

LINDSAY FOUNDATION GRANT BUILDS ANIMAL RESCUE CAPABILITY



The Veterinary Emergency Response Team with their new equipment trailer, funded by The Lindsay Foundation

A \$30,000 grant from the Lindsay Foundation has funded vital new equipment and training for Massey University's Veterinary Emergency Response Team (VERT).

The team is New Zealand's specialist animal-incident response and rescue team, assisting in single animal rescues as well as large-scale animal rescues and welfare management in disasters.

Staffed by volunteers from Massey, VERT was part of the response to the 2011 Christchurch earthquake and was also deployed in the 2017 Edgcumbe floods, the 2019 Nelson and Tasman fires, and in Hawke's Bay following Cyclone Gabrielle last year.

VERT Treasurer Neroli Thomson says the \$30,417 in funding from the Lindsay Foundation enabled it to buy a new trailer after its previous vehicle was decommissioned.

"We can fit all our equipment in the new trailer, so no matter what the incident – whether it's evacuating pets from flooded houses or extracting a horse from a muddy trench, we can just hook up the trailer and go."

The grant also paid for some training in rural fire awareness and flood and swift-water response.



The VERT crew practising swift-water rescue skills using their rapid-deployment craft on the Otaki River

"We had a great weekend in the Otaki River, refreshing our swift-water rescue skills and bringing the new recruits up to speed. We also bought uniforms for our recruits and a couple of radios. The team is thriving, and we are so grateful to the Lindsay Foundation for their support."

Lindsay Foundation chief executive Andrew Higgott says VERT's application "very much

aligned with our focus of providing care and dignity for animals and livestock throughout New Zealand.

"The weather events of 2023 were catastrophic for rural communities right across the central North Island. We are delighted to assist VERT with the essential training and equipment required to facilitate rescues in such events."

VETERINARY STUDENTS SHARPENING PRACTICAL SKILLS AT LEADING-EDGE LAB

Massey veterinary science graduates are hitting the workforce more proficient in practical skills thanks to a purpose-built lab supported through the Massey University Foundation.



Fifth-year vet students using a high-fidelity model of a cow to correct the positioning of a calf and extract it.

The veterinary Clinical Skills Lab allows students to practice technical tasks on models, such as suturing and inserting catheters, building their skill-level and confidence before they perform the procedures on live animals.

It is part of a \$160 million upgrade to Massey's School of Veterinary Science facilities, that has also so far received \$300,900 in resource funding through the Foundation. This includes \$58,400 from the Jack and Gladys Howe Fund, administered by Perpetual Guardian, as well as \$225,000 from the School of Veterinary Science and donations from The Vet Company, Zoetis and Provet New Zealand.

Professor Jon Huxley, Head of the School of Veterinary Science, says the lab is a "genuine world-class facility", delivering major wins for veterinary students and animal welfare.

"It allows students to practise what are some really complicated manual skills and develop the muscle memory they need in a low-pressure, safe environment.

"We end up with students and graduates with improved skills, who are more practically ready when they leave us."

Funding through the Foundation – including for the purchase of expensive, high-fidelity practice models as well as other consumables – has enhanced the teaching and learning taking place in the lab.

"Clinical skills labs are expensive to run, and basically, the more we can spend, the better the learning experience. Massey is at the 'front-edge' in terms of these facilities."

Emma Gordon, Senior Lecturer in Veterinary Simulation-based Education, says some 750 veterinary science students will use the lab this year, practising a range of technical and surgical skills, such as inserting an IV catheter in a dog, rectally examining a cow, donning surgical attire and suturing.

Prior to using the lab, students would often have to attempt procedures for the first time on live animals, and nerves and inexperience meant they were less likely to succeed on their first attempt.

Professor Huxley says use of the lab is an essential component of the school's new curriculum, which has a greater emphasis on developing practical, clinical skills.

Students can take charge of their own learning, undertaking self-directed practice in the lab outside lecture time to develop their skills.

SCHOOL LEAVER SCHOLARSHIPS SWEETEN AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE STUDY

Massey University Foundation scholarships are making it more affordable and attractive to study agriculture and horticulture, as the two lynchpin primary industries struggle to recruit enough graduates.

The School of Agriculture and Environment awarded scholarships each worth at least \$5000 to nearly 40 first-year students this year - part of a broader push by the university to entice more school leavers into careers supporting New Zealand's primary sector.

Professor Paul Kenyon, Head of the School of Agriculture and Environment, says Massey graduates are highly sought after and landing excellent jobs – but graduate numbers do not meet industry demand.

Opportunities for Massey graduates in agricultural and horticultural science and agribusiness are many and varied.

"There are over 300,000 roles directly or indirectly related to agriculture or horticulture in New Zealand. There are jobs at every stage of the value chain – from on farm or orchard right through to advisory and research roles."

Applications for the scholarships, now in their third year, are increasing steadily, Paul says.

The fund can support up to 50 students a year for the next four years, and the school is seeking co-funders so it can offer more students financial help and sustain the scholarships indefinitely.

The scholarships complement the school's other initiatives to promote agriculture and horticulture as study and career choices, including developing course material for high-schools, guest teaching in high-schools and hosting visits from schools.

"Through our work with schools and involvement with the Horticulture and Agriculture Teachers Association, we're hearing that cost is a major barrier to university study."

Most scholarships awarded by the school are for second or third-year undergraduate, or postgraduate students, and the scrapping of the first-year fees-free policy may further deter prospective university students, Paul says.

"We felt there was a gap in support for first-year, full-time students."

Scholarship recipient Caley McNair says she received \$5000, which has helped cover her accommodation costs. Without it, she would have had to find part-time work.



Foundation scholarship recipient Caley McNair

"The scholarship means I have been able to just focus on my course this year. It's made my first year much easier"

Caley says she hopes her Bachelor of Horticultural Science will lead to a career in the fruit industry.

FOUNDATION BOARD RECRUITS BANKING BOSS AND ENERGY ENTREPRENEUR

Former bank chief Ross McEwan and international entrepreneur Adam Peren have joined the Massey University Foundation Board, as it pushes for \$100 million in net assets by 2027.

Ross, a Massey alumnus, is the former Chief Executive of National Australia Bank and also headed the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Adam – the grandson of Massey’s founding principal Sir Geoffrey Peren – is the chairman of biogenic hydrogen (renewable energy) ventures in New Zealand and the United States.

The board has set itself the targets of reaching \$100m in assets in the next three years – the university’s centenary - and \$500m in assets by 2047. Foundation assets currently sit at about \$65m.

Ross says the \$100m goal will be challenging but achievable in present economic conditions, which underscore the importance of the Foundation’s work in supporting students financially.

“I think people are looking to get involved in something meaningful. The Foundation is something people can really engage with and get pleasure out of. The board is doing a great job.”

Ross and his wife Stephanie – a Massey alumna – established the McEwan Pacific Student Scholarships in 2019 with a gift of \$674,000, to redress a gap in support for Pacific Island students.

“We wanted to help people get degrees and great jobs afterwards and it’s very satisfying to see that happening.”

Adam says the Foundation plays a vital role in sourcing external funding, enabling the university to secure and progress top academic talent, technology and resources to help solve major global and national challenges.

“That’s the message I’ll be preaching, to attract serious donations that will allow the Foundation to be nimble in directing capital where it sees fit.”

Those challenges include global warming, overpopulation and New Zealand’s uncertain future as the food basket of Asia; while artificial intelligence will be a major disruptor - overhauling the job market and skillsets required of employees, he says.



Ross McEwan

Adam Peren

Massey has a strong pedigree in creative problem-solving and applying those bright ideas for real-world results and financial returns.

“I’m excited to bring my practical experience and drive to leverage innovation to the mix.”

Ross also serves on the boards of mining giant BHP, defence technology firm QinetiQ and methane-reduction technology company Ruminant BioTech.

He is delighted to be giving back to Massey, he says, where he gained a Bachelor of Business Studies majoring in Personnel Management, and was also exposed to a wide range of people and experiences.

“The more people who can have similar opportunities, the better.”

Adam earned a Bachelor of Commerce at Canterbury University before working in financial markets throughout the 1980s. He moved to central Otago in the mid-1990s to commercialise the budding pinot noir industry.

Ross and Adam join chair Bryan Mogridge, Massey Vice-Chancellor Professor Jan Thomas, Professor Wayne McIlwraith, Dianne Kidd, Shelley Turner and Paul Bayly on the board.

TOP TECHNOLOGY TALENT JOINS FRIENDS OF MASSEY USA BOARD

Massey’s charitable trust in the United States has added leading technology entrepreneurs Craig Walker and Josh Feast to its board.

The two Massey alumni, both based in the eastern US, say they are excited to leverage their skills, knowledge and connections to invigorate the expat alumni community in the US and enhance Massey’s brand and offering.

Currently Chief Product Officer at accounts receivable software specialist Versapay, Craig also co-founded Xero and served as its founding Chief Technology Officer. Josh is the co-founder of Cogito Corp – a provider of artificial intelligence-powered call centre software.

Craig says Massey had a marked influence on where and who he is today. It was there that he discovered an affinity for Information Science - prompting a switch to a Bachelor of Science degree.

He serendipitously found his first job at Massey, after spying a poster on campus advertising graduate roles. That job was with Glazier Systems – a Wellington software development and consulting company established by Rod Drury, with whom he would later co-found Xero.

“It was a complete stroke of luck and basically springboarded my whole career.

“I grew up a lot at Massey and developed lifelong friendships. I enjoyed the true campus atmosphere, which feels closer to a US campus environment and is probably unique to Massey among New Zealand universities.”



Craig Walker

Josh Feast

Craig says he’s excited at the prospect of giving back and strengthening Massey’s brand.

“I strongly believe in the value of a tertiary education and want to see Massey continue to excel at delivering that for young New Zealanders. I want Massey to be their first choice.”

Josh completed a Bachelor of Technology with Honours in 1999, and says the course was “incredibly forward thinking”; combining design, engineering and business.

He won a Fulbright scholarship to study at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he received a MBA in Technology Entrepreneurship.

Josh then founded Cogito. The firm’s software reads human behaviour and guides users to optimise call centre conversations.

The rise of AI means graduates need to be creative, independent and proactive in responding to dynamic demand for skills, Josh says.

“Kiwis tend to be pretty good at that anyway and Massey has tonnes of strength in these areas.”

He hopes to strengthen the community of US-based Massey alumni, and sees an opportunity to build on connections with US universities and businesses for the benefit of Massey and its students.

“Kiwis can tend to burrow into US society, I’m hoping to dig them out. A lot of people might want to give back but be unaware of the opportunities.”

Friends of Massey USA was formed in 2010 to fundraise in the USA on behalf of the university. Each year it contributes about NZ\$350,000 to the Massey University Foundation.

Josh and Craig join equine orthopaedic surgeon and Foundation trustee Professor Wayne McIlwraith and global entrepreneur Linda Jenkinson as trustees. Agricultural economist Dr John Reid is retiring from the board, after 14 years of service.

ALUMNI GIVING: ANNUAL APPEAL DONATIONS KICKSTART UNDERGRAD NURSING SCHOLARSHIP, LIFT STUDENT HARDSHIP FUND OVER \$1 MILLION



Charlotte Pettigrew-Heeps

Alumni giving has launched Massey’s Bachelor of Nursing scholarship and boosted the fund supporting bursaries for students in hardship to over \$1 million.

More than 500 alumni together gave over \$102,000 to the Massey University Foundation’s annual appeal last year. Alumni gave more than \$25,600 towards Massey’s first undergraduate scholarship for students enrolled in its highly regarded Bachelor of Nursing.

The scholarship was established to attract students to nursing and offer them financial support during the programme, as New Zealand continues to suffer from a shortage of nurses.

The fund supporting the scholarship has reached over \$100,000 – entirely financed by alumni.

Inaugural recipient Charlotte Pettigrew-Heeps, in her second year of her Bachelor of Nursing, says the scholarship will cover a large chunk of her course costs and has negated the need for her to work while studying full-time.

Rent and grocery costs, utilities bills and extra costs associated with placements, such as travel costs, make it “incredibly tricky” to get by as a nursing student, she says.

“We’re not using the heaters in our house because that makes our power bill too expensive.

“I feel so grateful for the scholarship. A lot of my friends are struggling as well and working just as hard as I am. \$6000 is an incredible amount for a student.”

The scholarship is a fantastic financial leg-up for nursing students in New Zealand, particularly in light of the financial incentives offered to their peers in Australia – including paid placements, she says.

Charlotte initially enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts but soon realised the degree was not for her. Following a long-held desire to work in healthcare, she signed up to Massey’s Bachelor of Nursing and hasn’t looked back.

“I was never really huge on school but I am really enjoying nursing and all of my university work, it’s not a chore at all.”

The Foundation also sought donations towards the Bootten Bequest Bursaries – which support students facing financial hardship. The \$66,615 in contributions saw the fund – which began as a \$68,000 bequest from the late Mrs C Bootten in the early 1980s – tip over the \$1m mark.

Since 2009, the Foundation has elicited more than \$457,000 in donations to the fund, and awarded over \$325,000 in bursaries to students. Last year, 20 students received a total of \$43,000 in financial support.

Alumni giving to the appeal also contributed over \$8300 to the University’s unrestricted fund. That money will go towards scholarships to attract students to Massey.

Foundation director Mitch Murdoch says she is humbled by the ongoing generosity of alumni.

“Our sincere thanks to all who donated through the annual appeal, your donations are having a direct and meaningful impact on the Massey students of today.”