

Issue 2



Te Aka Taurira



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SUSTAINABILITY AT OTAGO

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Sustainability at Otago



Full to the brim with exciting events and key messages was Sustainability Week 2021.

Last month, the Sustainability Office made it their mantra to cover every area of sustainability they could. From mental health to environmental awareness, the week was full of ideas on how to make student living healthier in every way. With an estimated turnout of more than 500 students, 2021 is already shaping up to be an even more sustainable year for the Dunedin Campus.

Sustainability Office Engagement Coordinator Jesikah Triscott says the event is always an important one but this year was slightly different to previous years.

“We saw this as an opportunity to challenge traditional perspectives on sustainability. It broke away from only environmental challenges and captured elements of social, political and economic sustainability too – celebrating local legends along the way.”

Sustainability Week is an annual event which will return next year. For now more ideas on how to live sustainably as well as further events can be found at the Otago Sustainability Office. You can also listen in to the student run Sustainability Sussed podcast.

April News

This issue:

- » Skip Days are cancelled
- » Cult classic Dunedin debut
- » Pics of the month
- » Kiwi rapper making his mark
- » Relay for Life
- » April study tips
- » Ten students, one aiga
- » Botanic volunteers

In other news:



- » Scholarships for outstanding achievement
- » Students excel at Dunedin Concerto Competition
- » Ones to Watch: Charlotte Fuller
- » Students for a cause: Cricket Live Foundation
- » Ones to Watch: Bess Park

From Broadway stage to Dunedin debut

This month, *Heathers: The Musical*, made its Dunedin debut in a less formal theatre style. With a line-up of talented young performers, many of whom are Otago students and alumni, the cast and creative team alike have been buzzing with enthusiasm about the creative process of producing this cult-classic.

Playwriting Fellow Amanda Faye Martin has enjoyed piecing together the production which opened on 15 April at New New New Brewery.

"It's a non-traditional theatre space which has been fun to work with. It requires me to be creative and constantly problem solve."

Bachelor of Performing Arts student Kane Welsh has been the dedicated Production Assistant for this huge project.

"I am really excited. Over the last few weeks the cast have made leaps in their performance. I like the idea of making theatre more accessible and giving the audience a chance to be immersed in the scene, experiencing being part of the musical. It's theatre where you can get up and grab a drink while still watching."

You can keep up with more Pop Up Productions events and auditions for future shows here.



"I like the idea of making theatre more accessible and giving the audience a chance to be immersed in the scene, experiencing being part of the musical."



Skip Days are cancelled

Once upon a time, Skip Days were a monthly event which would see skip bins placed around the student district for general waste disposal.

Diversion Day is the new bi-monthly event which encourages recycling waste and environmental literacy. The bins will be located at Clyde and Marsh Street where students can let go of excess rubbish responsibly.

OUSA Student President Michaela Waite-Harvey says Diversion Days are a change that is needed.

"Diversion Days were collaboratively developed as an alternative to Skip Days. Improving sustainable practices among students is a priority for OUSA and changing skip days to Diversion Days is a big part of that. Collectively, we're pushing for better for the environment from our students."

Students are encouraged to come along with their rubbish types already separated and with their student ID ready to go. The next Diversion Day will be on 28 May.

In between Diversion Day students can present their student ID at the Transfer Station near the stadium to dispose of excess rubbish for free.

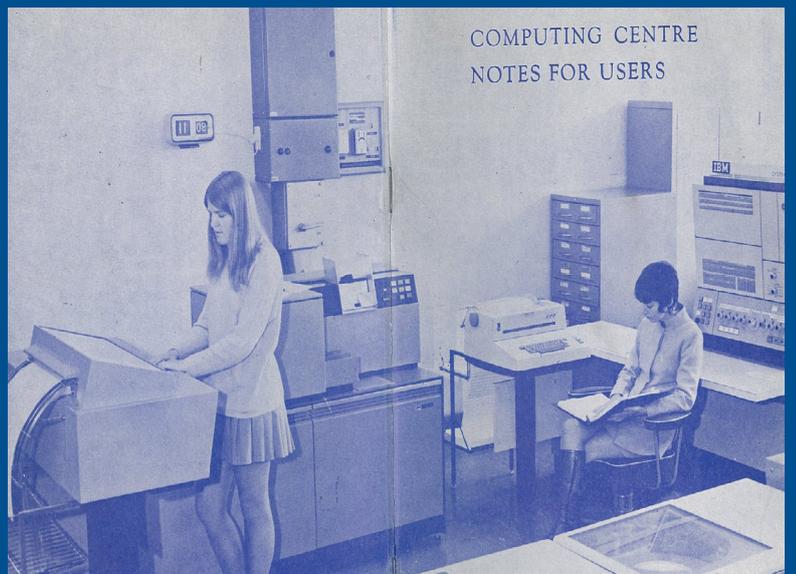
PICS OF THE MONTH



Sustainability Week Drag Show: Planet D



Students in Heathers; The Musical - Photo by Max McCormick



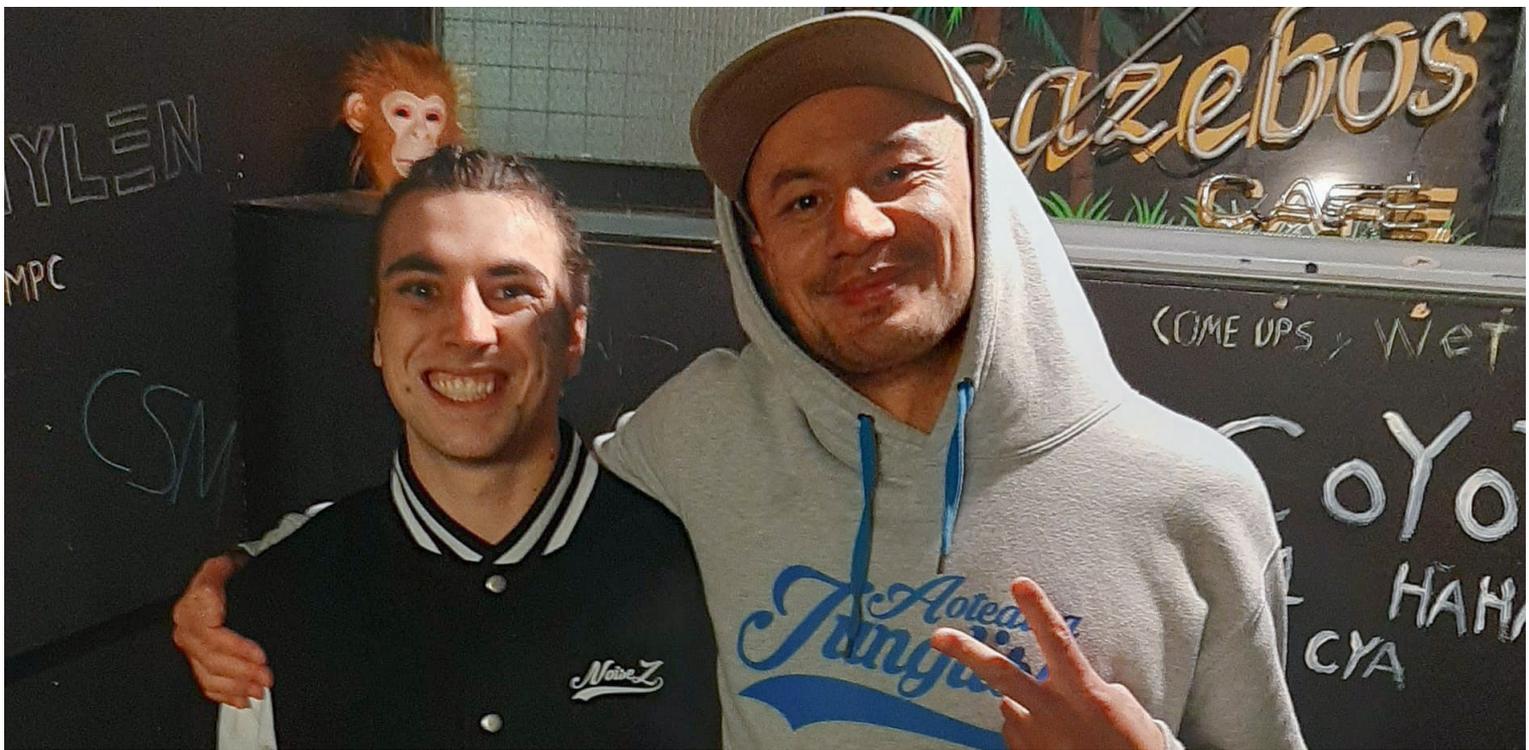
Computing Centre Throwback (1971)



Autumn on the Dunedin Campus

Have an image to show off?

Send it to:
communications@otago.ac.nz



“Going through the stages of learning to walk again gives you some perspective.”

From military training to a hospital bed, an up and coming rapper has a message to inspire.

Bachelor of Music first-year Tane Mercer is not just any performer. With a story of resilience and a passion for encouraging other young people, he is already making waves in the world of rap music.

“In 2018 I got hit by a truck. I was at a pedestrian crossing and the driver was on his phone. The accident sent me flying 17 metres and left me with a broken spine and ribs.

“Bedridden, I was unable to change the station if I didn't like the song. A lot of the messages I heard in this music weren't necessarily a positive influence for young people. It wasn't just the fact that it wasn't positive either, a lot of it didn't feel authentic and was quite repetitive. It got me thinking maybe I could do something.”

Tane had spent the past few weeks training at Limited Service Volunteer (LSV) at the New Zealand Defence Force with a future career in the military as his goal. After his accident, the then 20-year-old, had to change his career-path.

“Starting my studies here has reiterated to me that this is where I'm meant to be. I was nervous to be here but being with the staff and working in this atmosphere has shown me I'm in the right place.”

Going by the stage name Mercernary, Tane has performed at Rhythm and Vines and previously been named Dunedin Battle Rap Champion. Tane has recently gained the attention of Noise Zealand producer Charlie Brown who is known by the name Optimus Gryme.

“I was working the door at an Optimus Gryme and when I saw an opportunity that evening, I went and introduced myself and asked if I could rap for him. He said 'yeah of course' and afterwards he asked if he could make beats for me.”

“He's someone I've looked up to from a young age and now I've done a show with him. He's the nicest person and in a way he's been mentoring me.”

Over Facebook, Optimus Gryme praised the Tane's work in a video which reached engagement from musicians such as Tiki Tane and Che Fu.

“Nine months ago the DEEPER_FREQ crew brought me to Dunedin for a gig. A guy came up to me and asked if he could spit me some bars. That happens (especially at an after party), and it ends up being average to say the least, but this time, as soon as he spat his first bar, I could hear the talent right away. I couldn't stop raving about him to my friends and whānau the next few days.”

Currently, Tane is working on his new single 'Study Life' which recognises the importance in education in his journey.

“Music saved me. I feel like, if with my songs, I can help just one other person, I will be fulfilled in my career.”

Tane's new album *The Arsenal* is in the works to be produced this year. In the future, his goal is to create a music video for his latest single Study Life with funding from New Zealand on Air. Until then, you can find his latest music on YouTube and Soundcloud.

STUDY TIPS FOR NEWBIES

April Study Tip Note Taking

The purpose of note-taking in lectures and tutorials is to record your understanding of the ideas and concepts discussed.

- » Effective note-taking starts before the lecture
- » Take notes in organised format
- » Be an effective listener
- » Use short forms when recording information
- » Be alert for verbal and non-verbal cues
- » Be selective
- » Review your notes regularly and cumulatively

Find out more on how to effectively note-take [here](#).



Recently at SOULS

Successfully meeting the finish line in this year's Student Relay for Life are a group of determined Law students who care personally for the cause.

Society of Otago University Law Students (SOULS) Organising Sports Representative Lucy Williams says the event has been one of importance to her for many years.

"I've lost loved ones to cancer and so this is something I can do every year which helps me to know I'm doing something to help a society who helped the people I loved."

Along with Lucy organising the team were SOULS President Kelly Cumming, Tumuaki of Te Roopū Whai Pūtake (Otago Māori Law Students' Association) Evy Ngawhika and President of Pride and Law at Otago Sophia Bothwick.

The overall goal is that the new tradition will inspire more people to join in with Relay for Life. All up, the team managed to hit their target of \$10,000 for the charity.

Tenancy Advice

Problems with your landlord? Flat not up to standard? Issues with your flatmates?

SOULS Tenancy Advice is here to help with free legal advice once a week in room 5 at the OUSA building.

Find out more on [here](#).

Have a story to share?

Send it to:
communications@otago.ac.nz



Ten students, one Aiga

Ten members of one aiga (family) are currently studying at the Dunedin Campus in 2021.

Despite growing up spread across Samoa, New Zealand and Australia, the Eteuati family members, mostly cousins, have always been close. Their uncle, Tema Alailima-Eteuati says studying together is no coincidence.

“We are a close-knit Samoan family and being here together is important to us. Every third Sunday when our family back in Samoa get together, those of us here at Otago also get together. It’s an important tradition for us to do and it helps us.”

The Eteuati family members are at different stages of their studies in subjects such as Medicine, Law, Anatomy, Biochemistry, Environmental Science, Marine Science, Geography, Pacific Island Studies and Health Science.

While this is the most the Eteuati family has had studying at Otago in one go, they also have family members who are alumni of the University who came here on scholarship from Samoa.

University students Faiqa and Taskeen Fatima, Fiona Collie and Iona Grigor say volunteering at the Dunedin Botanic Garden’s Visitor Centre is one way to give back to a place which has played an important role in their experience of Dunedin.

Third-year students Fiona (Zoology) and Iona (Pharmacology) live close to the Garden which they visited a lot during lockdown and say volunteering is a great opportunity to interact with communities and families outside of the university environment. It also has the added bonus of providing a break from the books.

Sisters Taskeen and Faiqa both arrived in Dunedin from their hometown of Bangalore in India just before New Zealand moved to Alert Level 4 last year. They both flat together, study Food Science and say because they were brought up surrounded by plants, they are regular visitors of the Botanic Garden.

“As we visit here a lot, volunteering is a great chance to give back and it’s also the perfect excuse to come here even more,” Tasleen says.

The sisters haven’t been back to India since their arrival and say even though their parents are relieved they are both in New Zealand at the moment, they do miss seeing them in person.

“We are grateful we are here as we enjoy Dunedin and there’s a good community of other Indian students here too for additional support,” Faiqa says.

If you would like to enquire about volunteering at the Dunedin Botanic Garden Visitor Center, please contact:

friends@friendsdbg.co.nz



“The garden is one of the best and most easily accessible natural getaways in the city - and so close to campus.”

KEY DATES & EVENTS

May | Haratua

04	Tertiary Mental Health Day
07	Last day to withdraw from Semester 1 papers (5pm deadline)
23	Dunedin Tertiary Open Days (May 23 - 24)
28	Art + Science Exhibition 2021
	Diversion day

June | Pipiri

04	Lectures cease before mid-year examinations
07	Queen's Birthday
09	Semester 1 examinations begin
15	Applications due from students taking only semester 2 papers for a programme subject to the Entry Pathway system in 2021
23	Semester 1 examinations end
25	Due date for submission of papers for course approval by students taking only semester 2 papers

Regular Events

	Lunchtime Theatre
	Lunchtime Concert Hall
	The Health Sciences First Year Integrated Context Lecture Series (ICLS)
	Diversion day