

**“PEOPLE WORKING TOGETHER CAN OVERCOME MANY OBSTACLES, OFTEN
WITHIN THEMSELVES, AND BY DOING SO CAN MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.”
– MO MOWLAM**



Kia ora koutou

While we are all probably a little exhausted by constant ‘Covid updates’, it would be remiss of me not to start this newsletter by acknowledging the difficult times currently being experienced by all. These are truly challenging times. Here at Massey I have been amazed at the way in which academic and support staff have managed to rally to ensure that most teaching can continue online. Staff and management at Massey are working tirelessly to support students and each other through this period of unprecedented disruption and uncertainty.

While the COVID virus looks set to remain a global issue for some time, there is still much to be positive about.

The camaraderie and support of friends and neighbours that is being seen throughout New Zealand is an unexpected side effect of ‘isolation’. Here at the Foundation, I am proud of the way the team has rallied to support each other, our valued donors, scholarships and research. We continue the work of the Foundation from our respective homes and have enjoyed joining team meetings with various cats, dogs and children making unsolicited guest appearances!

Many people have asked me how the fall in global share markets has impacted the Foundation’s endowment fund. While markets initially reacted sharply to the pandemic, the Foundation’s funds have been prudently and well invested by the Board and while not yet at ‘pre-Covid’ levels, the fund has made a good recovery in April. Even if markets do not return to near normal levels by the end of the year, the Foundation is well placed to weather the storm.

Indeed, many donors will be comforted to know that the Foundation has had a policy of ‘buffering’ its endowed funds. This means that it has held some money back in each fund to ensure that in the event of a loss-making year, these funds have a reserve and can always afford to pay out to the various scholarship and research projects that they support.

We have highlighted some fantastic stories on the pages of this newsletter, and I hope they provide a welcome distraction from some of the extraordinary things happening in the world around us.

Some of the good news comes in the form of the Refectory Project. Thanks to our donors, work to restore this iconic building started late last year and was due to finish by mid-2021. With ‘lockdown’ upon us, the timeline has been extended, but under level three work has continued. I am reminded that good things come to those who wait and the completion of this building will at least give us all very good reason to celebrate when at last we are able to socialise again!

Of course in times like this, the work of the University becomes vitally important. Many of you will know that Massey has a strong heritage in epidemiology (the cause, control and spread of disease) through its EpiCentre and the Infectious Disease Research Centre. The answers to global issues will only come through research and discovery and you will be pleased to know that Massey is certainly playing its part in contributing to the knowledge that will beat this global pandemic.

I feel sure that the world will be a better place in the not too distant future, in no small part thanks to your generosity. In the meantime, Kia Kaha to all.

Please stay in touch and look after yourselves and others.

Ngā manaakitanga
Mitch and the Foundation team

2020 DIARY DATES

STAFF DIRECT FROM SALARY GIVING APPEAL

August 2020

ANNUAL ALUMNI APPEAL

November 2020

CHRISTMAS FUNCTION EVENT DATES *Venue to be determined*

2nd Dec 2020 - Palmerston North

3rd Dec 2020 - Wellington

9th Dec 2020 - Auckland

REFECTORY RESTORATION WORK NOW UNDERWAY

After several years of fundraising, work to restore Massey University's historic Refectory building at the Manawātū campus has begun.

Built in 1931, the Refectory was the original dining hall and social space for staff and students. It was converted into teaching space when a larger dining hall was opened for the growing student population. The building, which has Category 2 status on the New Zealand Heritage List, sat empty for several years before the seismic strengthening and restoration work began in January.

The cost of the multi-million dollar restoration is being shared by the University and the Foundation which has a fundraising target of \$3.6 million.

There have been significant private donations from individuals and families to the fund. Fundraising efforts received a significant boost in March when alumnus Garth Cumberland gave \$100,000. Other donations for the project have come from The Lotteries Commission which gave \$700,000, the Central Energy Trust which has given a \$500,000 gift, and \$150,000 from the Palmerston North City Council.

Work continues to secure the final \$270,000 as the build progresses. Massey Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jan Thomas, says it is important to preserve the history of the University and she is delighted to have a completion date in sight for a building that meant so much to many of Massey's former students and staff. "This project has proved challenging and it is a tribute to the dedication of the staff and supporters who have backed it that we have now reached the home stretch."

Foundation director Mitch Murdoch said the generosity of numerous donors over several years had been remarkable. "So many of those who worked and studied here are extremely passionate about the Refectory and our other heritage precinct buildings. "I am especially grateful for the support of project ambassadors; Robert Anderson, Russ Ballard, Simon Barnett, Morva Croxson, Dick Hubbard and John Luxton. This small team has worked hard to help us get the funding we needed for this project, without them we would not have made it," she says.



Work was originally due to be completed by mid-2021 but stoppages due to the Covid 19 pandemic have pushed the timeline back towards the end of 2021.

GOVERNOR GENERAL LAUNCHES NEW ARTISTS IN RESIDENCY FUND



Governor-General Dame Patsy Reddy and Massey University's Claire Robinson strike a pose with Inductees: Annie Collins, Anne Noble, Carol Henderson on behalf of Gordon Tovey, and Jon Toogood.

On the third of March this year Massey's College of Creative Arts (COCA), in partnership with the Massey University Foundation, launched a fund to support established and emerging artists. The Artists in Residency Fund was launched with an art auction at Government House hosted by the Governor General, Dame Patsy Reddy. The auction featured items donated by some of COCA's most coveted alumni including Sir Richard Taylor, Kate Sylvester and Warren Maxwell.

The Artists in Residency Fund will support two existing residencies: Matairangi Mahi Toi for Māori and Pacific artists, hosted by the Governor General within the grounds of Government House; and Te Whare Hera for international artists, partnering with Wellington City Council and housed in Wellington's Clyde Quay Wharf.

The fund will eventually also support an international design residency, as well as a music and creative media production residency.

The Massey University residencies will support established and emerging artists so they can develop their practices, collaborate with students and staff and share their knowledge, expertise and experiences with the University community and the public.

College of Creative Arts' senior adviser of strategic partnerships, Sue Elliott, said she was thrilled to present the collection for auction to start the much needed fund. "The generously donated items are a showcase of the best of the best in art, music and design, and it is such a great way to kick start this fund." The auction followed a celebratory event at Government House to induct four new members to COCA's Hall of Fame which is now in its 40th year.

The ceremony welcomed musician Jon Toogood, photographer Professor Anne Noble, film editor Annie Collins, and the late educator Gordon Tovey onto the list.

A total of \$16,730 was raised through the silent auction.

SUMMER SHAKESPEARE BENEFITS FROM FOUNDATION GRANT



A scene from Twelfth Night. Photo credit: Anu Grace Photography

Each year Massey University's School of English and Media Studies produces an outdoor Summer Shakespeare. This year, with the help of the Massey University Foundation, Twelfth Night was performed in Palmerston North's Esplanade Gardens in February. Attracting audiences of up to 3,000, the event is in its 17th year and is supported by Square Edge Community Arts, Palmerston North City Council and many other sponsors. But this year the play was short of its required funding and applied to the Foundation's unrestricted fund for help. A grant of \$10,000 from the Foundation allowed the show to go on, and it was another huge success.

The show is directed by the School's visiting Artist in Residency, while the crew and cast are made up of University students, alumni and volunteers.

This year's visiting resident, London theatre director Mel Cook, worked closely with Massey students and staff to direct the performance. Mel has worked with many leading theatre companies in the UK and proved to be an inspiration to Massey's students and staff.

Dr Thom Conroy, Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at Massey University says: "Summer Shakespeare is the heart of town-gown relations in the Manawatū. It brings Massey and Palmy together, uniting university students, high school students, community members, Massey staff, and a visiting director in the shared goal of making highquality public theatre in the beautiful setting of Victoria Esplanade! What more could anyone ask for?"

To make a donation to any of the causes in our newsletter, please visit us online: <https://foundation.massey.ac.nz/donate-online>

Or contact Mitch Murdoch by phoning: +64 6 951 6599 or email M.A.Murdoch@massey.ac.nz

ANGEL FUND GIVES MAX A SECOND CHANCE

A fund established in October 2018 to assist pet owners in need has saved the life of a Cocker Spaniel being treated at Massey's specialist Veterinary Hospital on the Manawatū campus. Misty's Angel Fund, named after a much-loved Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, distributed \$3,000 so that Max, an 11-year-old Cocker Spaniel, could have life-saving surgery to remove a large mass from his abdomen.

Max's owners had already spent an excessive amount treating their beautiful Weimaraner Dustee who sadly lost her battle with lymphoma late last year. The team at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital were heartbroken to see them arrive in the Pet Emergency Centre in February with their other dog, Max, who had started having severe seizures.

Once Max had been stabilised, a CT scan was performed to look for cancer. The CT scan showed there was a large mass occupying his abdomen. Kat Crosse, one of the hospital's surgical specialists, operated on Max to remove the sizable tumour in late February. He remained in hospital for several days following the surgery to ensure he was comfortable and no longer experiencing the distressing seizures. Max has since made a full recovery from surgery; his owners report that he is a different dog; playful and full of life again, and are pleased there have been no seizures since the tumour was removed.

Misty passed away from kidney failure in 2016 when she was 14 years old and her animal-loving owners established Misty's Angel Fund in her name to help people that couldn't afford to treat their pets.



Max recovering from surgery to remove a tumour

ONLINE DONATION TAX CREDIT CLAIMS

Did you know that you can now claim donation tax credits online using a myIR account, Inland Revenue's secure online service?

- Receipts can be electronic receipts, photos or scans of paper receipts.
- Receipts can be uploaded anytime during the year.

You can find more information on ird.govt.nz/donations.



FOUNDATION FUNDS PEER SCHOLAR PILOT



A new Peer Scholar Pilot Programme, funded by a grant from the Massey University Foundation, was launched early this year and is already proving a success. The pilot, which will receive \$124,000 from the Foundation over three years, uses 10 high performing students to mentor, guide and encourage other high performing

scholarship recipients to ensure they achieve to the best of their ability.

Building a community of scholars has been identified as a marker for student success, but at tertiary level there are few opportunities for our best and brightest students to connect and support each

other and these students can struggle to complete their studies even with the support of scholarships. The Peer Scholars receive training on mentoring and work together to develop programmes and activities that support other scholars.

Jack Cameron, a recipient of the Vice-Chancellor's High Achievers Award, was appointed to the pilot. He says: "It's an exciting way to help give back and say thank you to those donors who fund scholarship programmes at Massey. It also allows me to pass on the tips I wish I had known when I began studying at Massey."

"The pilot is not only a developmental opportunity for other scholars, but for me too. It will hopefully help strengthen my communication and leadership skills so I can continue to help others".

INAUGURAL DESIGN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED



Kaze McGee was awarded the inaugural Alexandra Collinson Scholarship in Graphic Design late last year.

The scholarship was established with donations from the Collinson family and the Woolf Fisher Trust in memory of Alexandra Collinson, a recent graduate of Massey's College of Creative Arts who sadly passed away in 2017.

The scholarship is awarded to a graduating Communication Design student with an interest in pursuing post graduate graphic design work. Kaze's illustration work in a book he published, *Queens and Radishes*, won him the award.

HORTICULTURAL STUDENTS SET TO BLOOM THANKS TO EXTRAORDINARY BEQUEST!

The Foundation was delighted to be notified of a bequest of \$700,000 to be used for horticultural scholarships early this year. The bequest comes from long-time Palmerston North resident and Massey alumna, Noeleen Olson. Noeleen was a founding member of Palmerston North's horticultural society and had a life-long passion for the cultivation of plants and bulbs.

Head of the school of agriculture and the environment at Massey University, Peter Kemp said; Horticulture in New Zealand is an area that is booming and we struggle to supply enough graduates. These scholarships will make a real difference to students in their final year of study, ensuring they complete their courses. We are just delighted to have received this extraordinary gift, it will make a real difference to deserving students.

Noeleen lived in Palmerston North all her life attending Palmerston North Girls' High School before commencing study at Christchurch Teachers Training College in 1948. Returning to Palmerston North to teach, Noeleen took nine months off work in 1969 to complete a BA that she started in 1948. She graduated from Massey University with a BA (humanities) in 1970.



Noeleen was a school teacher all of her working life, she retired from teaching in 1988 after a 28 year stint at Roslyn School, Palmerston North. Noeleen passed away in December 2019 aged 90 years.

CONTACT:

Massey University Foundation, Tiritea House, Private Bag 11 222
Palmerston North 4442, New Zealand. Phone: +64 6 951 6597
Massey.foundation@massey.ac.nz
www.massey.ac.nz/foundation