continue to be closed, and a significant number of students in our doctoral programmes are from overseas, this substantial rise is pleasing.

The inaugural Aho Hīnātore | Accelerator Scholarship contributed to the increase in enrolments and has continued into 2021. The deadline for 2022 applications for the Aho Hīnātore | Accelerator programme was extended until 10 September to allow students and supervisory teams extra time to complete their applications.

PhD students who have commenced from overseas engage, initially weekly, with their supervisors, supported by the Postgraduate Research Office. The students are forming networking associations with each other, within and across disciplines and countries, and a number of UC departments are linking these overseas students with their on-campus postgraduate student groups. The Postgraduate Research Office continues to develop resources to meet the identified needs of this cohort.

UC has recorded an outstanding result in the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's recently announced 2021 Endeavour Fund round, in which UC-led bids received \$23.061 million in funding. This year saw UC succeed with eight Smart Ideas bids, which is our highest number ever, and two Research Programme bids, equalling our previous best performance, making this UC's best year ever for Endeavour Fund success. For Smart Ideas the average success rate was 12.5% while UC's was 19.5%, and for Research Programmes the average success rate was 13% while UC's was 22%. In addition, UC is a significant partner to be subcontracted in a number of other Endeavour-funded projects led by another university or a Crown research institute, which together have a value of \$10.1 million.

People – Nurturing Staff, Thriving Students

TEC-funded development work for Analytics for Course Engagement (ACE) has kicked off with a number of user experience (UX) workshops for staff and students. Collectively we have developed significant enhancements and functionality designed to inform and enhance teaching and learning. Substantial work will be carried out over the next few months to meet the release deadline of December 2021.

The main priority for Te Waka Pākākano (TWP) when the lockdown was announced was to proactively engage with Māori, Pacific and Rainbow students, recognising the disproportionate impact the pandemic crisis has on these communities. Since August, TWP advisors have supported 18 Māori, Pacific and Rainbow students to apply for hardship funds through the Mickle Grant and COVID-19 Hardship Fund for Learners. In total, \$28,603 was distributed to these applicants and further applications are pending approval. Eight of these applications were related to COVID-19 and most applicants have been experiencing mental illness exacerbated by lockdown.

In response to the increasing needs of supervisors and teaching staff now that they have to work differently with their postgraduate students, the Kaiārahi Rangahau Māori have taken the opportunity to work with small groups of supervisors over Zoom to discuss their research. As part of these discussions, they are supporting ways to enhance supervisors' understanding of Mātauranga Māori or advising on better ways to engage with Māori.

Thousands of calls to UC students in lockdown to enquire about support they may require to continue their studies have been well received. In general, the level of concern was low but those with challenges are being supported.

Te Kura Ārahi Ako | School of Educational Studies and Leadership has reintroduced its weekly Online Staff Café to sustain the community through the latest lockdown. This is now being supplemented by half-hour skill seminars, hosted by members of the School's professoriate.

Over lockdown, Te Kura Aronukurangi | School of Earth and Environment ran a photo competition, with a focus on the 'little things', using cellphone cameras only. Categories included: indoor – making the mundane seem magical (in your house only); outdoor – what treasures are hidden in your yard (in your section only); and family – what creative family fun you have been up to over lockdown (remembering that families come in all shapes, sizes and varieties especially during lockdown).

The Rec & Sport team switched to online teaching via the Rec & Sport app on day 1 of lockdown. The livestreaming module was purchased following lockdown 2020 to mitigate risks around music licensing and broadcasting via Facebook and YouTube. All members, who include all UC students, have free access to the app during lockdown, and this access was extended to all UC staff until 30 September 2021. In one week, 28 UC staff signed up for the app. During the lockdown period, the team has been livestreaming 31 sessions per week, including five meditation sessions. It has had 820 participants livestream in that period, although the actual number of participants is higher than this because many members are exercising along with others in their flat and family bubbles using one livestream. By way of comparison, in normal operating conditions, 50 in-gym classes are held per week, which have a total of 1,500 participants per week in term time. Both staff and students have given a great deal of positive qualitative feedback about their livestream experience.

Our Sport Academy athletes have been receiving weekly check-in and at-home programming. With its five clubs in off-season, players have been provided with at-home optional workouts. Zoom-based group workouts have been delivered for external contracts who are still in-season.

Research & Innovation (R&I) has launched its annual Innovation Jumpstart competition, which gives UC staff a chance to transform their innovative ideas into commercial reality. Winning projects receive \$20,000 to support the ongoing commercial development of their idea. Five awards are on offer, one of which is specifically looking for the idea with the greatest social or environmental impact. An awards event in November will celebrate the winners. R&I has connected with schools, departments and individuals to encourage them to participate and will facilitate workshops with external advisors (AJ Park, technology incubators WNT and Bridgewest Ventures) to assist with proposal preparation.

UC student [Josiah Tualamali'i](#) has been nominated for Young New Zealander of the Year.

Senior Lecturer Laura Revell is the winner of the 2021 Cooper Award, which is the Royal Society Te Apārangi Early Career Research Excellence Award for Technology, Applied Science and Engineering. She was also jointly awarded, with Dr Michele Bannister, the UC Early and Emerging Career Researcher Award 2021. Each winner received \$10,000 to use in research activity in 2022.

Political Science alumni Holly Donald (BA, MA 2009) and Alex Marrett (BA, MA 2009) were mentioned in a recent [Stuff article](#) as being among the who's who in New Zealand's COVID-19 response team. Holly Donald is deputy chief of staff of the Prime Minister's Office and Alex Marrett is senior policy adviser to Minister of Health Hon Chris Hipkins. Both completed their MA under the supervision of Professor Alex Tan.

Internationalisation – Locally Engaged, Globally Networked

Education New Zealand continues to progress creation of the New Zealand Centres in Sri Lanka, Vietnam and China, and UC is playing an active role in this work. Meetings are taking place with overseas partners, with the goal of commencing new programmes in late 2022.

Education New Zealand has informed UC that the announcement of a new border exemption cohort has been delayed due to the latest COVID-19 outbreak in New Zealand. We are not likely to see offshore international students returning to campus under a new border exemption cohort until mid-March 2022 at the earliest.

UC's study centres begin their fall semesters this month. Nearly 100 UC students will travel to the study centres to continue their UC degrees from an on-campus environment.

UC has approximately 300 online international students continuing their studies with us from their home countries, while the borders remain closed. UC's international support teams continue to support and advise these offshore students.

Mentoring, chat and engagement through social media and online social activities help connect students to UC. Encouragingly we have seen online student retention improve off an already impressive 92% for Semester 1 to 96% for Semester 2.

We continue to see a shift in the international breakdown of our student body due to the border closure. The number of new students from Malaysia has increased through our arrangements with our partner KYS. However, our previously third-largest cohort from Canada has decreased due to

students' inability to come to New Zealand for their Graduate Diploma in Teaching. Likewise, our previously growing student cohort from India has been significantly impacted, with Indian students finding it difficult to fund studies online without a visa (New Zealand Immigration Office remains closed for offshore applications).

UC is undertaking selected Study Abroad recruitment activities in the United States during the fall recruitment season. The objective of this work is to maintain a presence for partners and prospective students where virtual opportunities exist.

The Mobility team is virtually attending the European Association for International Education conference in conjunction with Education New Zealand in late September. UC will virtually exhibit as part of the New Zealand booth to connect with existing and prospective Study Abroad and Exchange partners. We will also explore new opportunities including Turing and Erasmus Plus initiatives.

Expressions of interest will be open in Term 4 for UC students who would like one of the limited number of exchange places available at Australian partner universities in 2022, with a view to leaving options open for Semester 1, 2022 if possible. A decision will be made later in the year on the viability of these exchanges for Semester 1, and we continue to work closely with our risk advisory team to determine risk assessments and travel restrictions.

Student support and social events originally designed for UC's online international student cohort were expanded this month to include all UC international students in light of the recent changes in alert levels in New Zealand. Events varied from sessions on coping with Zoom fatigue, to understanding and connecting with hauora, to online dance workouts.

Organisational Efficacy – of a sustainable scale by 2030

The Government's Hardship Fund for Learners grant of nearly \$392,000 to UC just prior to the Alert Level 4 lockdown enabled the University to grant both technology support and financial aid to students who were affected by reduced employment or a technology deficit during the lockdown.

One of the many teams that went above and beyond with its service and commitment during the lockdown was the Information Technology Services (ITS) team. The team shifted seamlessly and quickly to provide effective incident response and operational support within hours of the lockdown being announced. Shortly ahead of the lockdown, ITS had proactively increased UC's internet service capacity with the internet service provider, with the result that UC was well positioned in its capacity to support the increased load on the platforms.

During the lockdown, the ITS team responded to various calls for support. In addition, it took a number of key actions, which included:

- providing 50 student laptops and 22 staff laptops to enable studies and work to continue
- providing some 40+ 2degrees cellular data cards for students and staff who lacked good-quality home network connections
- helping set up 23 remote workrooms in conjunction with faculty technicians for online teaching labs, which enabled the continued use of specialist software for hybrid teaching and learning
- ensuring remote access was enabled for staff and postgraduates
- instigating a change freeze to the University's IT platforms to minimise risk to staff and students working remotely.

ITS has also introduced the Unibuddy platform that provides a chat function on the website. This facilitates peer-to-peer recruitment by allowing future students to connect with current students, providing a low-cost way of engaging students with meaningful information.

Course planning visits were in full swing in schools around the country when we went into lockdown. We immediately pivoted to online course planning and continue to deliver online course planning throughout Auckland. Future student advisors have resumed course planning in person in other regions, following Alert Level 2 safety protocols.

Applications for accommodation continue to look strong, indicating further growth from out-of-town students for 2022.

UC participated in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) survey of alumni relations and fundraising operations in 34 Australasian universities. The [survey report](#) confirms that UC had another successful year in terms of alumni engagement and fundraising compared with other Australasian universities, achieving one of the best returns on investment at 6c to raise \$1 (the average was 22c to raise \$1).

A [Memorials & Bequests](#) page has been added to the UC Foundation website, giving people instant access to information on any known memorials or bequests left to UC.

The UCMe outdoor campaign on bus shelters (adshels) around New Zealand was running when we went into lockdown. Following negotiations with our suppliers to be recompensed for the reduced exposure during this time, we will have an additional run in Auckland next month and bonus placements for the rest of New Zealand now we are out of lockdown.

Given the lockdown, we took the opportunity to bring forward our whānau and influencers campaign to capitalise on an increased audience online during lockdown. These UCMe videos focus on lifestyle, student experience outside the classroom and a better study–life balance. These have performed very well, particularly in our Māori and Pasifika sub-target groups.

Environmentally Sustainable

With very little time to spare, the Sustainability Office pivoted to run the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit as a one-day online event on 2 September. The event attracted between 250 and 450 people throughout the day. Among the highlights was Minister of Foreign Affairs Hon Nanaia Mahuta speaking to the Government’s commitment to the SDGs and to the recent report of the Office of the Auditor-General on the Government’s preparedness to implement the SDGs. The Office of the Auditor-General was also on the programme. The University of Canterbury joined Lincoln University in signing the 2021 Aotearoa SDG Summit Declaration; five universities have now done so among 188 signatories. It is hoped that this Declaration will help catalyse further progress towards the SDGs nationally and in our wider region.

A webinar entitled “Research Challenges in Meeting Future Climate Change Emissions Targets” took place on Friday 3 September. Hosted by Professor Ian Wright, the event featured Dr Rod Carr and Professors Bronwyn Hayward and Simon Kingham, along with Dean Fraser (Ngāi Tahu).

The Air Travel Survey data will be analysed with a view to using the findings to inform an air travel reduction plan in 2022.

VC Activities

Events	
26 August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) Board meeting via Microsoft Teams
1 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Universities New Zealand Vice-Chancellors meeting via Zoom
5 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opened and spoke at the New Zealand Psychological Society Conference via Zoom
8 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Universities New Zealand Vice-Chancellors meeting via Zoom
10 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended “The Powerful Truth about Māori Leadership” session via Zoom
15 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Auditor-General and Sector Manager with Keith Longden and Kieran Horne via Zoom
16 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Global University for COP26 Vice-Chancellors Meeting via Zoom • Attended UC Foundation in America Board meeting via Zoom • Attended Universities New Zealand Vice-Chancellors meeting via Zoom
17 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VC on annual leave
20 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Christchurch Knowledge Commons Partnership meeting

Upcoming VC Events

Events	
22 September 2021	Attending Universities New Zealand Vice-Chancellors meeting via Zoom
23 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Cheryl Hyman, Vice Provost from Arizona State University with Professor Catherine Moran via Zoom • Meeting with Amy Adams on campus with Chancellor
24 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Amy Adams on campus with Associate Professor Te Maire Tau
27 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Audit New Zealand with Keith Longden
30 September 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending NZQA Board Meeting in Wellington
1 October 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending the University of Canterbury Student Association Students Choice awards
6 October 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending the 2021 Hopkins lecture with guest speaker Dr Rod Carr
7 October 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Amber McEwan, Chief Executive Officer at Research and Education Advanced Network New Zealand