



UPDATE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Tēnā koutou,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2021. I'm pleased to be able to report that, despite being a turbulent year 2020 ended as one of our more successful. After a year of steady donations the year ended on a high note with the most successful alumni appeal we have ever had achieving a remarkable 250% of its \$100,000 target! Some 900 alumni contributed to the remarkable result.

Overall fundraising reached \$4.1 million, a great result in a year that saw the world in lockdown and much uncertainty around jobs and income. I have hypothesised that many donors were keen to support research and discovery with many of us appreciating the value of our scientists more than ever before. Whatever the reason you gave in 2020, we truly appreciate you supporting Massey.

The Foundation disbursed \$2.9 million to scholarships and research at Massey in 2020 – our distributions have increased steadily over the years and are now quite significant for the University.

The Foundation's investments also performed exceptionally well in 2020 and reached a milestone \$54 million in December.

Income from investments was \$5.9 million representing an extraordinary return of 13.4%.

A combination of an increase in awareness of students in hardship, low interest rates and the Foundation's exceptional returns over the last couple of years seems to have continued to drive some significant donor contributions in early 2021. The Foundation has received three gifts of over \$100,000 helping the Foundation to get to \$1.2 million by the end of March.

We are delighted by this and hope the momentum continues through 2021.

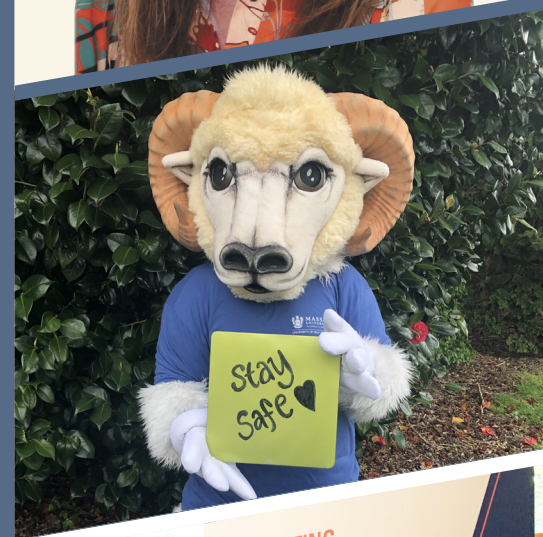
It has been pleasing to see work on the Refectory Building continuing apace and I look forward to seeing donors and friends back on campus in November this year to celebrate with us and officially re-open the building.

Finally, I must congratulate Foundation staff member Natalie Manos who went on parental leave in December. Mackenzie Summer arrived safely on the 5th of January. Congratulations to Natalie, Craig and big sister Madison!

Ngā manaakitanga
Mitch and the Foundation team



Mitch Murdoch, Director,
Massey University Foundation



ALUMNI DIG DEEP FOR APPEAL

More than 900 alumni donated a record-breaking \$250,000 to the 2020 Annual Alumni Appeal, giving generously towards student hardship and COVID-19 research projects.

The Massey University Foundation contacted 70,000 alumni from October to December, including through a telethon in which more than 20 Massey students manned the phones.

Of the three projects alumni were asked to donate to, Student Hardship Bursaries received the most support – more than \$160,000.

Claire Cacho, Foundation Communications Manager, says the impact of COVID-19 has put significant financial stress on some students – through job and accommodation losses and the loss of financial support from family. "Thanks to our generous donors we can help our hard-working, talented students through these tough times."

Alumni also gave to a COVID-19 research project led by Massey University's world-renowned infectious disease ecology specialist, Professor David Hayman. The project is investigating where and why viruses such as COVID-19 emerge, to help prevent future pandemics.



Professor David Hayman

The third project alumni donated to was Project Hope – a research initiative by Massey's College of Humanities and Social Sciences. The project encourages and challenges high-school students to create a vision and an action plan for a world recovering from COVID-19.

The Foundation is deeply grateful to those who responded to the appeal, especially in such a challenging year, Claire says. "Your support makes a big difference, not just to students and staff at Massey, but to everyone who benefits from its research and scholarship."

40 YEARS SUPPORTING STUDENTS



(L-R) Former scholarship recipient Stanley Fraser, Professor Fawzi Laswad, Kelly Weaver, Professor Stephen Kelly, Penny Brooks, Amy O'Brien and Emma Wills.

A Massey University accountancy scholarship has ticked over 40 years of supporting students, and to mark the milestone a new auditing scholarship will be awarded from this year.

The Allan Gibson Accountancy Scholarship is one of the University's longest-running scholarships and has directly benefited about 60 Massey students since its inception.

Palmerston North-based accountant Allan Gibson began the scholarships by donating \$500 a year in the 1980s. When he passed away in 2005, his bequest to the Massey University Foundation meant the scholarship could continue in perpetuity.

From this year, its value will increase from \$1000 to \$5000. It is awarded to undergraduate accountancy students with an interest in rural, agriculture, horticulture and agrifood industries

Massey alumni based around the world – including some working in New Zealand's largest dairy and accounting firms – paid tribute to Allan's legacy at a Foundation event by writing thank you notes from afar.

Stanley Fraser, a past recipient attended and spoke about the difference the scholarship made to his study and thanked Mr Gibson's family personally for their generosity.

Mr Gibson's daughter, Penny Brooks, says Allan took a real interest in the careers of scholarship recipients – often taking them out to lunch.

A new prize, the Allan Gibson Distinguished Auditing Prize will be awarded from this year to the student with the highest average mark in auditing.

Professor Fawzi Laswad, Head of the Massey University School of Accountancy, says the prize, valued at \$1000, will be the first significant award dedicated to auditing.

The accountancy scholarships have helped to address the shortage of accountants in rural and regional New Zealand, he says.

Two-time recipient Stanley Fraser says he is grateful for the financial and moral support provided by the scholarships.

A drawing programme co-developed by Massey University will soon be used to help people with dementia around the world – but the project needs funding for the final stage of trials.

The Massey University Foundation is appealing for donations after the Lindsay Foundation pledged \$50,000 towards the last phase of testing, provided the Massey Foundation can raise the remaining \$75,000 needed.

Emma Febvre-Richards, lead researcher and senior lecturer at Massey's College of Creative Arts, says the MinDART research project sees people with dementia and their supporters take part in an eight-session drawing programme using both traditional drawing materials and digital drawing software on tablets.

Massey developed the project in collaboration with French researchers at the Institute Claude Pompidou. Participants draw using nature

as context and inspiration, says Ms Febvre-Richards. "The natural environment is proven to be good for our mental health and wellbeing."

The programme has shown the repetitive motions of drawing help participants to maintain their fine motor skills, while also having a meditative effect, she says. "It takes them into another space; it's absorbing and stimulating."

Drawing is also an alternative, non-oral form of communication, and an opportunity for positive sharing between the person with dementia and their supporter.

COVID-19 made fundraising for the MinDART project difficult last year, but the very generous donation from the Lindsay Foundation has given it a real boost, Ms Febvre-Richards says.

Lindsay Foundation chief executive Andrew Higgott says it is impressed by the concept

INAUGURAL AWARD FOR ART



Inaugural scholarship recipient, Turumeke Harrington.

A major new Massey scholarship to promote public art has been awarded to College of Creative Arts student and Ngāi Tahu artist Turumeke Harrington.

Ms Harrington received the inaugural Collin Post Memorial Scholarship, for her work in sculpture and installation.

The award is worth up to \$25,000, and covers course fees and \$5000 a semester for study-related living costs and course materials.

Ms Harrington says she feels privileged to receive the support, which will afford her time and money to work on her art – generally large colourful installations made with rope, steel and other textiles.

"A lot of my work is a response to what I am learning about my own whakapapa and Te Ao Māori, and influenced heavily by my young daughter, Pia." Her work is playful in colour and material, but also disruptive and employs dark humour, she says.

Public art inspires debate, she says. "It is another opportunity to talk about art with my daughter, it provides opportunities for artists to work on grand scales and for art to be seen – and critiqued – by everyone, including those who might not visit galleries or consider themselves consumers of art."

The scholarship was established in memory of Collin Post, a passionate proponent of arts and culture in Wellington who believed public art can enrich a city and attract visitors.

Mr Post's family say he placed great value on education and the opportunities it provides, and a scholarship is a fitting memorial to him.

Massey's College of Creative Arts is a natural choice for the scholarship, due to its wide range of programmes and well-established international reputation.

It hosted a scholarship presentation ceremony in January attended by members of the Post family, Massey Foundation staff, Harrington's whānau, Post Family Trust members, and external art industry connections including the Wellington Sculpture Trust.

DEMENTIA RESEARCH DRAWS ATTENTION FROM LINDSAY FOUNDATION

and presentation of the drawing programme, and Massey's collaboration with French researchers.

"We liked the idea of fostering fine motor skills in people with dementia. Dementia is something that is near and dear to some of our trustees as well."

Ms Febvre-Richards urges those with an interest in dementia to make a real difference by donating to the research through the Massey Foundation. "The goal of the programme is to help people with dementia enjoy the best health and quality of life for as long as possible."

MinDART is part of MeDART – a wider research project into how art can help combat the effects of dementia.

To donate please visit:
<https://foundation.massey.ac.nz/funds/medart>

EQUINE FUND HITS \$8 MILLION DOLLAR HIGH

An equine fund managed by the Massey University Foundation has grown to \$8 million as it continues to fund breakthrough research to advance New Zealand's equine industry.

The New Zealand Equine Trust has a strong reputation, with a high level of funding in proportion to the value of the New Zealand industry, and an impressive track record of supporting effective, practical and widely published research.

A sub-trust of the Foundation, it was established as a Partnership for Excellence in 2006 with \$5 million of government funding and \$5 million worth of in-kind contributions from industry. Its goal is to fund research and education to improve equine health and performance in New Zealand.

Since then the fund has grown \$3 million to now total over \$8 million. The Trust has spent close to \$2.3 million on research since 2013, while earning nearly \$5 million in investment income. Since 2006, it has supported 46 research projects.

The Trust is currently funding 13 projects, including one into the use of stem cells to repair damaged articular cartilage in horses, embryo metabolism and pregnancy loss, and factors contributing to musculoskeletal injury in racing Thoroughbreds in New Zealand.

Professor Wayne McIlwraith – Trust chair, Massey alumnus and internationally recognised equine orthopaedic surgeon and researcher – says the Trust has been very successful in increasing the productivity of the equine industry through supporting

scientific research and education to improve traditional practices.

“Education of the industry at all levels on what new research finds is an important part of the mission. Many of the research studies have led both to validation of many of the things we do and change of practices where better options are available.”

The first research project funded by the Trust – a major collaboration carried out at Massey and involving researchers from New Zealand, the United States, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands – found that controlled exercise of three-month-old foals actually strengthened, rather than weakened, their musculoskeletal systems.

That finding prompted horse trainers around the world to begin exercising foals and yearlings earlier.

A study on de-worming practices funded last year found that traditional, frequent de-worming programmes in mares and foals should be discouraged in favour of a less-frequent treatment regime.

Dr Mark Chitty, Trust board member, equine veterinarian and managing director of thoroughbred stud farm Haunui Farm, says the trust has played a vital role in the continuing development of knowledge in New Zealand's equine community.

Thanks to the Foundation's strategic investment to



advance the Trust's net worth, this critical research and development can continue over the years to come in an ever-changing world, he says.

Researchers at all universities and Crown Research Institutes in New Zealand are invited each year to apply for funding through the Trust.

A technical sub-committee reviews applications first to ensure they are scientifically sound and then proposals are re-evaluated by the seven-strong NZ Equine Trust Board: Professor Wayne McIlwraith, Dr Nicola Schreurs, Dr Tim Pearce, Dr Mark Chitty, Dr Margaret Evans, Professor Jan Thomas and James Wigley.

LEVY GIVES LEG-UP FOR TOP SCHOLARS

Massey's best students will again get a leg-up from ten of the University's highest achievers this year, building on a successful first year for the Scholars@Massey programme.

The pilot programme, which will receive \$124,000 annually from the Massey University Foundation over its first two years, sees ten 'peer scholars' connect with other high-performing students at the university.

Scholars@Massey aims to enhance the personal qualities and experiences of scholars, as well as increase their success in ongoing scholarships, grants and awards.

The Peer Scholars provide advice, professional personal development workshops, assistance with scholarship applications and put on events to support the mental health and wellbeing of students, in return for funding towards their studies.

Professor Tracy Riley, Dean, Research at Massey, says scholar development has been shown to increase retention, persistence, student learning and graduation rates in United States studies. She believes the Massey programme is the first of its kind in New Zealand, and says it is being developed using research from student surveys, interviews and discussions.

Massey Scholar Development Co-ordinator Dr Aniek Hilken says COVID-19 meant the programme had to pivot online last year, but its first year was still a success.

Peer Scholars created online lockdown challenges and facilitated an engaging series of talks – 'Something to Chew On' – featuring doctoral research scholars.



Students were further supported through social media, and online seminars on a range of topics, from finance and budgeting to stress management.

“We have established a community of scholars that we can now nurture and build. We were especially pleased with the results of some of our scholarship applications.”

Scholars@Massey targeted eligible students and assisted them with their applications and interview preparations for the prestigious Fulbright and Rhodes Scholarships. Ten students and alumni applied for Fulbright scholarships and five were successful – a record number for Massey. Four of the six Rhodes Scholarship applicants were shortlisted for interviews.

This year's Peer Scholars have already been through a “boot camp” to prepare them for their role, and have begun to mentor 25 new students who won undergraduate, first year scholarships, Dr Hilken says.

Other events this year will include a panel session on adjusting to university life, events to develop leadership and professionalism in students, scholarship information and support sessions and initiatives to build a community among Massey's Masters students.

Dr Riley says scholarship holders will also have the opportunity to engage with Massey University Foundation and board members to explore how they can give back to the University. “As one student explained last year, ‘The opportunity to give back... is by paying it forward’.”

FELINE PARASITES BEATEN BY PhD



George Mason and Adrienne French

Findings from Massey University research into parasites causing disease in kiwi can now be used to protect the species and other native wildlife.

Massey PhD candidate Adrienne French received \$150,000 over four years through the George Mason Trust PhD Scholarship in Wildlife Health to conduct the research.

It found that parasitic roundworms discovered in the livers, lungs and brains of dead kiwi came from the faeces of feral cats, she says.

The roundworm – *Toxocara cati* – is a common feline intestinal parasite, and infectious eggs are spread through cat faeces.

“The eggs are quite resilient out in the environment and if a kiwi is probing around in the soil and eating a lot of earthworms, they can pick up these eggs which then hatch in their intestines. The larvae then crawl around in the kiwi’s organs.”

The roundworms weren’t necessarily the cause of death in the kiwi studied, but – for example – brain lesions caused by them could make kiwi more susceptible to other forms of death such as through predator attack, she says.

The findings can be used to support the conservation management of kiwi by preventing or limiting further infections. For example, conservationists could seek to further limit feral cat populations or advocate strict worming programmes for domestic cats where their territories might overlap with those of kiwi, to prevent environmental contamination.

While wild kiwis made up the majority of samples examined, Ms French also studied a few cases in which captive kiwis had become infected with the roundworm. That likely occurred through the introduction of infected soil and leaf litter into their captive environments – something conservationists could now work to avoid.

The research has much wider application, as the parasite is present in cats all around the world and could potentially affect other species of native wildlife, she says.

As part of her research Ms French also discovered a different species of roundworm was the cause of an unusual, crusting dermatitis in rowi kiwi – but was unable to pinpoint the specific parasite responsible or its original source.

Ms French is completing a PhD in wildlife parasitology within the Wildbase Research Centre, part of Massey’s School of Veterinary Science. The \$150,000 scholarship covered university fees as well as research-associated costs.

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

Ms French says she met with Dr Mason a few times during the four-year research project to discuss its progress. “He has kept abreast of it all and has been very interested. He has been a mentor as well as a financial contributor.”

“It has been an immensely rewarding experience for me. I am very grateful to Dr Mason and the Massey University Foundation for the opportunity.”



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RESTORED REFECTORY TO REOPEN

The restoration of Massey University’s Refectory building is expected to be completed in July, following a fundraising campaign by the Massey University Foundation.

Donors and alumni will be invited to attend an official opening ceremony on 11 November, which will showcase the \$13 million restoration and earthquake-strengthening of the iconic building.

The Foundation fundraised \$3.6 million towards the project.

A total of 1599 individual donors – mainly alumni – have donated to the project. It received \$700,000 from the Lotteries Commission, \$500,000 from the Central Energy Trust and \$150,000 from the Palmerston North City Council, as well as significant private donations from individuals and families.

Foundation director Mitch Murdoch says it is gratifying to see the project come to fruition, and she is delighted the Refectory doors will once again open to welcome students, staff, alumni, the community and visitors.

“The Refectory is a significant heritage building and our donors have ensured it will now also be a part of the University’s future. We thank them for their generosity, and look forward to celebrating with them in November.”

Massey University Alumni Manager Daniel Brennan says the Refectory is a special backdrop in the memories of older alumni, who dined in the landmark building as students, or were married there as young graduates.

“That sense of place is something that we wanted to pay tribute to as part of the restoration, while also ensuring the Refectory offers the same to the next generation of Massey students.”

The Refectory was built in 1931, and was one of the three original Massey Agricultural College buildings on the Manawātū campus. It was the original dining hall and social space for staff and students.

Once restored the grand hall will be used to host alumni and municipal functions, welcome overseas visitors and for graduations and meetings.



Experts repair the original plaster motifs in the Refectory.