

INSIGHT

AUT

THE MAGAZINE FOR AUT
ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
2020

MICHELLE KING

From the UN
to Netflix

THE FUTURE IS WĀHINE

Reclaiming indigenous
storytelling through technology

RESEARCH WITH IMPACT

Predicting a better future for breast cancer
patients

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF SPORT

What it takes to become a world champion

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DEREK MCCORMACK
VICE-CHANCELLOR,
AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY
OF TECHNOLOGY

Reflecting on the past with our sights on the future

Creating great graduates is why we do what we do.

AUT has a rich institutional history, stretching back almost 125 years, and for the last 20 we have been proud to be a university. We have outstanding alumni, students and staff who are central to this progress and it is only through their collective efforts that AUT's reputation continues to grow. For this reason, this edition of *Insight* celebrates them and their connections with business and industry, community groups, and employers who have played a distinct part in the direction and effectiveness of AUT.

Our rankings

Since AUT was established as a university on 1 January 2000, we have undergone remarkable change and development. Still New Zealand's fastest growing and second largest university, we became the third highest ranked university in New Zealand in 2018 and improved our ranking considerably in the Times Higher Education rankings as one of the top 300 universities worldwide, rising 350 places in just four years. This means AUT is in the top 1% of global universities.

This latest result is driven by improvements in our research performance, notably the impact our work is having on other research

globally, which places AUT first in New Zealand for this measure. From just 23 research institutes in 2000, we are now home to more than 60 world-class research institutes and centres, which provide research, education and mentoring in areas including engineering, tourism, sports science, artificial intelligence, journalism, social data analytics, stroke and applied neurosciences, and Māori language. In 2000, we had 334 peer-reviewed research outputs and in 2018 this increased to 2,125.

Building for the future

In our pursuit to create exceptional experiences, our physical space is evolving to keep pace with our changing needs. Within the last 10 years, we have opened three significant buildings: the Sir Paul Reeves Building at the AUT City Campus in 2013; the Mana Hauora Building, our first major development at AUT South Campus in 2017; and our latest state-of-the-art facility, the Ngā Wai Hono Building at AUT City Campus, unveiled in 2018, housing the School of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences. Construction of North Campus' newest building, A1, began at the end of 2019, and is the final facility project in our \$370 million capital works programme.

Creating exceptional learning experiences

AUT's mission is to create great graduates, and we continue to embrace new technologies to support learning and prepare students for the rapidly changing world of work and society – one we are unlikely to recognise in 20 years' time.

Our learning experiences are characterised by contemporary approaches, technologies and resources that focus on creating great graduates who are educated and employable. Examples of this approach include the AUT Edge Award, open to all students, and the Beyond AUT Award, open to postgraduate students. These extra-curricular programmes help students gain a much broader understanding of their world through extensive volunteering, leadership, and employability workshops. We also have initiatives such as the X Challenge, created in 2017, to enable, empower and invest in the next generation of entrepreneurs at AUT. These programmes push students beyond their comfort zones, and encourage them to look at issues in ways that transcend disciplines and professions.

We have introduced new disciplines since 2000, including commercial law

and business, oral health, podiatry, psychology, health promotion, paramedicine, engineering technology, art and design, and international hospitality management, and in 2020 our new architecture and future environments programme will welcome its first students. Ninety-four per cent of our students now study in degree and higher programmes, compared to 61 per cent in 2000. And we have an evolving student body, with a five per cent increase in international students in the past five years, up to 3,855 in 2019. The number of Māori students at AUT has increased 15 per cent since South Campus opened, up to 2,463 in 2019. For Pacific students, the number at AUT has increased 41 per cent, from 2,715 in 2010 to 3,838 last year.

Sustainability in action

As a university, we are aware that we have a specific contribution to make towards a sustainable future – through research, enquiry, analysis, discourse and debate, and through developing curiosity, critical thinking, and creative innovation in our students, acting on the understanding that all our graduates will be global as well as national citizens. In 2019, our social impact and commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals was recognised by Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings, placing us 16th in the world, and we

have been selected as finalists in the NZI Sustainable Business Network Awards.

AUT has been implementing resource reduction initiatives since the late 2000s and our Sustainability Roadmap, launched in 2018, gives us a clear direction for future improvement. One example is reducing food waste in our campus cafes and restaurant, including compostable packaging, organic waste collections and fair-trade coffee. Another area of focus is reducing energy consumption, costs and CO₂ emissions. Buildings have been designed or modified to include energy efficiency measures and New Zealand's first electric bus, which reduces CO₂ emissions by 80 per cent, was also introduced to AUT's shuttle fleet in 2018. These initiatives, as well as others across the University, have reduced CO₂ emissions by 181 tonnes since 2016. While there is still work to do, it is great to be able to celebrate the steps we have taken towards creating a sustainable future for people and the planet.

Thank you

While we acknowledge and honour 20 years of success, we also look forward to 2025 with our focus remaining on creating great graduates. We will continue to work together and across disciplines in teaching, research and with industry, offering a rich educational experience for students and alumni to make an impact on the changing world.

“ We thank you
for being a part of
AUT's journey and we
hope you stay with us for
another 20 years and beyond.

”

PROPOSED SOUTH
FACADE OF THE NEW
NORTH CAMPUS
BUILDING

Ranked in the top 1% of world universities and top 20 for sustainability

AUT is now in the top 300 universities in the world and in the top 50 for research citations.

TOP 1%
UNIVERSITIES WORLDWIDE

#1 IN NEW ZEALAND FOR
GLOBAL RESEARCH IMPACT

#1 IN NEW ZEALAND FOR
INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK

AUT is now firmly cemented as one of the world's top teaching and research universities, according to the recently released Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

According to the rankings, AUT has moved from the 301-350 band last year to the 251-300 band, placing it in the top 1% of world universities. It is now securely established in New Zealand's top three universities group, and is number one for research citations, number one for international outlook, and number one for health subjects.

The Times Higher Education Young University Rankings also reveal AUT is one of the world's top young universities, ranked at #51.

AUT was ranked 16th in the world in the Times Higher Education University Impact Rankings, which assess the social impact of universities against the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

AUT ranked number two for Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11) thanks to sustainable practices such as research promoting remote working, affordable housing, and investment in art and heritage.

In Gender Equality (SDG 5), AUT is ninth in the world, a result recognising the percentage of research by female academics, outreach to female students in areas including STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and policies implemented to enable gender equality.

Chair of the AUT Sustainability Taskforce, Professor Thomas Neitzert, noted that work in the area of sustainability is ongoing and in line with AUT's deliberate focus on technological transformation, external impact and industry connections.

"Our students, stakeholders and community expect sustainability to be a priority for AUT. We believe advancing knowledge and understanding of the issues and opportunities around creating a sustainable future is essential," says Thomas.

20,167

STUDENTS (EQUIVALENT FULL-TIME STUDENTS)

3,111

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

100,000+

ALUMNI



Statistics and content taken from the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2019 press release.

Breaking invisible gender barriers through storytelling

Storytelling is an essential skill for gender equality expert Michelle Penelope King as she goes about tackling inequality on the world stage.

The AUT alumna who has been leading the UN Women's Global Innovation Coalition for Change is now at Netflix as its Director of Inclusion. As well as delivering a regular podcast, contributing to *Forbes* and taking her message to the TEDx stage, Michelle has published her first book this year. She says communication is the key to her advocacy.

Tell us a bit about yourself and the many roles you have now

It has been an incredible honour to work in support of the mandate of UN Women where I managed partnerships and initiatives to accelerate the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment. After four incredible years, I'm joining Netflix as the Director of Inclusion based in Los Angeles. I'm also a regular contributor for *Forbes*, and the author of a recently released book published by Simon and Schuster, *THE FIX: Overcome the Invisible Barriers that Hold Women Back at Work*.

MICHELLE PENELOPE KING
DIRECTOR OF INCLUSION AT
NETFLIX

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN
JOURNALISM ALUMNA

What do you hope to achieve in your advocacy roles?

As an advocate I simply try to raise awareness of the challenges all women face at work, and what men and women can do to navigate and remove these barriers. The idea is very much to try and make workplaces work for everyone.

What is the most important thing people can do to remove barriers for women in the workplace?

The number one thing people can do is to disrupt their denial and become aware. How many people can name the barriers women face at work because of gender inequality? What about how these challenges differ for women of colour or any area of difference? Or what are the challenges men face because of inequality? Educating ourselves about the different experiences we all have of working life is how we come to understand the challenges we each face, which is necessary to identify what we can do to tackle these challenges together.

What skills helped you get to where you are?

Well, AUT was instrumental in developing my capability as a storyteller, which is the key to advocacy. I host a weekly podcast, *The Fix*, which shares practical ways men and women can advance equality at work. I interview a range of business leaders, advocates and thought leaders like Abby Wambach, Sarah Jessica Parker, Zoe Saldana, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, Justin Baldoni, Kate Hudson, Wade Davis and Katty Kay to name a few. I am only able to do this because of the skills I learnt at AUT.

My journalism study also enabled me to become a contributor for *Forbes*, and I would never have dreamed of writing a book, but AUT taught me how to write, which is a great gift and something I am very grateful for.

A lot of degrees are not always applicable to real life, but I use my journalism skills in every aspect of my work, whether it is writing, podcasting or speaking at events.

What advice would you give people looking to follow in your footsteps?

I am a big advocate of just giving things a go, you never know where it might lead. You don't need all the answers or for everything to make sense.

I would never have imagined that I would end up working for the UN or authoring a book with Simon & Schuster, but I just gave it go. I really encourage anyone reading this who has big dreams to do the same. As scary as it might seem, just give it go.

“

If you want to become an expert or thought leader you have to get comfortable with communicating on different platforms and this is something I learnt from my time at AUT.

”

Predicting a better future for breast cancer patients

Finding the right course of treatment for breast cancer is key to curing it – and AUT is at the forefront of research set to give doctors a tool to predict how a patient will respond to different therapies.

Working with collaborators in the UK, Singapore and China, AUT researcher Associate Professor Dong-Xu Liu has discovered a cancer-related protein, called SHON, that can be used as a biomarker, or identifying characteristic, to indicate whether a patient will benefit from hormone (endocrine) therapy or chemotherapy.

“Our findings would allow breast cancer patients to receive treatments that are the most appropriate to their characteristics, therefore improving treatment response and saving lives.”

“It has the potential to change the current clinical practice of breast cancer management around the world,” he says.

Associate Professor Liu spent 12 years at the Liggins Institute before joining AUT’s Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences and is internationally recognised for his breast cancer,

molecular and cellular oncology research.

Cultivating strong local and international research networks is an important focus at AUT and this recent cancer breakthrough is evidence of how vital those connections can be.

It was access to the world’s largest breast cancer tissue bank in the UK, and information collected about patients and their treatment spanning more than a decade, that made it possible to pinpoint the cancer-related protein and its success as a biomarker for treatment.

The expertise and global reach of researchers like Dong-Xu also presents incredible opportunities for postgraduate study at AUT.

Stacey Li, one of his PhD students, is working on how to use the SHON biomarker in clinics while another two PhD students, Vasanti Sirikonda and Zohreh Riahi, are building on another breakthrough area of his research which identified a gene with potential causal links to breast cancer.

Website: breastcancerfoundation.org.nz



DR. MATTHEW KRITZ
SENIOR ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
FOR ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY ALUMNUS

Shaping the future of sport

Dr. Matthew Kritz has taken his 20 years of experience back home to help the next generation of athletes in his new role as Senior Associate Athletic Director for Athletic Performance at the University of California San Diego.

Dr. Matthew Kritz knows what a successful high performing environment and athlete looks like.

That's not surprising given the sport and recreation alumnus has more than 20 years of experience in elite sport helping to physically and mentally prepare Olympic athletes from 21 different sporting codes.

"I love sport, and what sport represents to cultures and societies worldwide, and I'm interested in how being more athletic leads to mental, emotional and physical confidence.

"I am fortunate I stumbled on a profession I love. Through diverse experiences, I have achieved confidence in my sports science acumen. It is very gratifying that I have had a meaningful impact on the organisations and athletes I've supported. I'm passionate about working in high performing

cultures that develop and support a collaborative and integrated sports performance support services model," says Matthew.

Making a difference

As the Senior Associate Athletic Director for Athletic Performance at the University of California San Diego, Matthew has plenty of opportunities to pursue his passion for sport. As part of his role, he has effectively integrated the university's strength and conditioning, sports medicine, sports nutrition, sports analysis and sports psychology services, creating a new model for wellness and performance for university athletes in the US.

Before returning to the US from New Zealand in 2018, he was the National Director of Strength and Conditioning for High Performance Sport New Zealand where he was instrumental

in growing the country's strength and conditioning discipline for about 500 Olympic and international-level New Zealand athletes competing in a variety of sports.

"I loved being involved in creating and developing High Performance Sport New Zealand. It is incredibly satisfying knowing the impact it has had in enabling more New Zealanders to win on the world stage, and the impact the national infrastructure we built will have on the future of New Zealand sport."

In addition to his role at the University of California San Diego, Matthew also continues to serve as the Managing Director of Athlete Nation LLC, which endeavours to make movement meaningful by creating smart systems for developing mind, body and the body's energy needs specific to an individual's life demands.

"I'm proud of the opportunities I've had working in high performance environments in three countries through four Olympic cycles, supporting more than 20 Olympic and World Championship medal campaigns."

A chance to conduct meaningful research

Completing a doctorate at AUT enabled him to pursue a research topic that was of real interest to him, says Matthew, who completed his PhD in 2012.

He also appreciated the flexibility his PhD offered as he was balancing his studies, helping to raise his three children and helping create what is now High Performance Sport New Zealand.

"I was interested in better understanding human movement as it related to performance and the mechanisms of injury. My PhD gave me the opportunity to do novel work that could have a meaningful impact on how individuals are strength trained to ensure their efforts contribute to their performance and not the mechanisms of injury."

Together with Professor John Cronin from AUT's School of Sport and Recreation, he developed the Movement Competency Screen, a prognostic movement screening tool to help sport and health professionals better understand how people use their body when they perform fundamental movement tasks.

Website: ucsdtritons.com

THE BLACK FERNS WORLD RUGBY SEVENS SERIES WIN OVER AUSTRALIA IN THE FINALS IN DUBAI 2015.

“

We wanted to see how mindfulness training rewires the brain and who benefits from this intervention. ”

Zohreh Doborjeh, specialist in psychology and computational cognitive neuroscience and research fellow at AUT's Knowledge Engineering and Discovery Research Institute (KEDRI)

Mindfulness training – will it work?

Scientific research into mindfulness training could change the way we treat mental health.

Researchers at AUT and the University of Nottingham have discovered we can predict the impact of mindfulness training on a person's cognitive function, boosting the potential for individualised interventions and more personalised mental wellness treatments.

While mindfulness training has been a popular treatment for depression, stress, addiction and anxiety since the 1970s, until now, scientific research has been limited and measuring its effectiveness has been reliant on self-reporting.

AUT research sisters making an impact

The latest research, led by researchers Zohreh Doborjeh and Maryam Doborjeh, is a combination of computer science, neuroscience and psychology, and uses AI techniques and learning algorithms that mimic brain activity.

As part of the study, the team recorded the brain activity of 40 volunteers by getting them to wear an “EEG cap”, then passed the data into an artificial brain.

The process was conducted on volunteers both before and after undertaking a six-week mindfulness training programme, enabling researchers to identify patterns in the artificial neural networks.

“Every artificial neurone behaves similarly to a biological neurone

– it receives information and then processes and propagates some of the information to other connected neurones,” says AI modelling specialist Maryam.

Their findings, recently published in the scientific journal *Nature*, showed that an individual's brain patterns prior to mindfulness training could predict how well they would respond to therapy. It is hoped that in the future, health practitioners can use this science to determine which treatments will prove the most effective for their patients.

Trailblazing new research field

This collaborative project is one of many breaking new ground at AUT's Knowledge, Engineering & Discovery Research Institute (KEDRI).

Research projects such as this fall into a new area of study called ‘neuroinformatics’, that combines several traditionally separate disciplines of study and allows researchers to understand data by looking at it through a different lens.

“We have a lot of computer science technology that can learn from data to extract some meaningful patterns from big data, such as brain data,” says Maryam.

“We try to enhance the prediction by adding different types of learning algorithms – we want to improve the learning algorithms to improve the accuracy of the predictions.”

As well as investigating why differences sometimes occur between participants' own reports of how happy or depressed they feel and what the brain data shows, the team now wants to apply the modelling to different ethnicities and ages to explore how it could be used to provide early detection for depression.

They are particularly interested in exploring how the modelling can be used as a tool to support intervention and address the high rate of depression in youth in New Zealand.

Website: [KEDRI.aut.ac.nz](https://www.kedri.aut.ac.nz)



DR MARYAM DOBORJEH



DR ZOHREH DOBORJEH

QIANE MATATA-SIPU
FOUNDER OF NUKU,
BACHELOR OF
COMMUNICATION
STUDIES ALUMNA



The future is wāhine

Qiane Matata-Sipu is the founder of NUKU, a multimedia series profiling 100 bold indigenous women and a founding member of SOUL (Save Our Unique Landscape).

From amongst the crowd of visiting school children at Ihumātao in South Auckland emerges Qiane Matata-Sipu wearing her gumboots, a swanndri and a tired smile.

There have been many sleepless nights during the long public dispute at Ihumātao for Qiane and her whānau as they peacefully protect the sacred land in an occupation they have termed 'a reclamation'.

The Bachelor of Communication Studies alumna is a founding member of SOUL (Save Our Unique Landscape). SOUL and the Protect Ihumātao campaign were created in 2014 by a group of six cousins who are local mana whenua. They are asking for the land at Ihumātao to be protected and returned to mana whenua so it can be reserved as a cultural heritage site instead of a proposed housing development.

Although SOUL is a big part of her life, Qiane is quick to point out there is more to her than SOUL. She is a storyteller, mama, daughter, wife, business owner and activist. "I am one of these things and all of these things," says the founder of NUKU – a creative and social impact storytelling project profiling 100 indigenous wāhine.

Profiling 100 indigenous wāhine

Qiane is passionate about indigenous people and indigenous stories. She comes from a strong line of Māori and Cook Island descendants and she says her kaupapa is amplifying the voices of marginalised people to change the narrative for future generations.

NUKU is a multimedia series profiling indigenous women through photography, podcast interviews and videography. She plans to collate the profiles into a book and exhibition at the end of the project.

“We can learn from each other, we can connect, we can know that we are not alone, we can get advice, inspiration, and motivation. There are so many possibilities when we open up and genuinely engage with wāhine.”

The series has led Qiane and her 'wonder team' around Aotearoa to share stories from women around the country, including New Zealand's only Māori patent attorney Lynell Tuffery Huria, fellow AUT alumna, director and producer Chelsea Winstanley and AUT librarian Kim Tairi.

Finding her purpose

After honing her skills and gaining practical experience at AUT, Qiane

worked for many years as a journalist, production manager and editor in the media industry.

Noticing there were not many Māori or Pacific stories in mainstream media, she started to think about how she could use her skills and experience to make an impact in the world.

"I truly believe you need to leave this earth a better place by creating and contributing positively to people and society," says Qiane.

She resigned from her secure role to start Qiane Media + Photography, a successful business she has run for more than seven years. Sharing inspiring stories about amazing indigenous women for the next generation is a priority for the steadfast communication consultant.

The future is wāhine

Qiane admits she feels selfish at times because she gets the opportunity to share and spend time listening to such incredible stories. Throughout her NUKU series journey one big lesson she has learnt is the realisation that women are so different and unique but there are also similarities that transcend the differences.

Website: nukuwomen.co.nz



QIANE DURING HER
PHOTOSHOOT WITH AUT
HEAD LIBRARIAN, KIM TAIRI

Connecting bright ideas and industry through CO.STARTERS

AUT's CO.STARTERS programme is a one-stop-shop equipping aspiring entrepreneurs with the insights, tools and relationships they need to take the first step with a business idea.

Accelerator and incubator programmes are in the business of helping entrepreneurs scale their offerings or disrupt industries. CO.STARTERS is a one-stop-shop where aspiring entrepreneurs are doing both.

Bachelor of Business alumnus Bradley Hagan and Holly Sutich are two of the aspiring entrepreneurs who completed the CO.STARTERS programme to help them turn their entrepreneurial idea into a commercial product.

When the duo first joined CO.STARTERS, their idea of wanting to create a healthy energy drink was considered risky. While many congratulated them for their passion and enthusiasm, dominance of global brands like Red Bull and V in the energy drink market meant their idea was met with scepticism.

Against all odds, they developed their idea which started in the halls of AUT student apartments during a stressful exam period – into Phoric, a clean energy drink alternative containing ancient super leaf guayusa as well as natural ingredients.

Phoric provides consumers with antioxidants and an energy boost without the artificial sugars or guilt.

Bursting on to the scene earlier this year with cheeky billboards in prime locations helped raise awareness. The clever campaign worked, with Phoric now stocked in selected stores around New Zealand.

The next move – negotiating with major supermarket chains in New Zealand and Australia to stock Phoric – is already underway.

Making an impact

Making a positive contribution to people and society is important to the Phoric co-founders who say they are living and practising their values daily.

Combining their business idea with causes close to their hearts is top priority for the young mental health advocates, so five cents from each bottle sold is donated to mental health initiatives. They plan to increase this by five cents each year until 20 cents per unit is donated.

"We're constantly problem solving, it's not like a normal job where you're only focusing on marketing or accounting; we make decisions across the board," says Holly. "So I'm trying to improve my work-life balance. It's not one of my strengths but we both know how crucial it is to our wellbeing – if we're not well, the business is not well."

Collaborating with industry

AUT's CO.STARTERS programme provides tools to create a sustainable business, to identify whether an idea is valid, and, if required, the tools to change it to make it work.

Holly enjoyed the collaborative environment, constructive feedback, and industry connections the nine-week programme presented. The community of peers, mentors, business services and international network of support is a drawcard for participants and industry partners.

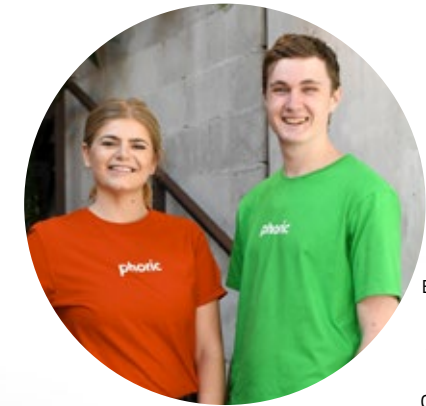


PHORIC FLAVOURS INCLUDE ELDERFLOWER & LIME, ORIGINAL AND GINGER & TURMERIC. THEY ARE AVAILABLE AT SELECT NEW WORLD STORES AND AUT CAFES.



"We've helped Holly and Brad with their corporate structure and put a shareholders' agreement in place, connected them with industry experts, helped them out with some basic contracts and terms, and been a sounding board for the odd thing along the way, not to mention being very happy consumers of their fantastic product too."

Andrew Wallace, Lowndes Jordan, Partner



BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ALUMNUS
BRADLEY HAGAN
AND HOLLY SUTICH,
CO-FOUNDERS &
CO-CEOS OF PHORIC

Specialist corporate law firm Lowndes Jordan is part of the extended CO.STARTERS community. Partner Andrew Wallace says his company deals with both established businesses and start-ups and is a regular attendee throughout each programme.

"It was only natural to get involved when CO.STARTERS were looking for an expert for the legal and capital raising session of the programme.

"CO.STARTERS does a tremendous job of building a sense of community among its participants, and it's inspiring to see people coming together and really supporting one another," says Andrew.

Phoric and Lowndes Jordan working together

Andrew says partnering with the CO.STARTERS programme enables him to hear about the wide variety of ideas people are working on, and to help budding entrepreneurs.

On top of giving time to the programme, Lowndes Jordan gifts a legal services package to the group who engage the most people about their idea.

One of the most useful services Lowndes Jordan offers participants like Holly and Brad is the opportunity to map out and discuss what they're wanting to do, and explaining the legal landscape.

Whatever the next steps for Phoric, Holly, Brad and Andrew are grateful to CO.STARTERS for nurturing entrepreneurship by connecting ideas with industry.

Website: phoric.co.nz

Putting people at the heart of purpose

From telecommunications to insurance and now media, NZME CEO Michael Boggs has transferred his skills across some major industries. *Insight* caught up with the leader who says a relentless curiosity helped at every transition.

You studied accounting at AUT, you've been in senior roles in telcos and insurance and now you're leading one of New Zealand's largest media companies. What's your advice to graduates aspiring to work across sectors?

Business skills are highly transferrable across industries, if you're prepared to put in the effort to learn a new industry. A relentless curiosity will also assist any transition. I like to get a deep understanding of how a business operates – not just what a business does but how, and why, it operates the way it does.

We all have a view of a business from the outside which can help give a different, usually helpful, perspective. When I joined NZME, I knew *The New Zealand Herald* well, often listened to NewstalkZB and ZM and was a user of GrabOne. I had an affinity with the products. If you can't relate to the product or service, don't work for the company.

What skills should today's students who want to get into the media industry be developing?

I recently hosted students as part of AUT's Shadow a Leader day and I was inspired by the quality of those who shadowed me. Their thirst for knowledge, enquiring minds and can-do attitude was heartening – I'm pleased to report one has since started working with us full-time.

Look at what companies declare as their purpose, and think about what skillsets and attitudes they need to deliver on that purpose. NZME's is 'keeping Kiwis in the know' which is relevant across all our media channels of print, radio, digital and e-commerce. We're committed to protecting the craft of journalism and broadcasting because it is core to our purpose. We're always recruiting for skills that help us maintain and maximise our existing business, while also looking for those which help us as we develop into a more digitally-enabled business.

The other thing to consider is that attitude is often as important as skillsets when it comes to recruiting.

What is your biggest challenge as the CEO of NZME, a listed media company?

It will be obvious to everyone reading this that media habits have changed significantly over the years. Local commercial media companies are under considerable pressure to find sustainable ways to create content in a market increasingly dominated by global media companies and technology platforms. It's reported that Google and Facebook currently attract over 66 per cent of New Zealand's online advertising spend and that, internationally, search and social platforms are now taking over 90 per cent of incremental digital spend.

We need to constantly develop new business models to connect and empower our communities and meet the changing audience and customer needs and be clear on where we focus our resources and investments. This means we need business priorities that are well defined and simple to articulate to both our internal teams and our shareholders.

What do you think has helped your career progression and success?

I'm always up for trying something new and learning a different part of the business.

Customers, internal and external, have been at the heart of all my roles. I always think about who we are producing work or products for and about how we can improve. This approach means you will often change the way you think about the work you are doing, even if it is for an internal customer.

I've moved sideways in roles several times to learn new skills – this often feels hard at the time, but it has always paid off for me. And when I've moved companies, it's been for specific skill development or career progression.

I love doing my 'day in the life of' visits where I work with a team member for the day or having people doing 'CEO for the day' with me. It is always enlightening and I find I get new insight on improvements for the business from the team members.

I'm always looking to learn from people within the business, but importantly, from people outside the business too. I had a mentor who really challenged me to think big, often on topics unrelated to my day-to-day job. This often took me out of my comfort zone, but some of my best thinking was done in this mode.

What type of leadership style inspires you?

Leaders who have inspired me to date have conveyed a clear sense of purpose for the business, allowed me to develop plans that support it and let me 'get on with it'. I find that this approach allows me to take on opportunities and challenges that are personally rewarding and good for the business. As you will have picked up, I enjoy being challenged and I enjoy variety.

Transparent and open lines of communication along with regular feedback are important for everyone, regardless of the level they are at in a business, therefore it's a critical trait I look for in any leader.

How did your time at AUT help with your career?

I found AUT to be a highly supportive and practical learning environment. It wasn't all about the theory, but more about how to put the learning into practice in a business. I was lucky enough to be working at the same time as studying so I was able to put into practice what I was learning at AUT as I was learning it! Something I'd highly recommend for anyone who thinks they'd like to give it a go.

“

I recognised very early on that all businesses are about people. I've always made it a mission of mine to work with great people – as the saying goes, always hire someone better than you.

”



MICHAEL BOGGS, CEO OF NZME
FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING ALUMNUS

“AUT is developing better ways to make the alumni network more powerful and beneficial. As alumni we invite you to connect with AUT to see if there are ways you can help our next generation of graduates.”

Derek McCormack
Vice-Chancellor
Auckland University of Technology

GUESTS AND STAFF
RECONNECT AT THE SPORT
AND RECREATION 20-YEAR
CELEBRATION FUNCTION

THE SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN
OPENED THE AD19 FESTIVAL WITH
AN EVENT TO CELEBRATE AND
CONNECT ALUMNI, INDUSTRY
PARTNERS AND STAFF

AUT ALUMNI GATHERED
IN GUANGZHOU, CHINA WITH
BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY STAFF
AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Celebrating the impact of AUT alumni worldwide

From Auckland to New York, and from London to Asia, AUT alumni are positively impacting the world around them.

AUT celebrates this success in many ways; its mission to create more great graduates; its series of integrated alumni and industry events in New Zealand and abroad; and shining the light on some of our rising stars in our marketing campaigns. We're constantly plugged in to activate and celebrate our graduate success.

New York

The Big Apple is an epicentre of AUT alumni who have found themselves working at the top of world-leading companies and brands. Alumni sit on the New York based 'Friends of AUT' board, which spearheaded the establishment of AUT's widely acclaimed Internz programme which provides new graduates with internship opportunities in top US companies such as Apple and Facebook.

London

Connecting with alumni in London is a top priority for AUT. Hosting graduate dinners and workshops to enhance professional development are just some of the ways we stay in touch.

Shanghai

Over 100 of AUT's most influential Chinese alumni gathered to connect with fellow graduates, New Zealand companies and government officials at AUT's annual Chinese alumni event in October 2019.

Guangzhou

The first AUT alumni event held in Guangzhou was highly anticipated, with graduates travelling from as far afield as Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing to attend the networking evening alongside dignitaries from the business and government sectors.

Auckland

Closer to home, AUT hosted a number of events to celebrate and acknowledge its alumni, business and industry partners and staff.

The world-ranked School of Sport and Recreation hosted an evening at AUT Millennium in September 2019 to mark its 20 year anniversary.

In November 2019, the School of Art and Design hosted a spectacular evening for alumni and industry as part of the opening for the annual Art and Design Festival 'AD19'.

The annual Seddon Memorial Technical College alumni event was also held in November. Jan McLaren, the sister of the late Bruce McLaren, was keynote speaker and shared experiences of her and her famous brother's time at what is now AUT.

Industry partnerships providing global path for AUT graduates

An overseas experience is a popular rite of passage for young Kiwis. With a thirst for adventure, a technical skillset and a can-do attitude, AUT graduates make popular employees around the globe.

While working and living overseas, young Kiwis develop capabilities and connections that will prove vital to the future of our small, export-led nation.

But the expense of travel often means it's low on a new graduate's list of possibilities.

Enter the AUT Internz scholarship – a unique initiative that, since 2014, has connected 150 new graduates hungry for their first taste of working life, with overseas employers keen to diversify their talent pipelines and strengthen Kiwi connections.

Over summer 30 graduates, hand-picked by global industry leaders, stepped aboard flights to New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Vancouver, Singapore and London. They set off for internships in a range of industries including sport, finance, advertising, design, engineering, entertainment, culture and hospitality, preparing to add names like the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Paramount Recording Studios, Westpac Americas and the Sundance Institute to their CVs.

Through a strong network of alumni and industry connections, AUT identifies, curates and negotiates these paid, career-starting global internships each year for graduating students to apply for. Each student selected by one of AUT's global industry partners receives a scholarship covering return airfares, visas, insurances and some basic accommodation costs.

Athletic clothing company Lululemon and its innovation lab, Whitespace, has provided a range of Vancouver-based internships for AUT graduates since joining the programme in 2017. The iconic brand has hosted graduates from fashion design, product design, sport science and creative technologies.

Whitespace Research Scientist Sian Allen admits she's "a little biased" about Kiwi graduates, having lived in New Zealand for six years and graduated with her PhD from AUT.

"I know New Zealand is a great hub for innovation in various sectors – like America's Cup and Rocket Lab."

Director of Development at AUT Rebecca Lowery says the relationship between AUT and Lululemon illustrates the synergy that can be achieved when a university invests time and energy developing quality industry relationships to open doors for students and graduates – often with alumni as a conduit.

At the beginning of 2019, Bachelor of Design graduate Aishwarya Angadi along with Bachelor of Sport and Recreation Graduates Jessica Yeoman and Katrina Sharlott packed their bags for Lululemon HQ in Vancouver and haven't looked back. All three were offered contracts by Lululemon when their initial three-month internships were up, meaning they can take advantage of their 24-month Canadian work visas they received as part of their scholarship package.

"It is life-changing for students," Katrina says. "AUT is one of the only universities that offer these kind of international connections to recent graduates, and this opportunity might shape the rest of your career."

Working as a Design Assistant in the Concept Colour team, Aishwarya describes her new role as a dream come true. "I was told how cut throat the fashion industry is and how impossible it is to get your foot in the door. I am so grateful to AUT and Internz for giving me the opportunity to break through the walls of fashion and jumpstart my career."

Website: internz.aut.ac.nz

“

Kiwis tend to have an amazing entrepreneurial spirit because DIY is in the culture which can fit really nicely with the sometimes scrappy, always iterative way that we like to work in Whitespace. Katrina has been great for helping us execute research studies and projects that are fuelling the future of our work.

”



LULULEMON 'INTERNZ' IN VANCOUVER:
JESSICA YEOMAN,
AISHWARYA ANGADI
AND KATRINA SHARLOTT

Helping companies make sense of data

Mike Jenkins, founder of award-winning cloud tech company The Instillery enables Kiwi businesses to reach new heights through the power of data.



MIKE JENKINS
FOUNDER, THE INSTILLERY
BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ALUMNUS

The impact cloud services can have on Kiwi organisations, communities and even cities is what Mike Jenkins, Founder of The Instillery, is committed to amplifying through his team's work.

"Moving to the cloud and enabling people and organisations to intelligently use data to help look at issues or areas needing improvement is powerful. We have ambitious goals to leverage the power of data and the cloud to make a real positive impact in Aotearoa," says Mike.

A significant project the team is leading is working with both local and central government to deliver automated platforms that connect capital investments to social impact. By doing so there is the unprecedented potential to help decision makers with understanding the real impact of social funding.

Imagine if there was a centralised repository for any and all central government departments or even those in the private sector servicing specific agencies and communities, where access to data and insights could be securely given to authorised people to drive better decision making and outcomes, says Mike.

These are the types of projects The Instillery would like to contribute to on a regular basis. For The Instillery team, it's more than just helping Kiwi businesses accelerate their own cloud journeys.

The Instillery and Origin merging to make new Kiwi technology powerhouse

The Bachelor of Business alumnus will head the new merger with Origin as Founder & CEO, combining over 200 staff across eight offices in New Zealand and generating revenues in excess of \$40M.

The team know when technology is central to business strategy, better performance follows. "People talk about big data, AI and machine learning. We have the expertise to get data into the cloud. From there people can leverage all the cool features on offer. Businesses will be able to process, visualise and analyse data to produce amazing insights – something people couldn't afford to do previously with traditional legacy firms and infrastructure," says Mike.

Doing things differently

As far as players in the high-tech market go, The Instillery have always done things a little differently and are committed to keeping it that way.

There is a myriad of technology solutions already available but the real magic is The Instillery culture and how they do things.

"We want to create something new, so we must do things differently and that's what our customers love about us," says Mike.

Applying that attitude and bringing a fresh lens to clients' problems is what sets The Instillery apart from their competitors.

The average age at The Instillery is 28 years old, and Mike's team is genuinely committed to encouraging more diversity of thought and particularly encouraging women into the company and wider tech sector.

He sees his recent appointment to the Board of New Zealand Tech as a good place to continue ruffling some feathers with diversity top of mind.

"We do lots of cool things around inclusiveness and diversity at New Zealand Tech and that's why I'm passionate about changing the landscape with an emphasis on both women in tech and Māori and Pasifika in tech."

Mike practices what he preaches. The Instillery is a registered NZ Māori business and in addition to his 'CEO day job', he sits on several boards, provides advice in other capacities, and invests in Kiwi tech start-ups.

Website: TheInstillery.com

“

Love what you do and do what you love. Doing something new and different requires a level of drive and passion that is impossible to fake, and I genuinely believe that when your heart is behind what you are doing, so much more is possible.

”



MIKE WITH BILL ENGLISH,
BOARD MEMBER FOR THE INSTILLERY

Students get wiser to wellness and resilience

What does it mean to be a great graduate? In addition to delivering quality programmes, AUT is committed to supporting students' journeys of personal growth to build positive psychology.

Alongside traditional services to support students' health, safety and wellbeing, AUT is experimenting with some innovative ideas to strengthen the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual wellness of the student community.

Bright Side (formerly known as Wiser) at AUT is one such initiative. Nestled next to Laneway Café on Symonds Street, it is a welcoming, intimate space designed for conversation, connection and reflection on the ups and downs of being human.

The space is home to a programme of talks, workshops, rituals and social events where students can explore how better self-knowledge and a greater sense of purpose can contribute meaning

in their lives. The programme aims to develop an optimistic state, even when life throws a curve ball.

The physical space has translucent curtains and feels light and bright. Within the space, students ponder questions like 'should I focus on a career path or a life path?', 'how do I bring a sense of calm to my life no matter what's going on around me?', and 'how do I make better decisions?'

The free service for AUT students was inspired in part by the School of Life in Melbourne and London.

"We're trying to create a new type of experience, a third space

within the University," says Derek Handley, Adjunct Executive Professor. "A space where, in addition to their classroom learning, students can explore the ups and downs of being human. To enter a conversation of 'what is it we are here on this planet to do, and how could we live better?'"

Student Services Associate Director Rebecca Shrigley has led the development of the Bright Side programme, and says the service is unique in New Zealand.

"Rather than being the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff, we're trying to build proactive personal development and resilience for students," says Rebecca.

Alongside regular Monday morning 'brew' sessions where students drop in for coffee and take a moment to step back and reflect on life, they can attend a series of talks that have so far included interesting thinkers – social activist Richie Hardcore, Olympian Brooke Neal, aka "the plantbased Māori" Raniera Rewiri and health and beauty blogger Hinepanea Shortland.

"If you have a strong sense of meaning, connection and balance, you're more likely to be able to bounce back when life gives you a knock."

Rebecca Shrigley,
Student Services Associate Director

There are also guided workshops exploring values, decision making, building better habits, dealing with social media addiction, how to design your life, practicing presence, de-stressing and romantic relationships. "Eighty percent of the content or wisdom comes from the students," Rebecca says. "That they learn from one another is one of the highest values of our programme."

During the first six weeks, while Bright Side experimented and prototyped its services, it connected with more than 200 students.

"We are designing and layering content in collaboration with the student community to build a programme that adds value where students seek it most."

Website: aut.ac.nz/brightside

AUT STUDENTS JOIN RANIERA REWIRI, HINEPANEA SHORTLAND AND DEREK HANDLEY FOR ONE OF BRIGHT SIDE'S 'INTERESTING THINKER' EVENTS.

Wāhine on her way up

One of her many social channels describes Miria Flavell as a mama, makeup artist, YouTuber and aspiring entrepreneur – there's more she could add but 'aspiring' is one word she could undoubtedly leave out.



MIRIA FLAVELL
CO-FOUNDER OF HINE
BACHELOR OF MĀORI DEVELOPMENT ALUMNA

The co-founder of activewear line Hine is thrilled, if a little surprised, at the growth of the brand she started in 2018 with her partner.

The collection which was created to represent all women and motivate them to feel confident in their own skin, received 20 pre-orders in its first season. Just over a year on, its winter 2019 collection received more than 4,000 – and the team behind the brand has grown to seven full time staff.

With Māori as her first language, a limitless supply of creativity, energy and ambition and a Bachelor of Māori Development in her back pocket, Miria Flavell and Hine Collection are taking it to the next level.

Congratulations on the success of Hine Collection. What are you working on now?

Hine has gone crazy in the last couple of months, it has had massive growth and I'm just so grateful for it. To see so many people wearing our clothes is awesome – I'm overwhelmed, it's next level. Since Hine started, I've designed our ranges and it certainly has not been a failure because it's got us to where we are now but I'm excited because we've now got an amazing designer in our

team. We collaborated on our winter collection and it was a huge success – our biggest by far. We're working on better designs, better quality of fabrics, and a better approach to sizing. There's a lot coming up. Our next goal for Hine Collection is to open a flagship store in Hamilton – that's my goal for 2020.

How did you get into business and become an entrepreneur?

I feel like I have always been entrepreneurial. I knew I wanted to work for myself, I wanted to work with my own resources and work my own hours. When I started having a family this tripled for me. I wanted to be at home more with my kids and live the life I always wanted so I became a self-employed makeup artist for four years. Then I was inspired to start Hine Collection, which I've been running for almost two years.

What advice would you give to aspiring entrepreneurs?

Go for it! Don't hold back. Everyone is scared of starting because they're afraid of failing. The thing is, you won't know if you'll fail unless you give it a go and start. It's not easy but it's so worth it. You have endless opportunities ahead of you.

Website: hinecollection.com

What skills do you think are important to succeed in business?

Faith, passion and drive. If you don't have all three of those, you will struggle. Believe in yourself, be passionate about what you are doing and work hard for it – do whatever it takes to achieve it!

As long as you have faith, passion and drive, you have the ability to achieve your biggest goals.

How did your time at AUT influence your thinking and career choice?

My career has changed three times since I was at AUT. I am a huge advocate of saying, 'don't ever feel the pressure to have your life figured out at a certain age'. You will figure it out along the way, create new experiences and have fun.

What AUT gave me during my studies was lifelong friendships and experiences. But most of all it gave me the confidence to be a wāhine Māori in the media industry or any other industry. I remember Whaea Ella teaching us about the importance of kaupapa that are by Māori, with Māori, for Māori. This has always stuck with me.



“

I want Hine Collection to be the number one women's activewear brand in New Zealand. Big dream, right? But I believe nothing is impossible.

”

ATI founding principal a generous benefactor of today's AUT students

Over time a series of visionary leaders, resolute on making education relevant and responsive to industry and accessible to students, has steered and shaped the institution through shifting educational, industrial and political landscapes. One of these leaders continues to have a direct impact on AUT's students today.



ROD KEIR
FOUNDING PRINCIPAL OF
AUCKLAND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE (ATI)
FROM 1961 TO 1968

AUT is known as the 'university for the changing world' – and the world has certainly changed around the institution during its 125-year history.

When New Zealand's first technical institute was established to cater for the burgeoning needs of the technical and technological world, it was created as a division of Seddon Memorial Technical College. Rod Keir, an engineer by profession, was appointed Founding Principal and he led the Auckland Technical Institute (ATI) from 1961 to 1968.

His dedication to education was professional and personal. Along with constructing the fabric and foundations of AUT, he and his wife Eileen continue to impact the lives of many current students through a trust they set up which has since distributed at least \$1.92 million through scholarships and awards.

A trip Rod made to Malaysia in the 60s as part of the Colombo Plan, an intergovernmental agency to further the economic and social development of South and South-East Asia, led to him and Eileen hosting students from the region

to study at ATI. While helping the overseas students with lodgings they set up a trust fund to provide awards for excellence, setting the wheels in motion for their philanthropy.

The Keir Trust has since funded more than 230 Awards for Excellence to a value of \$220,000. The awards also commemorate people who worked to establish the Institute when it was founded. Annual awards in fashion, business, hospitality, nursing, physiotherapy, engineering, communication and marketing remember many of the leaders who navigated ATI through that changing time. Those people include Sir Reginald Savory, the influential Foundation Chair of the ATI Council who was also Auckland's Deputy Mayor, Cyril Maloy, the first Deputy Principal at ATI, Ian Scrivener, first Head of the National School of Printing and, of course Eileen Keir, who provided committed support

for Rod's career and applied her love of gardening to the landscapes around ATI.

Rod and Eileen's great niece Alison Hoskin is now Chair of the Keir Trust, and recognises that Rod's thinking was aligned with the institution AUT is today.

"He was really passionate about technical education, giving people the tools to do well in life and really improving their lives through education."

Website: aut.ac.nz/giving

“Rod was very good at forging links with industry, to make sure the college was turning out graduates that met industry needs. His thinking was quite modern for the time. As new industries emerged, he would try to set up training for them.”

Alison Hoskin, Chair of the Keir Trust

Impact strengthened by bequest

Substantial distributions from Rod and Eileen's estates later propelled the trust to become the significant granting body it is today, enabling the establishment of study awards for students who might otherwise not be able to attend AUT due to their financial circumstances. Grants of up to \$18,000 are offered to around 12 new students each year. Since 1999, awards totalling at least \$1.7 million have been distributed.

Trustees – including a long-serving ATI colleague of Rod's, Ron Korn – retain a commitment to their legacy and love of technical training by maintaining accessible criteria for a Keir Trust scholarship for students at all levels including diploma and certificate study.

The board also has the flexibility to be responsive to need. It recently provided emergency funding in response to a request from AUT to help students contemplating leaving university when their boarding facility closed. The students were able to complete their degrees.

Teagan Isgrove, now a pastry chef, expressed gratitude to the Keir Trust board upon her graduation last year. "For me, Keir Trust has made a huge impact on my life. The amount of support and generosity they have shown me has made it possible for me to pursue my dream career path. I feel like 'thank you' will never truly render my appreciation."

GULED MIRE
SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR, WRITER,
SPEAKER AND COMMUNITY ADVOCATE
BACHELOR OF ARTS ALUMNUS



A voice for change

Guled Mire has overcome adversity to achieve tremendous success. The former refugee high school dropout turned Senior Policy Advisor is committed to helping shape a better world. The well-known advocate for ethnic communities shares his inspiring story with *Insight*.

Originally from Somalia, a two-year old Guled Mire fled to Kenya with his mother and eight siblings, where they spent time in a refugee camp. A six-year-old Guled and his family were fortunate to resettle in New Zealand in the late nineties. Escaping Somalia's civil war was lifesaving but the relocation to Hamilton presented new battles for the youngster in the form of racism and encountering negative stereotypes.

Chased by skinheads and told by school teachers that university was not a place for people like him, Guled began to internalise these negative messages and wider societal stereotypes of people from refugee and ethnically diverse backgrounds.

His thinking changed when he travelled to Africa for the first time after leaving as a child. The trip sparked a life changing moment for Guled and instilled a new sense of inspiration in him. He returned to New Zealand and decided to attend university. In the back of his mind, he wanted to prove the naysayers wrong, but

more pressing was the desire to honour his mother for sacrificing everything she had and everything she knew to get her children safely to New Zealand for a better life.

From high school dropout to world-class scholar

Education opened doors and opportunities for Guled. He continued into postgraduate study after completing a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in international studies and policy. Guled soon developed a keen interest for research and became involved in a highly publicised research study with AUT Associate Professor Camille Nakhid on African youth experiences with the New

Zealand Police and justice system. in his community and the need to make a positive contribution to New Zealand society. After nearly five years as a Public Policy Advisor in the Public Service, the desire to fulfil further study arose. In 2020 Guled is relocating to the USA to complete a Master of Public Administration. He hopes to be accepted into an Ivy League School and inspire the next generation of Kiwis of refugee background.

"Representation matters because it gives hope to people who relate to me. They may see me in different places and start to think it's possible to take a similar path. It also makes other people, like my old school teachers, think about their attitudes and beliefs before stereotyping certain groups of people," says Guled.

"We can all help make the world a better place, so we need to ask ourselves what is going to be my contribution, how am I going to make an impact?"

Zealand Police and justice system.

His strong commitment to excelling at higher education has always been motivated by his desire to be a role model for young people

A rewarding career in public policy

Guled has continued to apply his academic skills and intellectual rigour to his policy career across the New Zealand public service. He has a wealth of experience working in central government policy teams based in both Wellington and Auckland, and has worked on a number of important issues affecting New Zealand.

Guled enjoys working in policy as it gives him the opportunity to utilise his strengths as a natural problem solver to make a difference. His professional contribution to diversity and inclusion policy, his work on pay equity and his current role providing policy advice to improve state services, all demonstrate why he finds a career in public policy to be rewarding.

Shaping a more humane, inclusive and welcoming Aotearoa

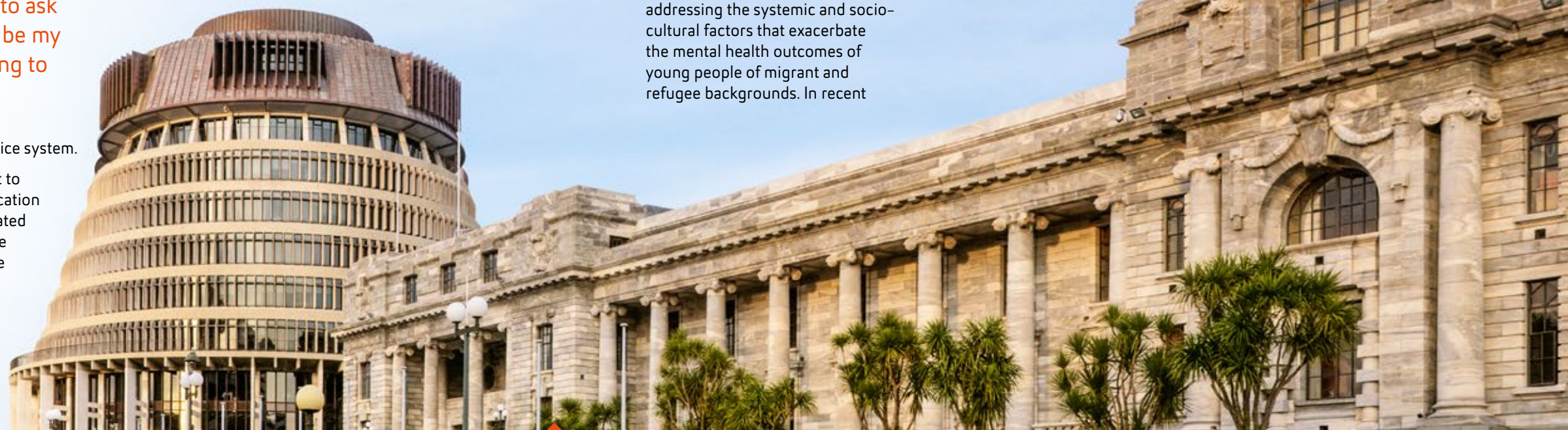
Since graduating, Guled has continued to grow his leadership skills and has used his platform and profile to start challenging discussions about mental health and racism in New Zealand. In 2017, he co-founded Third Culture Minds, a non-profit organisation dedicated to addressing the systemic and socio-cultural factors that exacerbate the mental health outcomes of young people of migrant and refugee backgrounds. In recent

times, Guled has become a publicly and widely recognised familiar voice and face in the media representing his community through the difficult period that followed the Christchurch Mosque attacks.

In addition to his demanding professional role as a Senior Policy Advisor, Guled holds several voluntary community and governance roles. His community work led him to represent New Zealand at the United Nations Annual Consultations with NGOs in Switzerland, where he facilitated the opening plenary conversation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. He was also named a finalist for the 2019 Wellingtonian of the Year awards in recognition of his services to the community.

Website: thirdcultureminds.com

GULED SPEAKING AT THE OPENING OF
THE UNHCR ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS
WITH NGOS IN SWITZERLAND
PHOTO: UNHCR / SUSAN HOPPER



Designing a more connected future

AUT is collaborating with industry to put indigenous values at the heart of its new architecture programme.

2020, an auspicious year marking AUT's 20 year anniversary, is also the year AUT welcomes its first students into a new Architecture and Future Environments programme.

The programme itself is an exemplar of the change, growth and success AUT has experienced over the last 20 years, developing teaching and learning practices that continue to push

boundaries through the creation of innovative new programmes. When compared to traditional architectural programmes, a major difference is the ethos of AUT's – its foundation is built on indigenous values.

Through a collaboration with Māori design collective, Ngā Aho, AUT has developed a programme that truly reflects indigenous values and knowledge. Ngā Aho is a national network of Māori design professionals in the areas of architecture, commercial design, engineering,

landscape architecture, business, planning, project and resource management. The kaupapa of the collective is to support and develop each other to better serve the design aspirations of Māori communities and, in turn, Aotearoa.

An opportunity to positively impact communities and cities

This programme along with students, staff and industry will have the opportunity to contribute to society in an inclusive and positive way.

"It will transform the future of Auckland. Imagine a lively landscape and architecture with high levels of biodiversity, vibrancy, and mauri (life force), throbbing in and across the city," says Architect Fleur Palmer, who is co-writer of the programme.

"We are at a point where we can see fundamental changes in how we live. Climate change, new technologies, social and cultural transformations are occurring at pace, and we need to consider holistically what kind of society, what kind of communities, we want to build."

Charles Walker
Head of AUT's Architecture and Future Environments programme

DR FLEUR PALMER
ARCHITECT, SPATIAL ACTIVIST
AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE
FACULTY OF DESIGN AND CREATIVE
TECHNOLOGIES

Fleur has a dual role as a member of Ngā Aho and is a strong advocate for recognising indigenous values in the development of cities and communities. Her whakapapa links to Te Rarawa, Te Aupōuri and Ngati Pākeha (Scottish).

Incorporating indigenous knowledge with industry

The need to transcend boundaries and disciplines to solve complex environmental, social and cultural issues is crucial.

In this programme, students can come in and out of long-term connected research projects, and work with industry and experts in different fields to make a real contribution to developing knowledge about how Auckland city can evolve.

"Auckland is a wonderful city, but it has many challenges," says Charles Walker, AUT Professor and Head of AUT's Architecture and Future Environments programme. "Housing affordability, transport, migration, cultural diversity and inequality – are all global problems. This allows students, wherever they are from, to experience local, real-world issues, and work hands-on with industry and community partners, while also being able to understand the global context. Our graduates will be ready to apply their knowledge at home and around the world."

For more information on this programme visit aut.ac.nz/study/study-options/architecture

For Ngā Aho visit: ngaaho.maori.nz

DR CHARLES WALKER
PROFESSOR IN THE FACULTY
OF DESIGN AND CREATIVE
TECHNOLOGIES

From conservation to coding at Shopify in Canada

Racheal Herlihy, a Bachelor of Computer and Information Sciences alumna, is using her skills and qualification at e-commerce software giant Shopify.

AUT is well regarded for balancing theory with practical skills and for its strong industry connections says Data Scientist Racheal Herlihy. The Bachelor of Computer and Information Sciences alumna says these are the reasons why she chose to study at AUT.

Specialising in computational intelligence was fitting for the young entrepreneur as she believes programming gives people the power to turn their ideas into reality.

"Many people believe technology is changing the world. But computers don't have that power. People do."

After graduating from AUT in 2017, it wasn't long before Racheal was applying her skills in Canada at international e-commerce giant Shopify.

Racheal welcomes the challenges and opportunities of being a part of a company that powers over 800,000 businesses worldwide.

"I love that Shopify enables entrepreneurs around the world to pursue their passion. It has removed so many obstacles and made it much simpler for anyone wanting to start their

own business. Getting to talk with our merchants, hearing about their journeys and how Shopify has made it all possible for them makes the work I get to do here extremely rewarding."

Bringing innovation to conservation

Before moving to Ottawa, Racheal co-founded local start-up Squawk Squad, using her programming skills to make a difference to conservation.

"Every year, 25 million native birds are killed by rats, possums, stoats and other pests. Squawk Squad allows anyone to collectively fund sensor-connected traps that are provided to bird sanctuary projects around New Zealand via their web app."

Squawk Squad came into fruition at the Auckland Startup Weekend in 2016, where it was named the winning social enterprise. It has since teamed up with the Department of Conservation and other conservation organisations to provide a free education package, which has been distributed to schools across New Zealand.

Creating career-ready graduates

Exposure to industry experts through lectures during her study proved invaluable to Racheal.

She says working alongside clients in the final year research and development project gives AUT students the chance to apply all the learning from the classroom to real-life problems.

"The lecturers really made my university experience – their passion and obvious knowledge was inspiring. I've learnt so much from them, and they're always supportive and keen to help anyone wanting to go above and beyond their studies."

Valuable international partnerships

Being able to look behind the scenes at technology giant Huawei was another highlight of Racheal's studies.

"AUT has a strong partnership with Huawei, which offers scholarships to science, technology, engineering and maths students. I was accepted for the Huawei Seeds for the Future programme where students from

around the world travel to Huawei's headquarters in Shenzhen, China."

This experience was an incredible opportunity to extend her learning.

"The first week had us exploring Beijing, learning Mandarin, getting an introduction to the culture, and visiting historical sites like the Great Wall and Forbidden Palace. In the second week, we were at Huawei's headquarters, learning about networking and future technologies like 5G and the internet of things."

Website: squawksquad.co.nz

"There's a huge opportunity to make a real difference in the world with the right people influencing new technologies. I love that, by being able to code, I can create products that can help people and make a difference."



RACHEAL HERLIHY
DATA SCIENTIST AT SHOPIFY
BACHELOR OF COMPUTER AND
INFORMATION SCIENCES ALUMNA



Setting the standard for change

Change is the only constant in employment. It is one of the main concepts the AUT Employability and Careers services team urges students to embrace as they prepare for life after university.

Students are encouraged to develop a well-rounded set of transferable skills alongside the pursuit of academic excellence at AUT. The skills ensure students are flexible, adaptable and prepared for the number of opportunities presented to engage with employers on and off campus.

Adapting to change

A rebrand of AUT's career services to Employability and Careers in 2015 marked a shift to a stronger focus on students' employability in a rapidly changing workplace, whether as an employee, employer or entrepreneur.

With the change, industry involvement on campus has grown exponentially. The number of employers with a presence on campus increases each year as they take opportunities to get their brand and graduate programmes in front of students by giving presentations, providing leadership speakers, attending career fairs, sitting on panels or running practical workshops.

Applying skills from the AUT Edge Award

AUT has also developed two awards that encourage students to

broaden their focus beyond their academic study: the AUT Edge Award and Beyond AUT. These awards, one for undergraduates and one for postgraduates, are a first in New Zealand and encourage students to develop their transferable skills and become critical thinkers and socially aware world citizens.

Bachelor of Computer and Information Sciences alumnus Jonathan Lopeti says the employability team and the AUT Edge Award helped him work out how to position his strengths.

Another AUT Edge Award graduate, Mansi Limbard, now works as a Compliance and Quality Manager at Bakeworks Limited. She also credits the team and award for making a huge difference with her confidence throughout the job search.

"I approached Bakeworks directors through LinkedIn – a big achievement in itself for me – which then meant I felt more comfortable and capable in the interview," says Mansi.

She is currently working on two new product development trials and is undertaking her PhD in food microbiology. Mansi credits the AUT Edge Award for

building the multitasking and time management skills required to achieve her goals.

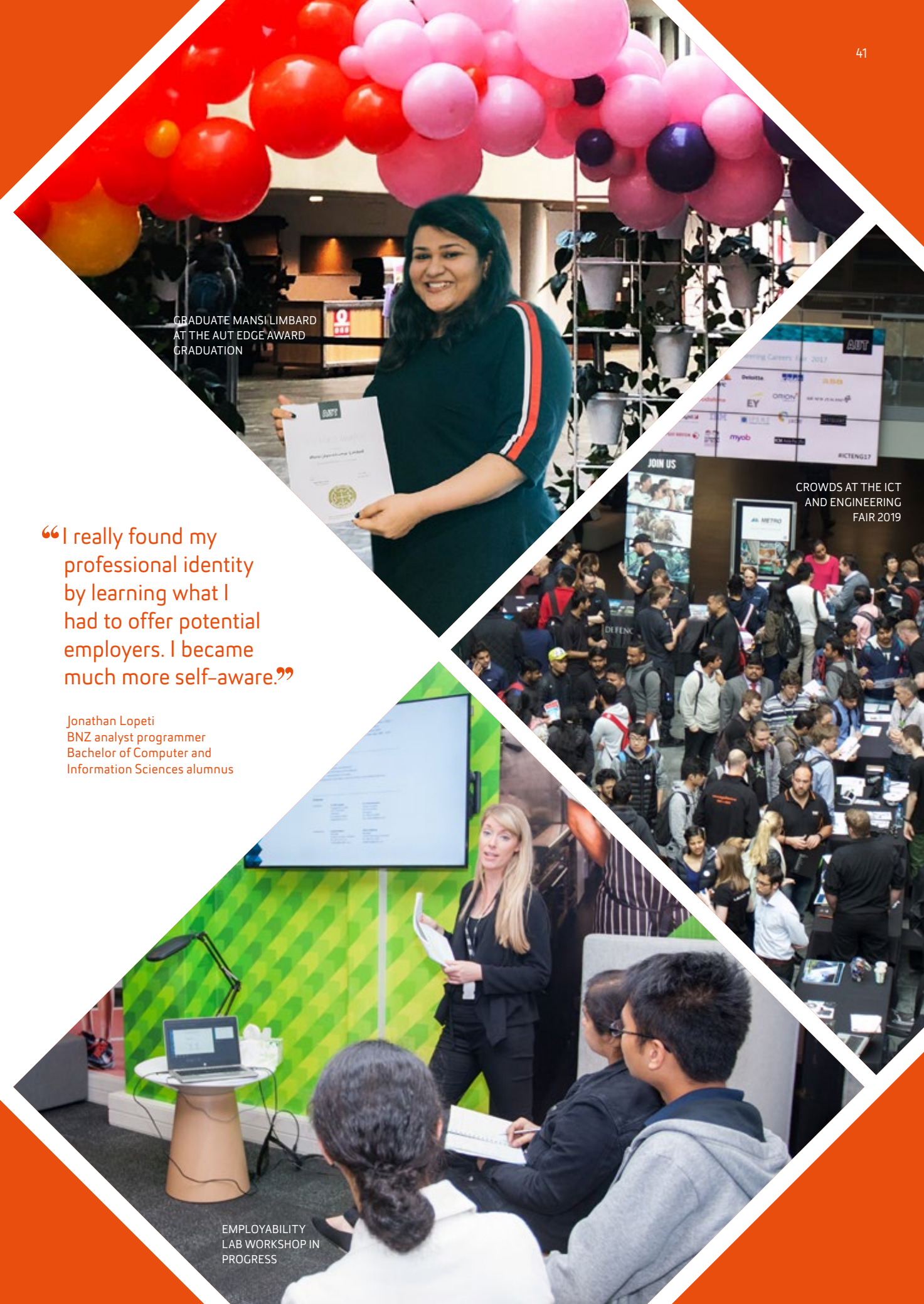
Interacting with industry

Auckland Council is one of five organisations currently sponsoring prizes to support the AUT Edge Award.

Auckland Council Graduate Programmes Leader Lacey Knight says they look out for the Edge Award on AUT student and graduate CVs because it indicates strong employability skills.

"We sponsor the Edge Award social/community impact prize because it fosters transferrable skills. It isn't just the grades that are important but what you can personally bring to an organisation," says Lacey.

Chartered Accountants Australia & New Zealand (CAANZ) Careers Engagement Consultant Mia Arts says her company sponsors the leadership prize for the AUT Edge Award so they can engage, inspire and help develop the difference makers of tomorrow.



GRADUATE MANSI LIMBARD
AT THE AUT EDGE AWARD
GRADUATION

CROWDS AT THE ICT
AND ENGINEERING
FAIR 2019

"I really found my professional identity by learning what I had to offer potential employers. I became much more self-aware."

Jonathan Lopeti
BNZ analyst programmer
Bachelor of Computer and
Information Sciences alumnus

EMPLOYABILITY
LAB WORKSHOP IN
PROGRESS

Building AUT

The way we learn and teach is always changing and AUT's built environment is changing to meet the challenges of the future.



PROPOSED
NORTH FACADE OF THE
NEW NORTH CAMPUS
(A1) BUILDING

PROPOSED ATRIUM
OF THE NEW NORTH
CAMPUS (A1) BUILDING

PROPOSED SOUTH FACADE OF
THE NEW NORTH CAMPUS (A1)
BUILDING

From small beginnings come great things. Nothing could be truer when looking back at the expansion of AUT over the years. What started as a technical school in Auckland's CBD has grown into a world-ranked university with three campuses and multiple specialist satellite sites that include AUT Millennium, the Centre for Refugee Education and the Warkworth Radio Astronomy Observatory.

Since 1895 AUT – as we now know it – has reinvented itself many times over: From Auckland Technical Institute (ATI) to Auckland Institute of Technology (AIT) and finally to AUT in 2000 when it was awarded university status.

Purchase of the South Campus in 2008 made AUT the first university in New Zealand to have a campus in rapidly growing South Auckland. And in 2009, AUT partnered with the Millennium Institute of Sport and Health to open the AUT Millennium Campus in Mairangi Bay.

Transformational programme of works for future learning

AUT has since embarked on an ambitious \$370 million capital works programme to upgrade and develop buildings to provide dynamic, technology-enabled learning environments that inspire students to achieve through their well-designed, flexible learning spaces that support ongoing changes in technology and pedagogy.

Dr Tony Lanigan was AUT Chancellor at the time AUT was made a university and is now Group Director of the Estates Team and oversees the building maintenance, acquisition of new sites and construction of new buildings at AUT. He says the programme of work over the last 20 years has been inspiring.

This has included the development of the much-awarded 20,000 square metre Sir Paul Reeves Building in the City Campus in

2013 which, at the time, set a new standard for buildings at AUT in terms of design, technology capability and sustainability.

The next transformation was on the South Campus with the 10,000 square metre award-winning MH building in 2017. The largest part of the programme followed with the ground-breaking Ngā Wai Hono Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences (ECMS) Building on St Paul Street at the City Campus.

“Ngā Wai Hono set a new gold standard for our developments and represents a new way of learning, as the building itself is a teaching tool that inspires and enables its students to use it and its technology to complement their theoretical learning,” Dr Lanigan says.

Sustainability at the forefront of North Campus

A1, a new building for the North Campus, began construction at the end of 2019 and is the final part of this capital works programme. With every new building AUT has focused and honed sustainability features and A1 will be the most sustainable yet.

The building envelope and roof will be super insulated, rainwater will be used for irrigation and the cooling tower, and, in a departure from tradition, A1 will be constructed with timber floors and framing rather than steel and concrete. This gives the building potential to be close to ‘embedded carbon neutral’, meaning this structure will offset the CO₂ emissions created in the manufacture of other building materials.

Whether refitting LED lights, adding film to windows to reduce afternoon heat gain or tweaking our building management systems to reduce energy consumption, sustainability is driving the design and construction of AUT's new buildings and the refurbishment of existing ones.

Along with these large sustainability projects at AUT come smaller ones, including the installation of a waste system to reduce landfill waste, bike racks around the campuses to reduce our reliance on cars, the start of composting schemes, beehives on roofs and an initiative with design students to turn used plastic bottles into furniture.

The A1 building though, represents the beginning of a sustainability master plan for AUT. The North Campus aims to include a liveable campus with fewer cars and more healthy active transport, healthy sustainable food sources from on-campus gardens and a place where circular economy principles are put into action: Milk bottles can become furniture, packaging and food waste will become compost and zero waste goes to landfill.

“We’ve taken a brand-new university with a small physical footing and systematically built it up to meet the needs of a new generation of learners. I’m proud of the work we’ve done and the award-winning buildings we’ve created.”

Dr Tony Lanigan
Group Director of the AUT Estates Team

DID YOU KNOW?

Some exciting highlights from around AUT.



In 2019 AUT's Oceanian Voices choir had a surprise visit from Hugh Jackman.

The Greatest Showman chose AUT South Campus to launch the New Zealand dates for his global arena tour – *The Man, The Music, The Show*.

In 2018 a video of Oceanian Voices' performance of 'This is Me' went viral and caught the attention of Hugh and his team. *The Greatest Showman* songs were selected by the choir because the lyrics were particularly relevant and powerful to the students.

Later in 2019 the choir was invited to perform several songs alongside Hugh and performed a haka for the actor and members of the Nomad Two Worlds Foundation in his Auckland shows, putting AUT on the world stage.

School of Science PhD student Rahul Permal is working to convert avocado waste into compostable packaging by developing a compostable plastic made from their skins and seeds.

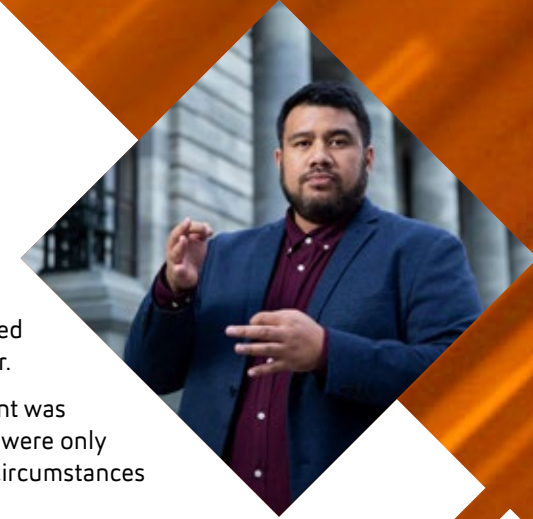
Large amounts of avocado seeds and skins are sent to landfill every year as a by-product of manufacturing avocado oil. Approximately 22,600 tonnes of avocados were grown in New Zealand during the 2017/2018 avocado season and the skin and seeds alone represented 5,900 tonnes of waste.



AUT alumnus Alan Wendt is the first sign language interpreter to be regularly employed by a New Zealand Prime Minister.

Until now, the permanent appointment was not considered the norm as interpreters were only occasionally employed during exceptional circumstances such as natural disasters.

It has been a busy year for Alan as Jacinda Ardern requested a sign language interpreter be present for her weekly post cabinet press conferences. He was also asked to translate at other major press conferences, including those following the Christchurch mosque attacks.



Everyone is at risk of experiencing a traumatic brain injury (TBI) or 'concussion' during their lifetime.

Nearly one in three people have experienced at least one traumatic brain injury by the age of 25. Some recover quickly, but nearly half go on to experience long-term problems.

For the approximately 36,000 New Zealanders who suffer a TBI each year, most are caused by falls, being hit by or hitting an object, motor vehicle accidents and assaults. The estimated annual cost to the public health system is NZ\$100 million.

In 2019, AUT launched the first Traumatic Brain Injury Network because in this area public awareness is low, healthcare is highly variable and there is a lack of evidence as to what works in treatment and recovery.

The network aims to foster collaboration and bridge the gap between research, clinical care, family, and policymakers in the prevention and treatment of traumatic brain injury.




AUT's The Policy Observatory, which promotes and facilitates the 'critic and conscience' role of the University, has partnered with The Helen Clark Foundation.

The Former Prime Minister and United Nations Development Programme Administrator visited AUT in late March to launch her foundation – an independent, non-partisan public policy think tank.

The Helen Clark Foundation aims to contribute to a sustainable and peaceful society.

By publishing research that addresses issues such as justice reform, drug policy law reform and environmental issues, the foundation plans to fulfil its goal of gathering, interpreting and communicating evidence to support societal problems and propose new solutions to tackle them.



Considering postgraduate study?

Lauren Joyce

HR Manager,
Precinct Properties
New Zealand Limited

Master of Business
Administration student

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