MASSEY UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
TE KETE AROHA
Enabling Excellence

NEWSLETTER
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PWC NEW ZEALAND BACKS AGRIBUSINESS

A scholarship sponsored by PwC aims to build Māori participation and success in agribusiness, with $7000 in financial support, mentoring and internship opportunities.

The Māori asset base is growing significantly faster than the overall New Zealand economy, and is now valued at close to $126 billion.

Peter Chambers, PwC Chief Markets Officer, says the PwC Undergraduate Food and Fibre Scholarship (Māori) is not just about helping one individual.

"That's obviously the immediate impact, but building talent to help the economy has a multiplier effect, over time creating more jobs and value."

Inaugural recipient Emma Black (Te Whakatōhea), in her third year of a Bachelor of Agribusiness at Massey, says Māori have been underrepresented in primary industry but that is changing.

"I am so grateful for the financial boost and also the support of my studies. Long term, I would love to work as an advisor for Māori growers and farmers and help them get real returns from their land and investments."

The scholarship has also helped encourage Emma in her journey to reconnect with her Māori heritage, she says. "I am learning more about who I am because I want my kids to know who they are."

Peter says the scholarship demonstrates PwC's commitment to meaningful engagement with Māori and complements



Inaugural recipient Emma Black

the work of its Manukura network – which supports Māori-owned entities with strategy, governance, organisational capability and transformation, and builds trusted relationships between te ao Māori, government and the broader business community.

Massey's strength in agribusiness and vital research and development role in the food industry made it the obvious choice as a scholarship partner, he says.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 5 November to Friday 5 December 2026
Annual Alumni Appeal – join us to build Massey's endowment to $100 million in time for its centenary!

Thursday 19 Nov 2026 | 4.30pm - 6.30pm
Thank-you to our donors!
KPMG, 18 Viaduct Harbour, Auckland

Thursday 3 Dec 2026 | 4.30pm - 6.30pm
Thank-you to our donors!
Tussock Cafe, Massey University, Wellington

Wednesday 9 Dec 2026 | 4.00pm - 6.00pm
Thank-you to our donors!
Refectory Building
Massey University, Palmerston North

Sunday 14 February 2027
Centenary Celebration
Picnic for alumni, friends and supporters
Massey University, Palmerston North

Saturday 22 May 2027
Centenary Celebration | Alumni Dinner and Alumni Excellence Awards
Palmerston North

FOUNDATION UPDATE

It seems ridiculous that it is already Spring, and the end of the academic year is fast approaching!

It has been a year of change here at Massey. In February, we welcomed a new Vice-Chancellor and that has brought with it a host of activity, including a new university strategy that was launched in late August and can be viewed here.

Given the rapidly changing internal environment, and the current global environment, punctuated by war, rising oil prices and economic downturn, the Foundation is delighted to have received $7.5 million in donations towards the For a Better World campaign this year. Despite the current economic pressures, our alumni and friends have continued to support us and we remain on track to achieve the campaign goal of $100 million by the end of 2027 to mark Massey's centenary.

The Foundation has focused its fundraising campaign on developing scholarships and funding teaching positions in areas where Massey has existing strength and expertise, and where there are shortages of expertise, research and work-ready graduates. We are building those areas to make them even stronger, to support our nation and drive our economy. These areas include the food and fibre sector, public health and design.

Later this year, the Foundation will run its annual alumni appeal (5th November to 5th December), and we are ending the appeal with a 'Giving Day'. We hope the Giving Day will engage more alumni with the university as it begins to celebrate its centenary, and as we strive to reach our $100 million goal.

2027 will be a year of reflection and celebration as Massey reaches its 100th anniversary. We hope alumni and friends will take the time to visit campus and perhaps come to one of the many events that will be hosted. Please put the dates in your diaries – I look forward to seeing many of you soon.

Mitch Murdoch
Director, Massey University Foundation

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RURAL WOMEN NZ GRANT HELPS TRACK LEPTOSPIROSIS

A $10,000 grant from Rural Women NZ is helping Massey track the spread of leptospirosis through environmental contamination.

Massey's mEpiLab unit researches infectious diseases - particularly those spread from animals to humans.

mEpiLab co-director Professor Jackie Benschop says the funding of more than $10,300 is supporting research by PhD student Natashja Haddow-Brown to determine the presence and spread of leptospirosis in water and soil in the West Auckland community of Te Henga (Bethells Beach).

A teenager swimming in Lake Wainamu after Cyclone Gabrielle became severely ill with the disease, which also affected pets in the area.

"It was an unusual way to get leptospirosis in Aotearoa and you don't expect to see it in children. The community was very concerned."

Leptospirosis is ever-present in New Zealand, most commonly harboured by rodents and some ruminants, and usually spread through their urine to those working in direct contact with animals - such as farmers and meat workers, Jackie says.

"What we are seeing after floods is that it can last a long time in wet soil, and if soil runs off into water, it can also last in the water."

mEpiLab investigates the biomedical properties of diseases, but also works with public health and community organisations to understand and reduce their social impact.

"Rural Women NZ are a long-standing supporter. They help us financially but they also facilitate engagement with rural communities. They are really interested in our projects and also in developing people."



Natashja collecting soil samples in Te Henga

SCHOLARSHIP SUSTAINS FOOD TECH LEGACY

A scholarship honouring food technology champion Peter Hawkins is giving Massey students vital financial support and valuable industry experience.

Peter, who passed away in 2024, established ingredient solutions firm Hawkins Watts in 1992. A passionate advocate for the food tech industry, he fulfilled a myriad of roles in the New Zealand Institute of Food Science and Technology and encouraged many others to support the sector over his lifetime.

The Peter Hawkins Food Technology Scholarship is worth $10,000 and supports fourth-year students finishing a Bachelor of Food Technology with Honours. Recipients are also offered three months of paid work at Hawkins Watts.

Inaugural recipient Emma Stewart, now an Application Technologist at Hawkins Watts, says receiving the scholarship was "incredibly motivating", and the financial assistance and internship made her demanding final year of study easier.

The internship was a fantastic introduction to commercial product development and quality analysis – now her areas of expertise – and the breadth and dynamism of the industry.



Peter Hawkins



Emma Stewart

"It was really interesting to see how the knowledge and skills I had developed throughout my degree could be applied to real food products."

Peter's son and Hawkins Watts managing director Scott Hawkins says the scholarship recognises his father's contribution to food tech in New Zealand and Massey's role in producing high-quality graduates.

The firm employs more than 90 staff across New Zealand and Australia and provides a range of creative ingredient solutions for most major food manufacturers in the two countries.

"We get a lot of innovative companies coming to us to help them develop products and take our New Zealand ingredients to the world."

STEWART FAMILY GIVING: AN ENDURING CONTRIBUTION TO MASSEY

The Stewart family occupy a special place in Massey's history – and are now supporting its future through philanthropy.

Sir Alan Stewart KBE was principal of Massey Agricultural College from 1959 to 1963, and guided its transition to a full university in 1964, serving as Vice-Chancellor until 1983.

Sir Alan, who passed away in 2004, is credited with developing Massey's internationally renowned agriculture programme and expanding its distance learning courses to make education accessible for rural New Zealanders.

His daughter, Barbara Stewart-Brown, is continuing the family's legacy, contributing to Massey research, scholarships and the restorations of the Refectory and her old home, Tiritea House.

The university was a unique childhood backyard with gardens that were beautifully kept, she says.

The four Stewart children loved visiting their father's office and carried out jobs all around the campus, including serving dinners in the Refectory, washing dishes, picking fruit and planting onions in the Massey orchard.

Her father was well supported by her mother who was also involved in university life, including the Federation of University Women and the Staff Women's Club.

"Massey was everything; it was our life really."



Sir Alan Stewart



Barbara Stewart-Brown

Barbara, a specialist literacy teacher with a Masters in Literacy Education from Massey, says she wanted to support research at the university, particularly in education.

"Massey is outstanding in literacy education; an area I have been involved in ever since I worked as a probation officer in the 1970s and early 80s. I realised how many people struggle with reading and writing."

Three of Barbara's four children have also studied there, she says. "We've had a close connection with Massey over the years and it is lovely to keep it going."

INAUGURAL ADAMS FELLOW HAILS 'LIFE-CHANGING' OPPORTUNITY

The recipient of a new fellowship says it is delivering invaluable real-world business experience at the highest level – along with a few nervous moments.

The Adams Fellowship is worth up to $50,000 a year and was established by alumnus and trans-Tasman business leader Steve Adams.

Inaugural fellow Matthew Wadsworth, a Massey Executive Master of Business Administration student, is also receiving mentoring through Steve's firm, Esco Industries, a leading manufacturer of medical gas and electrical componentry.

Matthew, a national delivery manager for a rail contractor, says Esco commissioned him to research a product launch and present his findings to the board of directors.

"It was a bit daunting but also an incredible opportunity to put a lot of what I'm learning into practice and test it in a real-world environment.

"They have given me a lot of assistance and the opportunity to learn about an entirely different industry. It's really interesting to see how they present themselves and achieve success in a fairly congested market."

The Fellowship's financial assistance has been "life-changing" for Matthew and his family. "This allows us to create more immediately a better future for ourselves."

The EMBA programme has pushed him to think at a more critical level. "The concepts are familiar, but I am now seeing them through an executive lens. I'm looking forward to using these skills so I can have a positive, broader influence in the transportation industry."

Steve says Matthew is "a worthy recipient. He has grabbed the opportunity with both hands."



Inaugural Adams Fellow Matthew Wadsworth

HANHAM RESEARCH FELLOW RESTORING DIGNITY

Research funded by a new fellowship is exploring the restoration of dignity to Pacific communities traumatised by the Dawn Raids.

The raids in the 1970s saw police and immigration officials disproportionately target and persecute Pacific peoples.

Massey Associate Professor Rand Hazou, inaugural recipient of the Alison Hanham Humanities Research Fellowship, will examine the government's historic ifoga ceremony in 2021, and its impact in restoring dignity to Pasifika peoples.

In a modified version of a traditional Samoan ifoga, then-Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was covered with a mat, which was then removed by representatives of affected communities in a symbolic gesture of forgiveness.

"It was quite incredible to see a Prime Minister go through a ceremony like that as a way to try and repair some of the harms caused. In her speech, she emphasised the importance of restoring dignity for Pasifika peoples."



Inaugural Alison Hanham Humanities Research Fellow, Associate Professor Rand Hazou (left), with the executor of Professor Hanham's estate, and a Massey Emeritus Professor, Glynnis Cropp, and Professor Bill Fish at the announcement of the Fellowship

Rand's research will explore non-Western notions of dignity, and the apology and other art responses as enactments of dignity and memorials of Pacific history and activism.

Dignity is a potent weapon against dehumanisation – which in its most extreme form has led to the recent genocide in Gaza, he says.

"It's now more urgent than ever to explore how the arts can enhance the dignity of people so they're not seen as objects that can be slaughtered."

Associate Professor Hanham, a long-serving Massey academic and expert in English medieval history, passed away in 2018. She bequeathed $215,000 to the Massey University Foundation, which established the Fellowship along with executors.

100 YEARS OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Next year, Massey University will celebrate 100 years of making a difference through education, research and innovation.



Main Building laboratory in the 1930s

The centenary is an opportunity to honour a century of impact, while looking ahead to the next 100 years and the role our community can play in shaping what comes next.

Throughout 2027, alumni, students, staff, partners, whānau and communities across Aotearoa New Zealand and around the world will come together to celebrate Massey's story. Alongside annual events including Graduation, Open Days and Fieldays, special centenary activities will include exhibitions, sporting events, scholarships and opportunities to reconnect with the Massey community.

A key date is 14 February 2027, when a community picnic will take place at the Manawatū campus, where Massey's story began. Other highlights will include a centenary exhibition and a formal dinner featuring Alumni Awards.

For donors, the centenary provides a chance to celebrate the enduring impact of Massey and help shape its future. It is a time to recognise what has been achieved through education, research, philanthropy and partnership, and look to the opportunities ahead.

Visit the dedicated centenary webpages for the latest events, stories and ways to get involved, and share your Massey story as we celebrate this significant milestone. Centenary partnership packages will also be available for anyone wishing to support the events.

Email centenary@massey.ac.nz to find out more.

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