

Issue 5



# Te Aka Tauira



## Inside:

SIX60 returns to its roots  
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Te ao Māori is in all things Genetics

# NEW QUEER SUPPORT SPACE

**OUSA Student President** > Michaela Waite-Harvey



Having a queer space on campus has been a long-held goal of the OUSA executive over the past four years. At the end of last year OUSA finally secured a suitable location to fit the requirements of a dedicated safe space for students in the Rainbow community.

This dedicated space is important in acknowledging that our queer and questioning students on campus are a vulnerable group, this place will ensure they are safe from discrimination. This is the second rainbow space in the university sector and it has been heartening to see the launch of our space spurring discussions at other universities about introducing something similar.

The Queer Support Space is located on the first floor of the Union Building and is for University of Otago queer and questioning students to enjoy. It has activities as well as kitchen facilities, including a fridge, microwave, hot water and a sink. Access is restricted to swipe card access via your UoO Student ID card. The online form to gain access can be found on the OUSA Student Support HUB website as well as the policy and rules that outline expectations for users of the space.

## August News

### This issue:

- » SIX60 Returns to its roots
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- » Māori are important at Medical School
- » What is Academic Integrity?
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*Cover image: SIX60's recently returned to Otago to purchase a piece of their origin story*

### In other news:



- » Celebrating Humanities at Otago
- » Returning International Students
- » A scholarship with purpose
- » Sustainability Neighbourhood
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# Making Otago Football history

The Otago University Football Club recently made history as the first Otago team to progress to the final of the Chatham Cup.

The game was the quarter final, which was the farthest the University's football club had ever progressed. The team was the last of two South Island teams in the Cup. Ben Deeley who is currently on the team says that he's incredibly proud of how far the team have gotten this year.

"We are currently top which is a huge achievement. If we make the top two then we would make the National League. I'm quite proud to represent the university, it makes it quite special and playing with your peers is exciting."

"I'm loving to be part of the team. I'm hoping now we can push forward to the National League. Our team is made up of individuals 17 -22 years old and we are playing against older teams - showing we can compete at their level is exciting."

Midfielder Oban Hawkins says that though the team didn't make it to the semi-finals, they're proud of how far they got.

"It means a lot to us to have made history but we're super gutted that we didn't go that extra bit further with the semi being so close so it makes it all quite bittersweet."

The team are looking forward to representing Otago at the Southern Conference of the National League later this year.



"I'm quite proud to represent the university, it makes it special and playing with your peers is exciting."



## SIX60 returns to its roots

Iconic music group SIX60 have bought their old flat and teamed up with the University, signing an agreement today at the newly-built School of Performing Arts, under which both SIX60 and the University will provide two \$10,000 a year scholarships each, for a total of four aspiring Performing Arts students to live at the flat.

The successful applicants will get to live at the iconic Castle Street house where the band got their big break, plus the opportunity to receive some mentoring from the band.

The scholarships are the latest example of collegiality beyond the normal at Otago. Students at the University form incredibly strong bonds with their friends when they live together in Dunedin. These friendships last for the rest of their lives and we are constantly amazed by what Otago alumni go on to contribute to the world. Six60 embodies this and their remarkable journey is a precious part of Otago's story. SIX60 lead singer Matiu Walters says the band is ecstatic to be giving back to a place that gave them their big break.

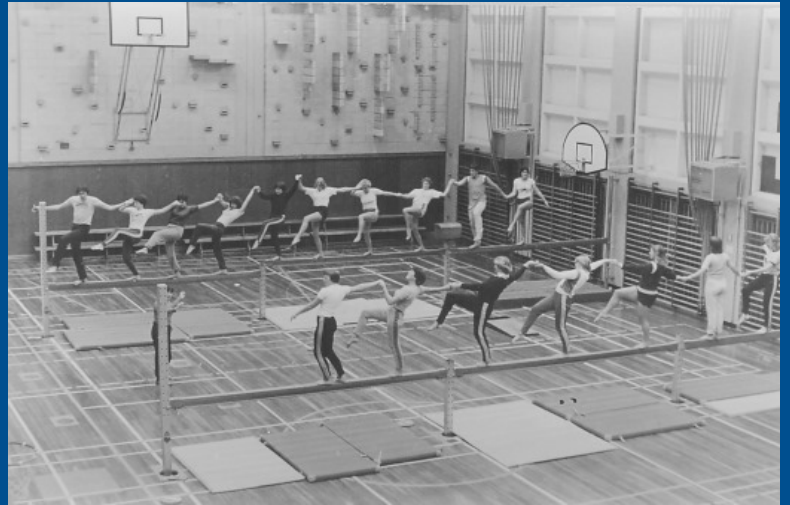
"Our roots have always been in Dunedin and at 660 Castle Street. Owning the house and being able to preserve its mana is something we have always dreamed of, but being able to realise it now is incredible. The University has always been as important a part of the SIX60 story as the house, so to be able to partner with Otago, give back and create an opportunity for the next generation to start their journey is something we are really excited about."

The four scholarships and the possibilities of some mentoring from the band are exciting developments that will support some current Otago students to pursue their dreams in the music world.

# PICS OF THE MONTH



Frosty winter mornings on the Dunedin Campus



Throwback Thursday from Otago Facebook - School of Physical Education, circa 1970



Student Tara Shepherd meets with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern during the Westport Floods



Humanities students catch up with high school students to talk study-life at Otago

**Have an image to show off?**

Send it to:  
[communications@otago.ac.nz](mailto:communications@otago.ac.nz)



## Stepping up in local state of emergency

One student step in to help her community when a local state of emergency was declared in Westport last month.

Bachelor of Laws and Arts (Politics and Environmental Management) student Tara Shepherd spends her summer months as Support Officer Solid Waste Management for Buller District Council. While home during the break between semesters this year she decided to pick up some hours in her hometown, but she had no idea what was coming.

In July the Buller River overflowed in what was the largest flood flow of any New Zealand river in almost 100 years.

"I was on the night shift as the Welfare Manager when the flooding started. It was a huge amount of work with deploying Police and taking distress calls. We had one man who was 86 and his niece was calling from Australia worried that he was in trouble."

"Due to the extensive damage to people's homes and belongings, the town had a lot of waste to remove. We had 1017 tonnes of rubbish to deal with that week, in comparison to our usual 100 tonnes per month. As I know the local waste management system, I set up a waste management plan. I coordinated local contractors and the army to implement a free disposal collection.

Tara also had the important job of speaking with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern about the extensive damage to the town.

"During the clean-up I spent the day with Jacinda Ardern while she visited Westport. I had the task of explaining to her just how much of a burden this waste would be on the town financially and emotionally."

This isn't the 19-year-old's first experience in explaining to local and national government the importance of investing in effective waste management.

In 2019, Tara took on the project of getting a petition signed to prevent potential marine disaster with Hector Landfill.

"Over that time I was even interviewed by John Campbell. Hector Landfill used to be state-owned but it was closed in the late 1980s. There was a lot of erosion and rubbish and it was becoming a risk to the sea and surrounding residential areas. I made a petition and originally it only got a few hundred signatures. A few months later I was invited to the Provincial Growth Fund Announcement."

It was announced that \$1 million would go toward building a wall around the landfill to prevent waste making its way into the water – as the rubbish would be too dangerous to mine.

Tara has Fibrolipomatous hamartoma in her right hand and Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome which can cause extreme fatigue. The first-year student hasn't let that hold her back in the slightest when making a difference for others.

"I've been a Youth Advisor for the Minister Hipkins Education Advisory Group for the past two years. I get to bring my perspective as a student from a rural town who had to complete half of my subjects by distance learning and as a student with a disability."

So far, only one semester in, Tara is enjoying her studies and looking forward to doing even more with her education to help other New Zealanders.

"I chose Otago because my mum studied here and I have always loved Dunedin. My parents encouraged me to travel New Zealand before seeing other countries and through my travels I've always felt that Otago has a beauty to it and a legacy. When I graduate I would like to be a diplomat – I think that's a well-rounded way to represent New Zealand. I love Westport and I will gladly retire back there too."

# STUDY TIPS FOR NEWBIES

## August Study Tips Plagiarism

In academic writing we draw on other people's knowledge and/or work to show what is already known in order to explain our own ideas. However, if we don't acknowledge where we have got our information, we are plagiarising.

### Plagiarism prevention checklist

Before submitting your work, make sure you have:

- » Clearly identified and referenced quotations, summaries or paraphrases, images, figures, and diagrams taken from another source.
- » Paraphrased and/or summarised adequately.
- » Acknowledged other people's texts or ideas.
- » NOT used copy and paste to take text from another source unless it is a direct quotation and you have put it in quotation marks and referenced it.
- » Included a complete and accurate reference list or bibliography of all work cited.
- » NOT used another student's work, submitted someone else's work as your own, or submitted your own previously submitted work.
- » Submitted a draft assignment through Turnitin if available.
- » Asked for help if you are not sure (prior to the due date!)

Find out more [here](#).



## “Māori is integrated in all things Genetics.”

“Ngā mihi kia koe, ko Te Whetu Aarahi ahau. He uri au o Te Tairāwhiti, arā, ka hoki ōku tapuwae ki tōku ūkaipō o Waituhi, kei Tūranganui-a-Kiwa. Kei Otepoti au e noho i tēnei wā kia whai tika i te ara mātauranga, kia whiwhi i tōku tohu Bachelor of Applied Science e pā ana ki te pūtaiao taihara me te mātai ira.

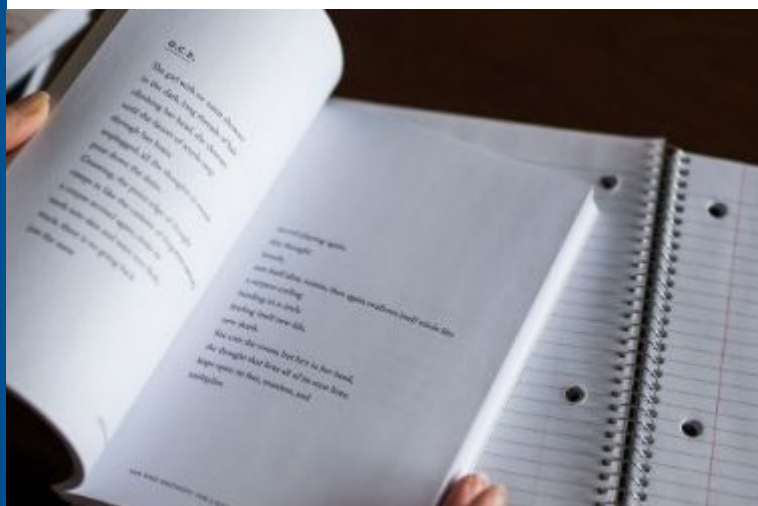
“Kei te whai au i te ara pūtaiao i te mea ka ahua taupapatu te mātauranga pūtaiao me te mātauranga Māori, hei aha, ka mōhio au ka taea te hono pai Te Ao Māori me te ao pūtaiao. Ka kite au i ngā rangatahi Māori e whaihua i roto i te ao pūtaiao, inā hoki ka horopaki ana Te Ao Māori i ngā mea pūtaiao katoa.

“He kupu hoki mō ngā tauira kei te Kura Kaupapa - Ka tino mōhio au he maha ngā mea hei ārei i a mātou, ngā mokopuna o te ao hou, engari me whai tika te ara mātauranga kia tūtuki pai i ngā taumata teitei. Tō ringa ki te rākau e hoa. Māku e whakaū, he ara māmā noaiho tēnei mōu, otirā, ko tō Māoritanga te toko e āwhina i a koe. Karawhiau!

“Ko koe te manu e kai ana i te mātauranga, nā reira nōu te ao.”

Combining her passion for te ao Māori and science wasn't the original plan, but for Te Whetu Kerekere, she couldn't have picked a more perfect combination.

“It's more than just bringing the language, tikanga Māori is also important. How Māori do things, their belief systems and narratives are important for science professionals to understand. I have an advantage of understanding both which makes a difference when you work with people and science. Often te ao Māori and western science clash with each other in this way, but in fact they can co-exist.”





## “The mix of medicine and people, that’s where my passion is.”

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery third-year student Nic Sinnott started off his journey at Otago in 2019 and is already using his studies for research.

“I had the awesome opportunity to do an internship in Hawkes Bay over summer working for the Māori Health team at the DHB and assisting with research. I found that a lot of people up north have difficult relationships with health care.

“It was a great hands-on experience and I appreciated having the time to sit down and talk to other Māori men about visiting the doctor. The assumption is often made that if they don’t turn up it’s their fault but it’s not that simple. These people have families to feed, lack of sick leave or annual leave and money can be tight.

“I’ve found the forefathers of medicine have suggested you need to leave your Māori cloak at the door. I’ve been happy to see that the Medical School have tried to change this way of thinking.

“Hauora Māori is a big part of our learning and we’re even required to know 100 basic Māori words for our exams.

A hurdle the 21-year-old has found is that because his skin-tone doesn’t appear to match people’s expectations he has had to have some tough conversations.

“People from all walks of life often look at me and it’s not until I talk to them that they realise that I don’t fit into a box. I was recently asked by someone if I saw myself as Pākehā or Māori and I can’t think of myself that way. I think it’s important to have these conversations rather than making assumptions based on skin-colour. I say whakapapa is whakapapa.”

While this at times has been a challenge, Nic says he has an opportunity here to make a difference in his chosen field for the wider community.

The Otago Global Student Exchange programme faced a challenging year in 2020.

Just weeks into semester 1, 120 Otago exchange students returned to New Zealand in the wake of the emerging pandemic. This year is looking a little different to previous ones but with the Trans-Tasman bubble, students have been able to again take up the opportunity to study abroad.

Manager of International Student Services Danielle Yamamoto Kerr says the programme is a highlight for many students and one she’s thrilled can still go ahead this year.

Earlier this month seven Otago students set off on their exchange to Australian universities and 25 exchange students from Australia arrived at the Dunedin campus.

“When the Trans-Tasman bubble was announced the University of Melbourne and the University of Western Australia were quick to get in touch with us. Applications had to be processed quickly but it is just lovely to have the students here now.”

“It’s wonderful for the students. Some of them have been waiting over 18 months for this and had to put their previous plans on pause. For a number of them it’s their last chance to participate in an exchange programme.”

Georgia Seitanidi who is also a second-year Biomedicine student from the University of Melbourne has been pleasantly surprised at how different tertiary life in New Zealand is compared to Australia.

“It’s so expensive in Melbourne so everyone just lives with their parents. Here you get to know people so much easier with the student houses and flats. It’s a very different university culture.”



## “Here you get to know people so much easier - It’s a very different university culture.”

# KEY DATES & EVENTS

## September | Mahuru

06	Semester 2 resumes
15	2021 Summer Jobs and Beyond (Expo)
24	Bike Grab
29	Blues and Golds Awards

## October | Whiringa-ā-nuku

15	Bike Grab
22	Diversion Day
25	Labour Day

## Regular Events

	The Health Sciences First Year Integrated Context Lecture Series (ICLS)
	Lunchtime Concerts
	Lunchtime Theatre
	Diversion Day