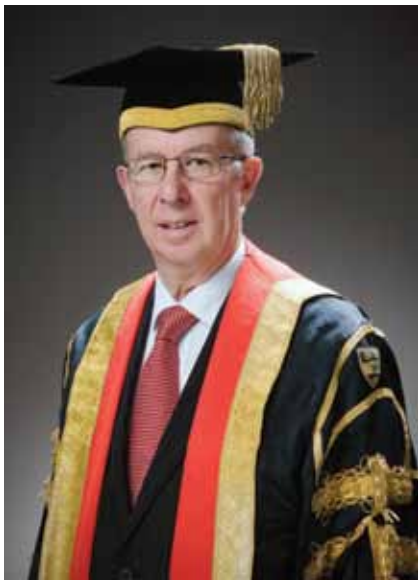




INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHANCELLOR



At Victoria we have celebrated many outstanding successes throughout the year, and it has been extremely pleasing to see a number of our major projects through to their conclusion. One of the more rewarding aspects of university life, of course, is graduation which is always a well-deserved celebration for our students and staff.

The University Council has also been faced with some difficult decisions in response to the challenging tertiary environment. However, I am confident that all our decisions have been made with the best future of our students and staff in mind, and the continuing quality of Victoria.

MANAGING ENROLMENTS

Early in 2010, the University Council was faced with the difficult decision of having to manage enrolments for the remainder of the year. This meant limiting domestic undergraduate enrolments for Trimesters Two and Three. The University took steps to manage numbers at the beginning of the year, but while those measures had a considerable impact, it was not enough to cope with the acceleration in demand we were seeing.

Operating in a capped funding environment and having to manage enrolment numbers has required some adjustment in culture for both universities themselves and those who want to go to university. This is a reality, and all are having to work within that framework.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

The University has continued to make excellent progress towards achieving its strategic goals. Here, a key focus has been to invest in enhancing the student experience.

Some major capital investments projects came to fruition in 2010. The Alan MacDiarmid Building for research and specialised teaching in the sciences was officially opened by Prime Minister Rt Hon John Key in July. The building features state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, and houses the Nobel Prize medal of Victoria alumnus the late Professor Alan MacDiarmid, which we hope will inspire future generations of top scientists.

A further proud event for the University was the opening of the Keith and Faith Taylor Cancer Research Laboratories, built in partnership with the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research, based at our Kelburn Campus. These new laboratories will assist researchers in their quest to develop vaccines for cancer and other diseases.

It has been a pleasure to work more closely with the student body this year to improve facilities for students. The Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association (VUWSA) and the VUWSA Trust, along with the Old Boys University Rugby Club and the Victoria University Foundation, have provided substantial financial and advisory support for the development of the Boyd-Wilson Field. This development is now complete, and the new artificial turf means the field can be used at any time, regardless of the weather.

VUWSA and the VUWSA Trust have also provided support for the Campus Hub project to revitalise Kelburn Campus. The Council is excited about the improved social and study spaces that are being created for students. This is projected to be ready in 2013.



ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

It was an honour and a pleasure to preside over two graduations in May and December, to congratulate Victoria's newest alumni. In 2010, 2,963 students graduated in eight ceremonies. This year, the University Council awarded honorary doctorates to chemist Professor Martin Banwell, historian Professor Donald Akenson and scientist Professor Sir Paul Callaghan.

Roger Drummond, Leone Harkness, Peter Hughes and William Sheat were awarded Hunter Fellowships for their substantial contribution to the advancement of the University's strategic direction and goals.

The calibre of nominees for the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Awards was outstanding and selecting winners was difficult. The recipients are: entrepreneur Rod Drury; distinguished legal expert Sir Thomas Gault; artist Piera McArthur; former Mayor of Wellington Kerry Prendergast; professional accountant and well-known commentator on tax matters John Shewan; and film director, writer, comedian and actor Taika Waititi.

Hosting the Chancellor's Dinner was a further pleasure in 2010. It was an excellent opportunity to thank a number of supporters who contribute to developing Victoria to ensure it is the best it can be.

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

At the beginning of the year, the Council welcomed student members Max Hardy and Conrad Reyners. At the end of this year, Emeritus Professor Tim Beaglehole, Associate Professor Dolores Janiewski and Max Hardy were farewelled. Further, Council was sad to learn of the passing of University Council member Mary Bruce at the beginning of January 2011. She was a member of the Council of the Wellington College of Education from 2002 until the merger on 1 January 2005, after which she was co-opted onto the University Council for two terms. She made a considerable contribution to the governance of the University and will be greatly missed.

I would also like to pay special tribute to Tim Beaglehole, not only for his lengthy period as a member of Council, both as Pro-Chancellor and for five years as Chancellor, but also for his 60 years of involvement with Victoria. His outstanding contribution cannot be overstated; his dedication and commitment to Victoria have been much valued.

Further, on behalf of the Council I wish to record thanks to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Pat Walsh, for his leadership of the University during 2010. It was a year of considerable demands, but the challenges have been successfully met to the benefit of Victoria.

Ian McKinnon
Chancellor