



AUT

MANAAKITANGA

CELEBRATING GENEROSITY

AUT Foundation
2019 Report to Donors

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2019 TRUSTEES

The AUT Foundation's Board of Trustees is made up of passionate leaders who each bring their expertise and experience to offer support and advice around managing the trust and doing the best for our students.



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WELCOME



Kia ora koutou
I am pleased
to present you
with the AUT
Foundation's second
annual report to donors.

Auckland University of Technology's (AUT) mission is to produce 'great graduates'. To do this, we need to provide exceptional learning experiences underpinned by world class research and innovative thinking. This requires constant investment, so we are grateful for the generosity of our donors.

In this report, we share some inspiring and encouraging stories about the outcomes achieved by your donations; from research to address major challenges such as climate change and cybercrime, to empowering the next generation of thinkers and leaders to achieve their goals.

AUT's student-centred vision has guided the University's development over the past 20 years to become one of the top three universities in New Zealand, and in the top 1% worldwide.

While we can be proud of the University's philanthropic history, there is much that remains to be accomplished. The AUT

“The word ‘Manaakitanga’ encompasses hospitality, kindness, generosity and support. These are all qualities that reflect the generosity of our donors.”

Advancement programme was therefore established in late 2019 to strengthen philanthropic and industry partnerships, and build a significant legacy for the University.

The word ‘Manaakitanga’ encompasses hospitality, kindness, generosity and support. These are all qualities that reflect the generosity of our donors.

On behalf of the University and the Foundation, we thank you for your support and for joining with us to make changes that will impact our students, researchers and communities, now and into the future.

John Maasland
Chairperson, Trustee, AUT Foundation
Chancellor, AUT

2019 GENEROSITY HIGHLIGHTS

83

Donations from trusts, foundations, organisations and individuals

\$990k

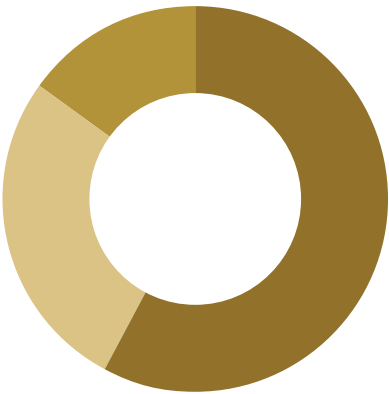
In donations, grants and bequests

\$85k

Donated for research*



2019 DONATIONS BY SOURCE



- Organisations – 58%
- Trusts and Foundations – 27%
- Individuals – 15%

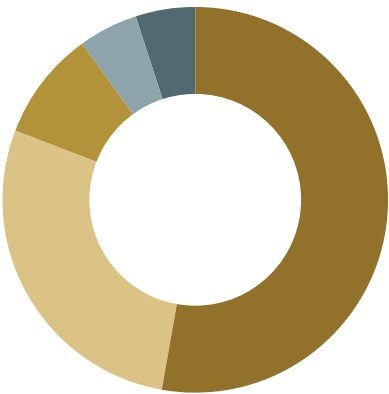
98

Externally funded scholarships**

\$66k

Raised by Friends of AUT Inc.
See story on page 18.

2019 DONATION DESTINATIONS



- Scholarships – 53%
- Other – 28%
- Research* – 9%
- Awards – 5%
- Hardship – 5%

* This report only accounts for a small percentage of research funding received by AUT. Research funding that is conducted in partnership with our industry and governmental partners is gratefully received but reported on separately.

** AUT also provides a range of internally funded scholarships.

PAYING IT FORWARD

Well-known philanthropists, Neal and Annette Plowman, are helping the next generation of aspiring business leaders build global expertise.

A trip to America to learn about the laundry trade taught Neal Plowman a lot about business. A third-generation member of the family's laundry and towel supply company, he returned to New Zealand bursting with ideas, transforming the business and later selling it for a large sum to an American corporation.

Now Neal and his wife Annette – two of the country's most well-known philanthropists – have funded over 130 international business exchange scholarships at AUT, through their philanthropic organisation, NEXT Foundation.

Each year, ten Bachelor of Business students receive a \$5,000 grant that sees them jet-setting their way to business schools across USA, Canada, Europe and beyond. Students spend a semester building skills and expanding their knowledge, returning to New Zealand to fortify our economy.

NEXT Foundation chairman Barrie Brown has played a key role in scholarship recipient selection and he's seen the benefits first-hand.

"This international exchange programme broadens students' horizons. They learn so much, make friends, and gain a deeper insight into how things work. They come back better citizens, get jobs and apply all they've learnt in their workplaces."

"This experience has given me a greater sense of who I am, what is important to me, and who I want to be."

"One of the hardest jobs we have is to narrow it down to just ten students each year. Reading the applications is incredibly inspiring – some of these students are working two or three jobs to fund their studies."

AUT International's Learning Abroad Manager Jacklyn Lim is extremely grateful for the financial aid NEXT Foundation so generously provides.

"Studying abroad offers a once in a lifetime opportunity for students to get out of their comfort zone by studying in a different learning system, travelling, and experiencing different cultures," she says.

Sending our business students overseas and helping make their dream a reality is the most rewarding part of my role, and it wouldn't be possible without the support of NEXT Foundation."

The Business Undergraduate International Exchange Scholarship is just one of many projects NEXT Foundation supports, as part of its vision to leave a legacy of environmental and educational excellence for the benefit of future generations. From Touch First, Mind Lab and the Education Hub to Predator Free Wellington and restoration of Rotorua Island it is a Foundation that is creating lasting value for all New Zealanders.

DANISH EXCHANGE BRINGS IMMEASURABLE BENEFITS

The Danish lifestyle trend hygge has taken the world by storm, encouraging us to make our interiors cosier and our lives simpler. For one AUT student the concept of hygge has inspired more than just comfortable conviviality.

Monique Cooper has recently returned from a stint at Denmark's esteemed Copenhagen Business School, thanks to a \$5,000 Business Undergraduate International

Exchange Scholarship generously funded by NEXT Foundation. Currently studying towards a Bachelor of Business majoring in Management and minoring in

Finance, the high-achiever has also completed a Bachelor of Engineering with First Class Honours majoring in Mechatronics. Monique is now in her fifth year of study at AUT.



Monique Cooper, 2019 recipient of the Business Undergraduate International Exchange Scholarship in Copenhagen

"I wanted to experience life in a foreign country while developing my skills through a different teaching style. I knew that through undertaking an exchange I would be stimulated beyond the classroom syllabus and this would bring opportunities. I hoped to contribute to a community and understand the world in a new light."

Making the most of everything on offer, Monique participated in sustainable business events, met locals, learned about new more circular business models, and enjoyed plenty of sightseeing. What's more, she joined two clubs which are still dishing up benefits back here in Auckland.

"This experience has given me a greater sense of who I am, what is important to me, and who I want to be."

Although Covid-19 cut short her exchange, the seven weeks Monique spent in Copenhagen were life-altering.

"I learned to fit into a different environment, and was exposed to progressive business ideas, fascinating politics, and an alternative learning approach. I was empowered to network and explore different businesses and career pathways."

"TechLabs introduced me to people with business and tech minds and enabled me to learn new and personalised data science coding skills that will add to my double degree. I'm continuing with online learning and enjoying the support of this fantastic online community.

"I also joined 180 Degrees Consulting, the biggest student consulting group in the world.

Through this, I have been working with an international group of students to solve a real client issue, to reduce consumers' consumption of utilities. As part of that we get consulting training from a large Danish firm, Implement Consulting. This is proving exceptionally beneficial."

Although the exchange was shorter than anticipated, Monique says the rewards have still been huge.

"I am incredibly thankful for this scholarship. Without it I wouldn't have gone to Denmark or benefitted from all these experiences and opportunities. Not only has it helped me in my studies, but as an individual this experience has given me a greater sense of who I am, what is important to me, and who I want to be."



CHAMPIONING WOMEN IN STEM

Karla Fitzgerald poured endless energy into empowering women in STEM – and now a new award established in her memory is encouraging others to follow in her footsteps.

The Karla Fitzgerald Dámhachtain (Award), launched at AUT last October, celebrates female students who actively support the development of their communities and the outcomes of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

Founded by Lynn Crean, CEO of digital recruitment company Role Recruit, the award aims to build a lasting legacy, saluting women who, like Karla, are inspiring positive change in their fields.

"Last year my best friend and cousin Karla suddenly passed away and I wanted to honour her in the best way that I knew how," says Lynn.

"Karla was originally from Ireland but fell in love with New Zealand while travelling. She had a strong belief in education, studying IT, innovation and the future of work, and she wanted to see a change in the world of technology. AUT's STEM Women club was everything that she was passionate about and it really called out to us.

"Role Recruit is a niche recruitment agency that specialises in the digital and IT space. This award focuses not only on the things that Karla was passionate about, but it also ties into the industry that we work in, so there is a beautifully natural and authentic match between Karla, Role Recruit and STEM Women."

Each year Role Recruit will gift \$1,000 to an inspirational female studying a STEM course at AUT; a student who is not only dedicated to promoting their area of expertise, but one who also role models kindness and community support.

"We hope this award doesn't just give the recipient monetary benefits, but also makes them realise how crucial and how beautiful it is when women support women, especially in fields that are predominantly

"We hope it helps them feel recognised and appreciated for all of the hard work that they have done in their community."

male dominated. We want to aid in the empowerment of women and to encourage more women to study STEM subjects. But most importantly, we hope it helps them feel recognised and appreciated for all of the hard work that they have done in their community."

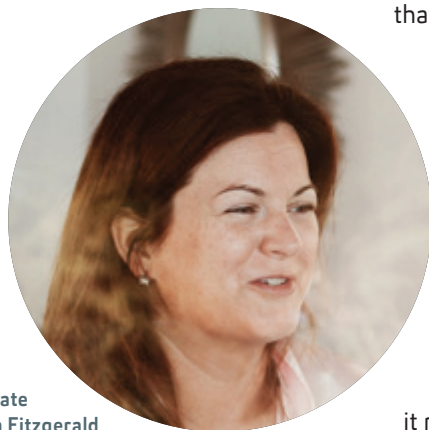
According to Lynn, 2019's candidate was perfect for the award.

"The application really touched our hearts; she was modest yet

confident, gently passionate with a heart of gold. This recipient emulates everything that Karla stood for and everything that she was – through helping others, forging her own path and being a force to be reckoned with."

AUT's Director of Women in Technology, Mahsa Mohaghegh is delighted that the University can now offer an award specifically created for female students doing great work in STEM.

"Going forward this award will really highlight the amazing commitment many of our students are making and I believe it will be a meaningful incentive for students to become involved in STEM." Mahsa says. "It is a great opportunity to keep motivating other women in memory of Karla."



The late
Karla Fitzgerald



BLAZING A TRAIL FOR FEMALE STUDENTS

A \$2,500 scholarship gave AUT fashion design graduate Morgan Klyn a bigger boost than she'd anticipated.

Not only did it provide some much needed financial security, but without it, Morgan believes she may not have taken out the 2019 Top Graduating Student Award.

"The scholarship gave me the freedom to design and develop whatever my heart desired, without the financial burden of material costs. I was able to order my fabric from America to ensure I achieved exactly the result I'd envisioned, and I was also able to develop knit pieces for every look in my collection which can be very expensive," says Morgan.

"Without this scholarship, I think I would have ended up with a different final collection, and a result that I may not have been as happy with – and I likely wouldn't have achieved the top student award."

Morgan was one of two AUT students to receive a Kate Edger Educational Charitable Trust (KEECT) Award in Fashion Design last year. Valued at \$2,500 each, the scholarships are awarded to females in the third year of their Bachelor of Design majoring in Fashion Design, and are funded

by The KEECT, a non-profit with a driving purpose of helping women (and more recently men) achieve their educational goals through the provision of scholarships and financial or other assistance.

Named after Kate Edger – the first woman in New Zealand and second in the British Empire to gain a university degree – the Trust has funded close to 5 million dollars in awards, grants and competitions since its inception in 2005. In that time, more than, 1,500 students in tertiary education across Auckland and Northland have reaped the benefits.

"The opportunities the Trust gives to women are incredible. It's really empowering to see an organisation dedicated to uplifting and inspiring females in education. I was amazed by their generosity and know of many other women in similar circumstances who have also been encouraged and supported by The KEECT."

The majority of funding is raised via the Trust's social enterprise, Academic Dress Hire, which rents

out academic regalia and legal attire. Some awards are also sponsored by individuals or organisations, including Morgan's scholarship which is backed by dry cleaning company Starchi and Starchi, who clean Academic Dress Hire's graduation gowns and hoods.

In total, The KEECT gives away over 100 study awards annually, ranging from \$2,000 retraining awards to \$16,000 doctoral and postdoctoral research awards. Over the years, more than 170 AUT students have benefitted from the Trust's ever-increasing array of scholarship opportunities, including a brand new AUT Bachelor of Health Science scholarship aimed at lifting the number of Māori and Pasifika midwives.

Each year the Trust also generously provides the University with a financial hardship fund of \$7,000 for female students in need. According to Student Hub Manager – North, Cecilia Edwards, last year alone, 51 students were assisted.

Morgan Klyn (4th from left), with models wearing the creations from the 2019 graduate show.

"Students are able to access up to \$300 to cover necessities like accommodation, food and medical care. Those receiving this fund are in great need and are hugely grateful for the support," Cecilia says.

The late Kate Edger would have been delighted. She believed that the highest aim of education should be 'to develop the character of each individual as perfectly as possible so that she may be ready to live her own life as fully as possible and contribute to the community as much as it is possible for her to contribute'. That means helping support students through their study journeys so they can realise their academic potential.

For The KEECT General Manager Nina Tomaszuk there's nothing more rewarding.

"What we do has a profound impact in many aspects. Without our financial support, some of these awardees wouldn't have been

inspired to get educated, wouldn't have been able to attend university, couldn't complete – or in some cases even start – their studies," says Nina.

"Without our financial support, some of these awardees wouldn't have been inspired to get educated."

But for many awardees it's about more than just money.

"It's also acknowledgement that what they're working towards is worthwhile – it's very humbling. And for some students the named award goes on their CV and can ultimately help with their future research, education programmes and academic careers."

As a charity, The KEECT takes a holistic approach to award funding, considering not only grades, but

also family financial circumstances, personal health and disability considerations, first in family, and future benefits to both the student and community.

"I think we can all agree that education is so important and we are just passionate about what we do. I love meeting our awardees and hearing from the sponsors and supporters – just knowing that we have helped someone. It can be in a small way or a big way, but we do change lives."



Graduation, 1877. Kate Edger, Mrs Evans, the first woman undergraduate. Hemus and Hanna. Ref 4804, Photographs in Subseries. Macmillan Brown Library, the University of Canterbury.

INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF CYBER SECURITY TALENT

Cyber security is a rapidly growing industry and a burgeoning partnership between AUT's Department of Information Technology & Software Engineering and leading cyber security solutions distributor Chillisoft is helping to ensure New Zealand develops the talent pool it needs to protect against cybercrime.

For four years, Chillisoft has partnered with global IT security solutions developer ESET to offer two annual awards to deserving AUT students. In 2019, that support has amplified, with the introduction of the Chillisoft-ESET Cyber Security Scholarship to support academically talented students studying towards a Master of Information Security and Digital Forensics at AUT. In addition to financial support in the form of a \$5,000 grant, the scholarship extends out to mentorship opportunities and the gifting of ESET EDR digital forensics licences to AUT lecturers and students.

Chillisoft CEO Alex Teh says New Zealand is crying out for talented cyber security professionals, and sponsoring AUT is a key component of the organisation's strategy to strengthen, and give back to, the New Zealand cyber security community.

While the \$5,000 scholarship will undoubtedly make life easier for the recipient, Alex says the other aspects of the scholarship are just as, if not more, far-reaching.

"We believe that we will be better aligned to our longer-term goals by providing more than just financial support.

"Through mentoring we are able to work with young talented individuals that can foster future talent for our community. In the cyber security world, trust is a major factor when companies look to hire candidates as we are often dealing with very sensitive information. This trust can only be earned from experience and

"Sponsoring AUT is a key component of the organisation's strategy to strengthen, and give back to, the New Zealand cyber security community."

face-to-face relationships. We aim to support the scholarship recipient not only financially, but also, for example, with access to our business contacts so they may get a chance to be successful not just in their studies, but also in their working career."



Alex Teh & Nicole Girvan

That's music to the ears of inaugural scholarship recipient Nicole Girvan, who is keen to investigate how the technology that is enabling cybercrime will shape the future landscape, and how cyber security professionals can influence that situation for good.

"I decided to do my Master of Information Security and Digital Forensics" she says. "Seeing the rise of cybercrime impacting vulnerable people such as children, teens and the elderly

drove me to want to understand how this can be combatted."

AUT Senior Lecturer Stephen Thorpe has been a driving force in developing the partnership with Chillisoft and ESET and says their sponsorship has proved invaluable to AUT's School of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences. Thorpe says this kind of sponsorship goes a long way to attracting more young students into cyber security and digital forensics learning and careers.

"We would love more industry to support our students by partnering with the University in this amazing way."

BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP BUILDS FUTURE LEADERS

It's ten years since Professor Des Graydon – one of AUT's greatest leaders – passed away, but his legacy still shines brightly.



have to be constantly paying off a large student loan and living costs. It also gave me membership into the AUT Scholars' Society, giving me access to a number of resources which I may not have otherwise had."

He led the faculty for 20 years through times of enormous change in a very competitive and difficult environment. He established a distinctive style and contribution for a university business school, where

"Thanks to Professor Graydon's passion and stewardship, thousands of students just like William are still reaping the benefits."

While the scholarship aims to support students facing financial barriers to study, William believes it was his leadership and role model potential that sealed the deal. As well as being a Year 13 school prefect, he was chairperson for the Ball Committee, and led the school's Social Justice Committee to help raise \$1,000 for the needy.

the student was at the centre, and independent thought and practice was their goal."

Thanks to Professor Graydon's passion and stewardship, thousands of students just like William are still reaping the benefits.

A scholarship fund established in his name is helping ensure the next generation of leaders have the support they need to develop their full potential.

Each year the Des Graydon Memorial Scholarship gifts one secondary school student \$12,000 towards their second and third year of study in the Bachelor of Business programme (\$6,000 per year). For 2019 recipient William Austin, the generous contribution was not only a huge weight off his shoulders financially, but it opened the door to unexpected opportunities.

"When I received an offer for this scholarship I was elated, excited and surprised. I have nothing but appreciation for having this chance," says the former Marcellin College student, now in his second year of AUT's Bachelor of Business.

"The scholarship removed a massive load off my back which was the fees. This gave me a lot of flexibility in my future plans, knowing that I don't

"When I was in Year 13, I was also CEO of the Young Enterprise Scheme business M City, M City aimed to promote dairy-free and vegan food, protect the environment, and spread cultural tolerance throughout New Zealand. I'm very proud to have been successful in the leadership opportunities I've taken and hope to further improve these skills in the years to come."

Professor Graydon would be delighted. In his two decades at AUT as the Dean of the Faculty of Business and Law, he was considered to be one of the University's most significant leaders, and was highly respected not just in New Zealand, but around the world.

AUT Vice-Chancellor Derek McCormack, describes him as a hugely capable leader, adding: "Des was an innovative educator.



William Austin, recipient of the 2019 Des Graydon Memorial Scholarship.



A TASTE OF INDONESIA IN THE CITY OF SAILS

A group of AUT music lovers is building a bridge to Indonesian culture using metallophones, gongs and drums.

Each Wednesday, while the rest of the campus tucks into their lunch, the AUT Ramah Tamah Gamelan (aka the Friendly Gamelan Orchestra) comes together for online music lessons with Victoria University's gamelan teacher Pak Budi S Putra. Together they hammer, strike and pluck a variety of traditional Indonesian percussion instruments gifted to AUT in 2017 by the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture.

They've been regularly jamming for the last three years, but now Ramah Tamah Gamelan is upping the ante thanks to a generous grant from the Nicholas Tarling Charitable Trust. The \$15,287 boost has funded workshops and enabled the group to commission a new gamelan piece by Kiwi composer Dr Megan Collins.

"Having a piece written just for us gives us our own identity and style," says orchestra member and

AUT Faculty of Culture and Society, Assistant Registrar, Robyn Bennitt.

The donation also enables players to attend intensive workshops in Wellington and Auckland, with the aim of improving their playing, promoting the group, and attracting more players.

"If we get good enough, we'd love to attend gamelan festivals around New Zealand and overseas. But back at home being good enough to perform and teach means we can use music to promote and connect with Indonesian culture and invite more students and school groups to join us."

Gamelan is a traditional Indonesian music ensemble that's particularly popular in Java and Bali, with each island offering up their own unique styles. Its reach and popularity has spread to all corners of the globe, and it's a big hit at many universities.



AUT's Friendly Gamelan Orchestra is of the Javanese school and currently consists of 8 – 12 players including a few students and mostly staff – but Robyn says they'd love more.

"Regular players are expected to commit to playing every Wednesday, and once a month we open our doors to anyone who wants to come along and have a go. No one gets to just listen though, they have to join in!"

Ramah Tamah Gamelan has helped revitalise an integral part of Indonesian culture in Auckland and aligns perfectly with the mission of the Nicholas Tarling Charitable Trust, which was established by the late University of Auckland Professor Nicholas Tarling.

Trust Chairperson, Tara Jahn-Werner says Professor Tarling was internationally renowned for his work on the history of South East Asia.



Members of the Ramah Tamah Gamelan
(Friendly Gamelan Orchestra)

"He authored and edited close to 40 books and more than 90 scholarly journal articles in an academic career spanning more than half a century, as well as being Dean of Arts, and Deputy and Acting Vice-Chancellor," says Tara.

"He also loved and wrote about the performing arts, especially opera and theatre, as well as being a passionate amateur thespian, appearing in more than 100 productions all over Auckland.

"Professor Tarling's aim for the Trust was to promote the study of the South East Asia region – especially, but not exclusively, its history. He also wished to facilitate and advance the standard of performance of serious musical works in New Zealand, particularly in the orchestral, choral and operatic fields, with a special emphasis on the lesser-known."

"Having a piece written just for us gives us our own identity and style."

That made AUT's Ramah Tamah Gamelan an ideal fit.

"The Nicholas Tarling Charitable Trust is proud to be associated with an innovative and dynamic group such as the AUT Friendly Gamelan Orchestra. Their application clearly reflected the Trust's objectives by promoting the study of a beautiful Indonesian musical art form, combined with the creation and performances of a new work for the gamelan by Wellington composer Dr Megan Collins."

Those keen to try their hand at playing cast bronze gongs, chimes, metallophones, drums, flutes and plucked and bowed string instruments should email robyn.bennitt@aut.ac.nz for details on where to meet from 12 – 1pm on the first Wednesday of each month. They'll be warmly welcomed. Robyn says, "our goal is to attract regular players, improve our playing, perform, hear other gamelan groups and introduce new people to the gamelan and Indonesian culture. That's all!"



Shanta Budha-Magar in the field in Central Otago.

UNIQUE RESEARCH PROJECT COULD HELP NEW ZEALAND MANAGE FIRE RISK

As the impact of climate change accelerates, deadly wildfires sweep the globe. From Europe to the USA, Australia to the Amazon, never before has fire posed such a grave threat to our lives and landscapes.

Here in New Zealand, AUT PhD student Shanta Budha-Magar is undertaking crucial research to help scientists and fire managers better understand the link between plants and wildfires. Her ground-breaking work will play an invaluable role in helping manage New Zealand's fire risk, now and into the future.

"Due to global changes, there are massive fires around the world, and these are forecasted to increase significantly," says Shanta.

"These fires have led to an immense loss of life, property, important monuments, cultural heritage and biodiversity. I've always been curious and passionate about finding ways to address and solve these problems."

A botanist and plant ecologist, Shanta's research looks at the connection between fire behaviour and plant flammability, with a particular focus on New Zealand's indigenous tussock grassland. That's music to the ears of the Miss E. L. Hellaby Indigenous Grasslands Research Trust, who have awarded her a \$150,000 PhD Research Scholarship for her efforts.

Established in 1959 by the late Eleanor Lilywhite Hellaby, the Trust supports research on the ecology, evaluation and sustainable management of native grasses and grasslands in New Zealand. So far it has supported more than 200 postgraduate research students from seven universities nationwide. Shanta is the first recipient from AUT.

"I was inundated with happiness when I found out I'd been awarded the scholarship. It's a breakthrough in my life. It covers my university fees, research project and living expenses,

and will also be a great help for my future endeavours, boosting my academic career and enriching my profile."

Her research will be conducted under the supervision of Dr Nicola Day, Associate Professor Hannah Buckley (both AUT) and Dr Tim Curran (Lincoln University). Dr Day who has a Rutherford Fellowship for her work in fire research, says Shanta is ideally placed to lead teams into some of New Zealand's most remote locations.

"The Hellaby Trust is immensely important for supporting grassland research in New Zealand."

"Shanta has excellent experience as a botanist and has done a lot of vegetation surveys in remote locations in the Himalayas in Nepal, where she is from," she says.

"These skills take a long time to develop but are very important for collecting accurate data on plants. It also takes a certain type of person to be able to live in remote locations for many weeks at a time. Shanta is very committed to plant ecology research. Her skills, combined with her dedicated and experienced supervisory team, will ensure the project is completed to a high standard and published in top tier journals."

According to Dr Day, there are very few people conducting research in this area.

"Globally, researchers are very interested in linking vegetation to fire behaviour to develop better models of fire behaviour. There is quite a bit of work on how fire impacts plants,

but how plants impact fire is much harder to understand so little has been done here.

"The eastern South Island is dominated by tussock grasslands with many native plants. We've already started to see increase in fire activity in these regions in the past few years. Shanta's research will link plant flammability and vegetation surveys to fire behaviour in the field, and this will be linked with existing data on vegetation across Canterbury and Otago, which have been regularly surveyed since the 1980s. Shanta will then be able to show how vegetation change may impact fire behaviour in different areas of tussock grassland."

That's great news because it helps researchers and caretakers of the land understand which parts of the landscape are more at risk from severe fires, and what we can do to mitigate that risk. It's vital research that wouldn't be possible without the generous support of the Trust.

"The Hellaby Trust is immensely important for supporting grassland research in New Zealand," adds Dr Day, who was herself a Hellaby Fellow as a MSc student.

"Their funding has enabled us to learn a huge amount about our native biodiversity in New Zealand grasslands over the past 60 years, in all its facets, from soil microbes to plants to invertebrates."

Not only that, but hopefully their generous grant will take us one step closer to managing wildfires in an increasingly hot and dry world.



BUSINESS IDEAS COMPETITION HONES START-UP THINKING

A university-wide competition showcasing innovation, enterprise and entrepreneurship is setting students up for success – and changing lives in the process.

AUT's annual X Challenge sees entrepreneurial students go head-to-head Dragons' Den style, vying for their share of \$70,000 in prizes, mentorship opportunities, and the chance to develop their ideas in the real world.

2019 winning team Sonnar created an audiobook library to help those with vision loss. The innovation earned them \$20,000 cash, a \$5,000 legal start-up package from Lowndes Jordan, a \$5,000 digital marketing package from krunch.co, and a Xero subscription.

Described by judges as "an audiobook Spotify for people who are blind", numerous Kiwis are now benefitting from Sonnar Library, and the team is using their X Challenge winnings to connect into the social entrepreneurship and impact investment sector in the US.

Sonnar CEO and Co-founder Jarek Beksa is currently finishing his PhD in Creative and Design Technologies, focusing on the design and development of accessible games for the visually impaired.

"X Challenge helped us to clarify our idea/pitch and provided us with invaluable mentor and networking opportunities," he says.

X Challenge was launched in 2017, by AUT with support from AUT's Director, Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Martin Bell. It aims to ensure every AUT student with a

"Today's employers want graduates that display 'start-up' thinking and an entrepreneurial mindset."

business idea gets the support they need to develop their idea while they study.

"In the three years X Challenge has been running we've had over 600 entries involving nearly 800 students across all faculties and study areas, showing that everyone has ideas," says Martin.

Comprised of two stages – The Idea and The Accelerator – X Challenge has received significant backing from ATEED, who have provided \$35,000 of seed funding for its first three years.

According to ATEED General Manager, Economic Development, Pam Ford, ATEED's economic development agenda includes a focus on unlocking Auckland's innovation and entrepreneurship potential, and the tertiary education sector plays a critical role in supporting this ambition.

"Entrepreneurship programmes, such as X Challenge, build a pipeline of creative and capable graduates for our future workforce and new businesses. ATEED's early-stage support for

X Challenge has helped to position the programme for continued growth and success," Pam says.

"Students participating in X Challenge develop a range of contemporary skills required by employers or which increase their chances of success as future entrepreneurs. Examples include effective problem-solving, personal leadership and product validation processes. More broadly, X Challenge is contributing to Auckland's future prosperity, providing today's students with skills to thrive in tomorrow's economy."

X Challenge
Sonnar Library team



LIGHTING UP NEW YORK WITH A POWERFUL MESSAGE

When a giant iceberg collapsed down the side of New York's iconic United Nations headquarters last September, AUT couldn't have been happier.

The brainchild of acclaimed Kiwi artist Joseph Michael, the immersive art installation was screened in the lead up to the UN's Climate Action Summit, projecting a hard-hitting message for climate change.

"There's something universal about the awe an iceberg inspires and bringing the size and scale of that into an urban environment is really powerful," says Joseph, who was Artist in Residence at AUT at the time the work was created.

The remarkable project combined an iteration of Joseph's earlier work *Antarctica – while you were sleeping* (which lit up the Auckland Museum in 2016), with a new installation, *Voices for the Future*, transfixing audiences with evocative visuals of an iceberg slowly crashing across a 40 storey building, and the emotive voices of six young advocates expressing their fears for the future in six different languages.

"I like raising the emotions, so people start to think about how we are

treating the environment. It's subtle though, my work doesn't necessarily answer questions, but prompts people to ask their own questions. I like to engage people and create a shift in their interest in a particular topic."

"I like raising the emotions, so people start to think about how we are treating the environment."

With just a few short months to pull the installation together it was an undertaking on an epic scale.

"I had a team of people working on it from all over the world, from Sweden and Berlin, to the UK, America, and of course New Zealand."

Among them was AUT creative technologies student Matt Newick, who joined Joseph's team in New York as preparations for the show got underway.

Not surprisingly, an installation of this complexity and magnitude requires significant funding, and Joseph secured backing from a wide range of organisations including AUT, the David Levene Foundation, the Koha Foundation and the

Joyce Fisher Charitable Trust. US donations were facilitated by Friends of AUT, a US based non-profit that explores partnership opportunities and promotes closer ties with the University and its American based alumni.

Joseph noted "AUT, and Friends of AUT, were very excited to be a part of it. In all honesty, it wouldn't have happened without their support."

WALL OF THANKS

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO GENEROUSLY DONATED DURING 2019

INDIVIDUALS

Clay Nelson
Colin McKay
Emily Morrow
Jackie M. Giles
Rachel Cleary
Rowen Robinson
Stephen Thorpe
Valerie D. Petrie

ORGANISATIONS

Annie's Lifeline Charitable Trust
ANZ Bank New Zealand Limited
Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development
Beckman Coulter NZ
Chillisoft Limited
China Construction Bank (New Zealand) Limited
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Hope Foundation
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PB Technologies Limited
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Role Recruit
TEG Dainty Pty Ltd
The Deaf Development Fund
The Estate of Professor Moorfield
The Kate Edger Educational Charitable Trust
The Keir Trust
The New Zealand Institute of Medical Laboratory Science (Inc)
The Nicholas Tarling Charitable Trust
The Rainbow New Zealand Charitable Trust
Trilogy International Foundation
Veteran's Affairs New Zealand
Woolf Fisher Trust

Thank you to the donors who gifted to Voices of the Future – the David Levene Foundation, the Joyce Fisher Charitable Trust and the Koha Foundation.

We also thank the generous donors who prefer to remain anonymous and those who collectively contribute to the Women on Campus Millennium Scholarship.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUND HELPS AUT BETTER SUPPORT DEAF STUDENTS

For non-native English speakers, tertiary level study can bring its fair share of challenges – but Kiwi-Filipino student Pia Jane has had to overcome more obstacles than most.

Not only is English her second language, but Pia is Deaf, and uses New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) as her primary method of communication.

One of just two universities in the country to offer an NZSL programme, AUT has played a pivotal role in helping the hard-working 30 year old shape her future.

"I didn't really know what psychology was, but I did a course at AUT and found out that's exactly what I wanted to be," says Pia, who began her study pathway at Victoria University of Wellington, where she completed the Certificate in Deaf Studies: Teaching NZSL.

Now she is studying at AUT, working towards her long term goal of becoming a Deaf psychologist.

"I want to work with hearing people in the mental health sector to help them better understand the needs of the Deaf community, and to develop the materials and resources necessary to support them."

Her Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Psychology and New Zealand Sign Language & Deaf Studies will be a great springboard. And now, thanks to a new award established at AUT to empower the Deaf community, her efforts have been given another welcome boost.

Pia is the first-ever Sir Roy McKenzie AUT Deaf Scholarship recipient, and this year

will benefit from a \$3,000 grant towards her studies. Named after one of New Zealand's most prolific philanthropists, the award is funded by a gift from the JR McKenzie Trust Deaf Development Fund (DDF), established by Sir Roy. Its aim, to encourage and enable Deaf people who use NZSL to achieve a tertiary qualification at AUT.

AUT Development Specialist Rachel Cleary says, "AUT is committed to contributing to social, economic and environmental development. This includes encouraging our Deaf students to form a sense of community at AUT, within Tāmaki Makaurau and Aotearoa.

"I hope that our students can help to break down some barriers between



"I was so happy, and really surprised, when I received this scholarship, especially as English is my second language."

Pia Jane, recipient of 2019 Sir Roy McKenzie AUT Deaf Scholarship.

Pia – who was also awarded a DDF scholarship during her Victoria University studies – is delighted.

"I was so happy, and really surprised, when I received this scholarship, especially as English is my second language. Although I never had the opportunity to meet Sir Roy, I am so appreciative of the great work he has done supporting the Deaf community."

DDF has been granting study awards for Deaf students since 1997, and when it wound up in 2019, funds were gifted for a new scholarship at AUT, in recognition of the

University's track record of delivering NZSL studies and supporting Deaf students. The new scholarship reflects the valuable contribution AUT is making to New Zealand's Deaf community.



The late Sir Roy McKenzie

the hearing and Deaf communities and recognise that they are part of and contributing to a community that we often unintentionally overlook."

AUT is doing its best to change that – the Bachelor of Arts NZSL-English Interpreting programme and the major in New Zealand Sign Language & Deaf Studies are the only programmes of their kind in the country. Bolstered by the generous support of organisations like the JR McKenzie Trust Deaf Development Fund, the voice of NZSL and New Zealand's Deaf community can only get stronger.



2019 GRADUATE SCHOLARS*

Aimee Quinlan

Bachelor of Education [Specialty]
Teaching
Rainbow Auckland/AUT Tertiary
Scholarship

Alex Court

Bachelor of Business
Eric and Kathy Hertz Māori and
Pacific USA Exchange Scholarship

Alexander Apukov

Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
Electricity Engineers' Association
(EEA) Scholarship

Amber Dryland

Bachelor of Arts
Keir Trust Study Award

Anna Siafolau

Bachelor of Arts
Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT
Scholarship

Anthony Ford

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of
Business Conjoint Degrees
Business Undergraduate
International Exchange Scholarship

Ben Hessell

Bachelor of Engineering Technology
Electricity Engineers' Association
(EEA) Scholarship

Callum Fiu

Bachelor of Design
Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT
Scholarship

Catherine Boddy

Bachelor of Design
Kate Edger Educational Charitable
Trust Awards in Fashion Design

Elizabeth Broom

Graduate Diploma in Arts
AUT/Government Partnership
Grad. Certificate in Interpreting
Scholarship

Gene Jones

Bachelor of Arts
Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT
Scholarship

Haeleigh McGee-King

Bachelor of Health Science
(Psychology)
Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT
Scholarship

Hamish Watson

Bachelor of Business and Bachelor
of Sport and Recreation Conjoint
Degrees

Business Undergraduate
International Exchange Scholarship

Jade Mossop

Bachelor of Business
Eric and Kathy Hertz Māori and
Pacific Residential Scholarship

Jason Henton

Bachelor of Business and Bachelor
of Sport and Recreation Conjoint
Degrees

Business Undergraduate
International Exchange Scholarship

Jaycie Bradley

Bachelor of Health Science in
Psychology
Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT
Scholarship

Jean-Luc Lazet

Bachelor of Business
Business Undergraduate
International Exchange Scholarship

Jordan Blair

Bachelor of Business
Business Undergraduate
International Exchange Scholarship

Joshua Baxter

Bachelor of Creative Technologies
Fuji Xerox AUT Undergraduate
Scholarship

Kayla Czar

Bachelor of Business
Business Undergraduate
International Exchange Scholarship

Kurt Schmidt

Master of Engineering
AUT Foundation Scholarship

Mitchell Whitehead

Bachelor of Business
Business Undergraduate
International Exchange Scholarship

Morgan Klyn

Bachelor of Design
Kate Edger Educational Charitable
Trust Awards in Fashion Design

Natasha Whyte

Bachelor of Design
Fuji Xerox AUT Undergraduate
Scholarship

Nathalie Teboul

Bachelor of Business
Business Undergraduate
International Exchange Scholarship

Nilao Khulia

Bachelor of Health Science
(Nursing)
Keir Trust Study Award

Ofa Talakai

Bachelor of Arts
Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT
Scholarship

Oliver Fawcett

Bachelor of Business
Business Undergraduate
International Exchange Scholarship

Patrick Bates

Bachelor of Business
Eric and Kathy Hertz Māori and
Pacific Residential Scholarship

Vivian Qian

Bachelor of Design
Design and Art Direction Rare
Scholarship

Rosangela Alberti

Graduate Certificate in Arts
AUT/Government Partnership
Graduate Certificate in Interpreting
Scholarship

Tash Vruink

Bachelor of Health Science
(Physiotherapy)
Keir Trust Study Award

Taylah Sykes-Martin

Bachelor of Sport and Recreation
Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT
Scholarship

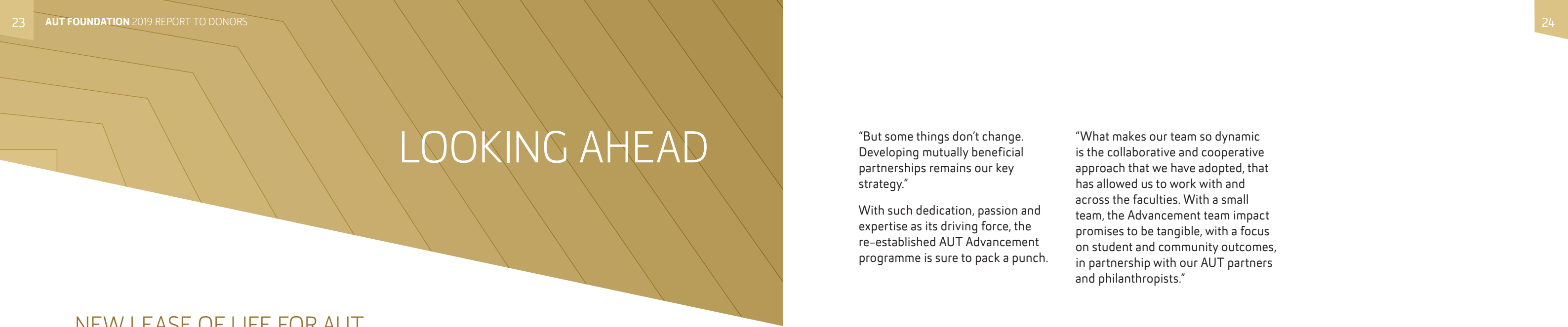
Thu Nguyen

Bachelor of Arts
Woolf Fisher First-in-Family AUT
Scholarship

Xin Fang

Bachelor of Business
Business Undergraduate
International Exchange Scholarship

* These are scholars who have received an externally funded scholarship facilitated by the AUT Foundation. AUT also provides a wide range of other scholarships that are reported on separately.



LOOKING AHEAD

NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR AUT ADVANCEMENT PROGRAMME

AUT’s sights are focused firmly on the future, with the re-establishment of an Advancement programme to strengthen philanthropic and industry partnerships.

The new team, led by Director of Advancement Chris Klaassen, is laying the foundations to build a significant legacy for the University. By developing AUT’s best-practice Advancement capability, their work directly supports the University’s mission to create and champion great graduates.

“If AUT Advancement can support the linking of good partners – whether they be philanthropic, corporate or trusts – with some of the amazing better-futures projects that AUT delivers, then our local and national community will benefit in exponential terms,” says Chris.

They’ve only been operating since late 2019 but already the team has re-established the Advancement infrastructure, upgraded the donor relationship management system, brokered a New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC) tertiary partnership, engaged financial advisors, rewritten the AUT bequest strategy, and identified a number of exciting new partnership and endowment opportunities.

Their goal? To build an AUT endowment fund through bequests

and planned giving, setting initial targets for 2024 and 2030.

“We want to future-proof AUT through this endowed fund, to increase resilience and reduce reliance on government and student fees income. We also aim to enhance relationships with corporate partners, high net worth philanthropists, and trusts/foundations in New Zealand, USA, UK and Asia.”

“Developing mutually beneficial partnerships remains our key strategy.”

Chris knows a thing or two about building great partnerships. An AUT alumnus himself, he was an integral member of AUT’s Advancement and Alumni team which operated from 2005 to 2012 and – among its many other achievements – established the Friends of AUT Incorporated (USA), numerous corporate partnerships, a bequest campaign and the capital campaign for AUT Millennium.

Not only that, but two years ago his son graduated from AUT with a double degree and was awarded an

AUT Internz graduate scholarship to work at FCB West in San Francisco.

“Being challenged with the mandate to develop and operate a best practice Advancement model, supported by the Vice-Chancellor’s office, the deans and schools is a privilege – but being back at AUT and contributing is also very personal to me.”

Based in the Vice-Chancellor’s office and reporting in through Executive Director External Engagement Nigel Murphy, the Advancement team works closely with the AUT Foundation, AUT faculties and schools, and Alumni Relations.

“AUT in 2020 is a different university from what it was in 2012” says Chris. As it has evolved, so have its needs, and its development means that today it offers an even broader range of opportunities for others to engage.

“But some things don’t change. Developing mutually beneficial partnerships remains our key strategy.”

With such dedication, passion and expertise as its driving force, the re-established AUT Advancement programme is sure to pack a punch.

“What makes our team so dynamic is the collaborative and cooperative approach that we have adopted, that has allowed us to work with and across the faculties. With a small team, the Advancement team impact promises to be tangible, with a focus on student and community outcomes, in partnership with our AUT partners and philanthropists.”

The Advancement team (from left)
Chris Klaassen, Director of Advancement;
Rebecca Lowery, Director of Development;
Nigel Murphy, Executive Director;
Suzanne Moore, Development Director (External Engagement);
Craig Whitehead, Director of Advancement Business Intelligence;
Rachel Cleary, Development Specialist.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY



SUMMARY STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSES

For the Year Ended 31 December 2019

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Donations, Grants & Bequests Received	1,268,514	839,663
Other Revenue	22,349	12,170
Total Revenue	1,290,863	851,832
Distributions and Grants	856,255	714,519
Operating Expenditure	11,768	11,790
Total Expenses	868,023	726,309
Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses	422,840	125,523

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the Year Ended 31 December 2019

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Accumulated Funds at the Beginning of the Year	1,527,479	1,401,956
Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses	422,840	125,523
Accumulated Funds at the End of the Year	1,950,319	1,527,479

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2019

	2019 \$	2018 \$
AUT Foundation Equity at the End of Year	1,950,319	1,527,479
Represented by:		
Current Assets	1,886,807	1,543,058
Non Current Assets	212,866	0
Current Liabilities	149,354	15,579
Net Assets	1,950,319	1,527,479

GET INVOLVED

If you are interested in supporting AUT’s mission, we’d love you to join us.

You can support AUT in many ways by directing generosity into something you care about, for example:

-  student awards, scholarships and prizes
-  support for students through contributions to living costs, and tutoring
-  academic programmes and positions
-  resources and equipment
-  capital projects

You can make a difference by donating through your business, making one-off or regular donations or by leaving a gift in your will to extend your support well beyond your lifetime.

The Auckland University of Technology Foundation is a charitable trust (number CC24794).

09 921 9234
foundation@aut.ac.nz

Read more about what we do and how you can get involved at [AUT.ac.nz/giving](https://www.aut.ac.nz/giving)

These summary financial statements have been extracted from the AUT Foundation's 2019 audited financial statements but are themselves unaudited. They are provided to give interested persons a succinct overview of the AUT Foundation's financial performance. The full and audited financial statements (which give a more complete understanding of the financial performance, financial position and cash flows of the AUT Foundation) are available from the Charities Commission or can be requested by emailing foundation@aut.ac.nz.



AUT FOUNDATION

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