




Welcome to our first @Otago newsletter for 2024! Please note we have changed our email to otagoalumni@universityofotago.ac.nz.  If your contact details have changed, or you would like to update your mailing preferences, please complete our [online form](#).



Year heralds new Senior Leadership announcements

The start of the year heralded the announcement of a new Vice-Chancellor and Otago's first Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori. Former Deputy Prime Minister and Otago alumnus [Hon Grant Robertson](#) will take up the role of Vice-Chancellor from July, while distinguished legal scholar [Professor Jacinta Ruru](#) (Raukawa, Ngāti Ranginui) has been appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori.



Prestigious Schwarzman fellowship in China a first for Otago

Inspirational young Business and Chinese language alumna, Jamie Wood (Kāi Tahu), has been awarded a Schwarzman Scholar fellowship to study a master's programme in global affairs at Schwarzman College, which sits within Tsinghua University in Beijing, China.



New Year Honours for outstanding service to communities

Congratulations to all the alumni and staff recognised in the New Year Honours for outstanding contributions to their professions and communities. The 15 honoured include obstetrician and gynaecologist Emeritus Professor Don Wilson, social worker [Rose Henderson](#), and exercise sciences and neuroscience academic [Associate Professor Greg Anson](#).

Your Story: Sporting legends talk cricket, rugby, music and careers

Rounding out a summer of cricket, New Zealand greats *Martin Snedden* and *John Wright* look back at their time at Otago, their careers, and their memorable cricketing moments.



SAVE THE DATE
29 May–2 June 2025

Join us in Dunedin to
celebrate 150 years of
Te Kura Hauora o Ōtākou,
Otago Medical School.

For further information:
otago.ac.nz/events

1875-2025



Te Kura Hauora
o Ōtākou
OTAGO MEDICAL
SCHOOL

150
YEARS



Supporting Otago

Alumni entrance scholarships “life-changing”

Donor-funded Entrance Scholarships



Making a Difference

Generous gift supports students and research

A major bequest of \$3.8m from US-based medical alumnus Dr John M. Stewart will

provide students with the opportunity to study at Otago, by easing financial stress and opening the door to new possibilities. Read more about the difference the scholarships make to the 2024 recipients below.

[Supporting Otago...](#)

support students and research at the University of Otago. The gift was made through the Alumni of the University of Otago in America, with the undergraduate John M. Stewart Scholarship the first initiative established.

[Making a Difference...](#)



Hot Picks

Be entertained and feed your mind with our Hot Picks. You can relax in the comfort of your own home, while listening to a selection of podcasts, interviews, and lectures from Otago academics, visiting lecturers, and alumni.

[Hot picks...](#)



University Snapshot

New research from Otago has shown that our furry friend [Kiwifruit is a powerful mood booster](#). 20Twentyes Young Alumni Award winner and Atawhai Interactive game development studio co-director [Lisa Blakie](#) (Kāi Tahu, Waitaha, Pākehā) has been appointed to teach game studies and game writing in Otago's English and Linguistics Programme.

Otago Images

Take a look at these wonderful photos of laboratories of yesteryear at the University of Otago. We have added colour with some technical wizardry to bring them back to life for you.

[View gallery...](#)



“Life-changing” is how first-year Health Sciences student Olivia Railton describes receiving a Donor-funded Alumni Appeal Entrance Scholarship. “It makes everything possible, it’s completely changed the course of my life.”

Upcoming 2024 Reunions and Events

For more details on upcoming events visit our [alumni events calendar](#), information will be updated as it becomes available. Email reunions.alumni@otago.ac.nz if you would like more details or are interested in organising a reunion for your class.

Apr

08

**Home Science Class
of 1966 Reunion**

Oct

18

**Medical Class of
1979 Reunion**

Oct

25

**Dental Class of 1984
Reunion**

Nov

22

**Medical Class of
1974 (TBC)**



Why We ♥ Otago

“Passing the torch” - gifted surgeon calls time

Distinguished Otago medical alumnus, Vascular and Transplant surgeon, and keen wildlife and astro photographer, Professor Justin Roake, has retired after a decades-long career as Professor of Surgery at the University of Otago, Christchurch.

[Why We ♥ Otago...](#)



Opportunities for Alumni

On the lookout for some autumn reading? Sign up to our quarterly [University of Otago Alumni Book Recommendations e-newsletter](#).



Alumni In The News

Dr Olive Webb and **Stuart Muir** are finalists in Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year awards; seven alumnae are named in **Cuisine Top 50 Women** in Food and Drink NZ; **Joel Woods** and **Ben Wallace** of Holiday Records launch Bio Vinyl, **Dr Katie Cooper** and **Dr Rebecca Rice** co-author new Te Papa book.

[Alumni in the news...](#)



Networks and Events

The year has started with some important alumni events including the welcoming of alumni scholarship recipients to the University, and alumni events in New Plymouth, Tauranga, and Napier where Professor Robert Patman was the guest speaker. We also welcomed our younger alumni to Auckland at an event in the CBD.

[Networks and Events...](#)



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