Research Report

1 August 2002 — 31 December 2003
The University of Canterbury has long seen itself as a research-led teaching institution where high quality research and scholarship permeate teaching and learning at all levels. It has been at the same time both very pleasing and a great tribute to the work of all staff that strong confirmation of this has been received from the first round of the Performance-Based Research Fund. University of Canterbury staff were rated a close second to those of Auckland University on research quality scores.

Though we have long reported our research and creative works in a variety of ways, this report marks some important changes to the ways in which this is done. In common with past reporting, this report presents the principal scholarly achievements of our staff in respect of publications and creative works. It also presents information about masters and PhD theses completed by postgraduate students. It is the first time this information has been published as a separate report. The content is essentially the material formerly published each year in the University Calendar and, like the material in the Calendar, it is by no means an exhaustive list of all the scholarly contributions made by staff and students. Another important change is that, during 2003 the University restructured into four colleges and a School of Law. The information in this report has been assembled for each of these. Additionally, several academic units have taken the opportunity to merge during restructuring (for example, Zoology and Plant and Microbial Sciences have become the School of Biological Sciences) so that within the College lists there is a degree of difference from the reporting units used in the Calendar up to 2002.

The Calendar is published annually but because of the work involved with restructuring, this first research report covers the period from August 2002 to December 2003. Important developments in research over this time period included UC involvement in two Centres of Research Excellence — the MacDiarmid Centre of Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology and the Allan Wilson Centre for Molecular Ecology and Evolution. In addition the University has become the host to the Human Interface Technology Laboratory (HITLab).

Collaborative links with industry have been developing strongly. For example, through the Canterbury Electronics Group and the ICT Cluster. Commercialisation of research is also proceeding apace, the University being a partner in the Canterbury Innovation Incubator and three companies – SyFT Technology Ltd, Canterbury TX and Nanocluster Devices Ltd. These companies have been formed to develop University owned intellectual property.

Traditional strengths in basic research have also been to the fore. External research funding won in 2003 totalled $18.5 million including record totals of $6.1 million from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (8 grants) and $6.1 million from the Royal Society of New Zealand’s Marsden Fund (13 grants). Both of these are keenly contested funding sources.

For the period covered by this report the lists that follow set out 2400 publications and creative works, 118 PhD theses and 275 masters theses. The University’s 2003 Annual Report shows it was a bumper year setting record levels for research and scholastic works. Some 83 PhD theses and 184 masters theses were
completed and there was a record total of 1835 refereed research publications.

Many staff have been recognised for their excellence in research. In 2003 Professor Miles Fairburn (History) and Professor Mike Steel (Mathematics and Statistics) were awarded Fellowships of the Royal Society. Professor Andrew Sturman (Geography) was presented with the inaugural Kidson Medal of the Royal Society of New Zealand for his work in climatology. Within the University Professor David Thorns (Sociology and Anthropology) was awarded the Research Medal in the December 2002 Graduation Ceremony. At the end of 2003 the Research Medal was awarded to Professor James Coxon (Chemistry).

There are many other indicators of the extremely strong research culture in the University of Canterbury, but those outlined above, together with the works of staff and students listed in this report, are an ample demonstration of the creative energies and hard work which occurs across the Colleges, their individual Departments and Schools, and the Research Centres of the University.

Professor Bob Kirk
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
During 2002 and 2003 the School of Law continued to produce research of national and international significance. Nationally, work undertaken by members of staff made an important contribution to New Zealand jurisprudence, while evidence of the international influence of the School’s scholars is apparent in a number of quality assured outputs. Members of the judiciary, both at home and abroad, have referred favourably to staff scholarship, and the fact that many treatises produced by the School have been through multiple editions demonstrates the continued high esteem in which these works are held.

Professors Burrows, Finn and Todd continue to be recognised as important international scholars in the field of contract law with the publication of the International Encyclopaedia of Laws: Contracts: New Zealand (Kluwer), while the third edition of Professor Burrows’ Statute Law in New Zealand (Butterworths) demonstrates the continuing significance of this work. New editions of co-authored works include John Hughes et al, The Employment Law Guide (6th edn, LexisNexis) and Geoff Leane et al, Australian Legal Institutions (2nd edn, Law Book Co).

Law School staff members have also written chapters in books, published scholarly articles in respected national and international journals and made substantial contributions to a variety of professional publications. The range and depth of subject matter covered shows the catholicity of legal scholarship. The complete catalogue of the Law School’s research outputs for the period August 2002 to December 2003 is contained in this report, but some of the more significant contributions are Professor Philip Joseph, The Laws of New Zealand (LexisNexis); Dr Nicky Richardson, Equity and Trusts in New Zealand (Brooker’s); Elizabeth Toomey, Brooker’s Land Law (Brooker’s); Associate Professor Jeremy Finn, Adam’s Criminal Law (Brooker’s) and John Caldwell, Family Law in New Zealand (LexisNexis). Books edited by members of the Law School include Professor Scott Davidson et al, Contemporary Issues in International Law: A Collection of the Josephine Onoh Memorial Lectures (Kluwer) and Duncan Webb, Cynthia Hawes, Richard Scragg et al, Commercial Law Essays: A New Zealand Collection (Centre for Commercial and Corporate Law).


Law School staff have also delivered seminars and oral presentations on a broad variety of legal topics throughout New Zealand and the rest of the world. Bodies addressed by a significant number of staff include the New Zealand Law Society; the Australasian Professional Legal Education Council; the Australian and New Zealand Society of International Law; Society of Legal Scholars (UK); International Law Association; Council for Security and Cooperation in Asia Pacific and the Australia and New Zealand Law and History Society Conference.

Professor Scott Davidson
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, School of Law
School of Law

Authorised Book

Chapter in Book


Journal Article


Conference Contribution


Report for External Body

Oral Presentation

Other
Chart, J.R. (2002) "La Fleur Yakma", Mediation Ethics Case Study published in French by the Institute for Research and Education on Negotiation, Essec School of Management, Cergy-Pontoise, France.
Theses

LLM
