



Wellington UniVentures' 2022

IMPACT REPORT

30

years of
WELLINGTON
UNIVENTURES
Te Paewai





**OUR PURPOSE IS TO LIFT LIVES
EVERYWHERE WITH KNOWLEDGE**

01

**MESSAGES
FROM LEADERSHIP**
PAGE 03

02

**WHO WE ARE
AND WHAT WE DO**
PAGE 07

03

**OUR YEAR
AT A GLANCE**
PAGE 11

04

**HIGHLIGHTS &
ACCOMPLISHMENTS**
PAGE 14

05

**GROWING FUTURE
LEADERS**
PAGE 19

06

**IN THE
SPOTLIGHT**
PAGE 22

01

MESSAGES FROM LEADERSHIP

Welcome to our second annual Impact Report. We launched this report last year as a fresh way to share some of the incredible ventures and innovators we've supported throughout the year. Nau Mai, Haere Mai, we hope you enjoy the read.

BOARD CHAIR

DAVID SMOL

This year, Wellington UniVentures formally adopted our extended mandate from Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, which will see us leading commissioned research and advisory activities for the University.

The team's commercialisation expertise and strong connections across industry and government will deliver value for the University – and New Zealand – through supporting high quality research to answer real world problems.

I'd like to acknowledge the spin-out of two exciting new companies in 2022, Liquium and Advemto. These ventures have been attracting positive coverage and investment, favourable signs for a long and prosperous journey ahead. It's great to see.

This year Wellington UniVentures has also successfully transitioned the KiVa Programme in a way that ensures it will continue to grow and provide much-needed bullying prevention support for New Zealand's tamariki.

The commercialisation ecosystem has started to feel the bite from three years of Covid-related disruptions to research. I'm particularly proud of how the team has responded to these challenges by embracing new, collaborative ways of working and supporting the ecosystem.

We enter 2023 with a renewed sense of purpose and commitment to supporting University innovations to change the world. We're looking forward to the year ahead with optimism and confidence.

Ngā mihi,



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ANNE BARNETT

Welcome to our 2022 Impact Report. We started this report last year as a new way to connect with our stakeholders, sharing highlights and insights from the year that's been.

This year we celebrated 30 years of Wellington UniVentures – a wonderful opportunity to look back at how the research we've supported has had an impact on Aotearoa New Zealand and the world. As we look ahead to the coming decades, we are more committed than ever to supporting a diverse range of projects and talent that will make a difference in peoples' lives.

As our country opens to the world post-pandemic, we are embracing new opportunities that respond to the challenges we see ahead. Our sector as a whole has faced its most challenging year post Covid-19. The effects of the research slowdown brought on by the pandemic has flowed through to the commercialisation ecosystem. I'm proud of the way the team has risen to the challenge. We've managed to pivot while keeping our purpose - to lift lives everywhere with knowledge - at the heart of everything we do.

We will continue to work alongside our partners in industry, government and the research, science and innovation sector to adapt to the changing times ahead and come out stronger on the other side

Ngā mihi,





02

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

As the commercialisation subsidiary of Te Herenga Waka —Victoria University of Wellington, we are responsible for creating new enterprises and opportunities from University research.



TRUE GRIT

Manawa Taniwha

We persevere to achieve the best outcome, showing agility and bravery in the face of uncertainty.

TENACIOUS | COURAGEOUS | PATIENT



CONTAGIOUS ENERGY

Manawa Titi

We come together with energy in everything we do... and that's catchy.

CONNECT | COLLABORATE | CELEBRATE



EXPANSIVE THINKING

Whakaaro Arorangi

We think big and reimagine what is possible.

INNOVATE | DISCOVER | ADAPT



PEOPLE POWER

Manu Houhare

We come together with our people, our researchers and stakeholders to support each other, share ideas and create impact.

DIVERSIFY | UNITE | CARE

HOW WE DO IT

We collaborate with innovators at Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington to transform their ideas into initiatives, products or services that deliver impact, both locally in Aotearoa and internationally.

We are connectors, bringing researchers, industry partners, government and investors together on a journey from innovation to global impact.

Our values guide us in our purpose to *lift lives everywhere through knowledge*.



OUR HISTORY

In 2022, we celebrated 30 years of delivering impact. We began as VicLink, a small team of commercialisation professionals focused on protecting University's intellectual property. Since then, we've grown to a 30 strong team spanning expertise in contract law, intellectual property, and commercialisation. In 2020, we became Wellington UniVentures. At this time, we were also gifted the Māori name Te Paewai, linking to the University's metaphor of the waka. Te paewai is a structurally vital piece of a waka that makes it suitable for long ocean voyages. This name speaks to our role as connectors who, by delivering impact through research, strengthen our University ecosystem, community, and society.

03

OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

We're proud of the impact we've achieved in 2022 despite Covid-related disruptions to research, with a strong number of license deals and two new spinouts created. Here's our year, by the numbers.



**62 ACTIVE
INNOVATION
PROJECTS**



**409 LIVE PATENTS
AND APPLICATIONS**



**50 INVENTION
DISCLOSURES**



**\$635,000
PSAF FUNDING
GRANTED**



**4 EXTERNAL
COMMERCIALISATION
SERVICES CONTRACTS
DELIVERED**



**11 SPINOUTS, LICENSES
AND EQUITY DEALS**



**14 INNOVATION
ECOSYSTEM
ORGANISATIONS SERVED
BY WUV PEOPLE**



**58% OF ALL INVENTORS
ENGAGED WERE FIRST
TIMERS IN 2022**



**\$20,000
SCHOLARSHIP
FUNDS GRANTED**



**2 WUV STAFF BECAME
FOUNDING CEOS OF NEW
SPINOUTS**



**20 CONFERENCES,
WORKSHOPS AND
EVENTS ATTENDED BY
WUV STAFF**



**7 EMERGING INNOVATORS
SUPPORTED THROUGH
KIWINET'S PROGRAMME**

04

HIGHLIGHTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

There has been plenty to celebrate this year – from spinout successes to big wins at the prestigious KiwiNet Commercialisation Awards. Here are just a few of our highlights.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS



We marked 30 years of supporting incredible ventures with a celebration event for our commercialisation ecosystem whānau. Established in 1992 as Viclink, we were set up to help shape research projects coming out of Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington into commercial opportunities. Fast forward to now and Wellington UniVentures continues to work with innovators across the University to create impact from their work.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



15

NEW COMPANIES
SUPPORTED TO SPINOUT
SINCE INCEPTION

BIG WINS AT KIWINET AWARDS

The 10th annual KiwiNet Research Commercialisation Awards were a big night, with two of our four nominees winning in their respective categories. Professor Justin Hodgkiss won the Researcher Entrepreneur Award, which recognises an experienced entrepreneurial researcher who constantly delivers real world impact. One of our earliest spinouts, Magritek, won the Commercialisation Impact Award. Judges called Magritek a “trailblazer” whose pioneering impact on the entire sector was hard to overstate.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



4

FINALISTS NOMINATED
BY WELLINGTON
UNIVENTURES IN 2022
AWARDS

THE LIFE OF LIQUIUM

Our new spinout Liquium successfully closed its \$1.5m seed venture investment round. Its promise to revolutionise the largest and most polluting chemical process on earth – ammonia production – has inspired many backers, including the Bill Gates' funded Breakthrough Energy Fellowship, which was awarded to Liquium co-founder Dr Franck Natali in 2021. Liquium's tech can make ammonia production more environmentally friendly and economically feasible – and potentially help develop an affordable, sustainable, hydrogen economy in Aotearoa New Zealand.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



2-3%

GLOBAL CARBON
EMISSIONS COME FROM
AMMONIA PRODUCTION

GREATER INSIGHTS WITH ADVENTO

The spinout of our latest venture, the ultrafast spectroscopy developer Advemto, gives scientists greater insight into a world that's beyond the reach of even the strongest microscopes. Launched onto the academic market in March, Advemto attracted \$1.05m capital in its pre-seed investment round. It's already powering novel insights, including helping researchers better understand how skin cancer develops.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



\$1.05M

CAPITAL RAISED IN
PRE-SEED INVESTMENT
ROUND

ACCELERATING HEALTH INNOVATION

The New Zealand Health Innovation Hub (NZHIH) identifies, shares and implements health-related innovations and ideas for the benefit of the health system. With the support of Wellington UniVentures, NZHIH can access expertise to progress their idea from a concept into a viable market opportunity. Andrew Cameron, Wellington UniVentures' Senior Commercialisation Manager, has been working closely with NZHIH to help advance life-changing solutions for the healthcare system.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



WELLINGTON
UNIVENTURES HAS
BEEN SUPPORTING
NZHIH SINCE

2016

AROHANUI KIVA

We transitioned the beloved KiVa anti-bullying programme to the newly established Elephant Trust this year. The Trust was launched by our valued former teammate and KiVa Programme Manager, Kieu Pham. Kieu is excited to keep growing KiVa, with a view to delivering the programme to every school and kura in Aotearoa New Zealand.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



60

SCHOOLS AND KURA
ADOPTED KIVA SINCE ITS
INCEPTION IN 2014

05

GROWING FUTURE LEADERS

At Wellington UniVentures, we know that people are our greatest asset. We live the value of “People Power” through supporting a new generation of emerging innovators and commercialisation professionals. In this section, we share our pick of stories from the year.

EMERGING INNOVATORS

This year we put seven ambitious and passionate Te Herenga Waka researchers through KiwiNet's Emerging Innovators Programme. We seek out, nominate and support early career researchers interested in entrepreneurship through this programme. It sets them up with the tools and connections they need to take their first steps on their entrepreneurial journey. This year's projects spanned six faculties and covered everything from support for young refugees, to an app aiming to boost mental health, and a non-toxic insecticide.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



EVERYTHING INTERNS

We loved having Kendra Boyes and Crispin Dye on our team in 2022 through our internship programme, co-funded by KiwiNet. This six-month experience gives commercially curious post-grads a chance to experience every aspect of the commercialisation process – from market research through to building an inspiring brand. We're thrilled that, following their experiences with us, both Kendra and Crispin have gone on to accept full-time roles within the commercialisation ecosystem.

[READ MORE HERE](#)





SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

We awarded Faculty of Law PhD candidate and Fulbright Scholar, Injy Johnstone, our 2022 Jeremy Bloomfield Memorial Scholarship. We launched the scholarship in memory of our late teammate Jeremy Bloomfield, who was passionate about education and the environment. Injy's work on preparing NZ for a net zero future honours Jeremy's legacy, and she used some of her scholarship funds to present her work at the COP27 Conference in Sharm el-Sheik.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



GLOBAL BIOENTREPRENEURS

Commercialisation Manager Sam Wojcik is also Entrepreneurship Innovation Director at Global Biotech Revolution – a youth-led non-profit organisation focused on connecting and growing the next generation of leaders in biotech. He's building a network of bioentrepreneurs in the Asia-Pacific region and helping them connect with the right partners and investors to get their ideas off the ground.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



JANICE JOINS BIOVIROS BOARD

Our Head of Health & Wellbeing, Janice Cheng, was appointed to BioViros' board this year as a Board Observer. With a PhD in Chemistry and Immunology, plus years of experience at the cutting edge of biotechnology and health commercialisation, Janice will be a fantastic asset to the board. She joined through OnBoardNZ – Aotearoa New Zealand's governance training programme. OnBoardNZ provides governance training to the independent directors of tomorrow, and connects them with relevant start-up boards.

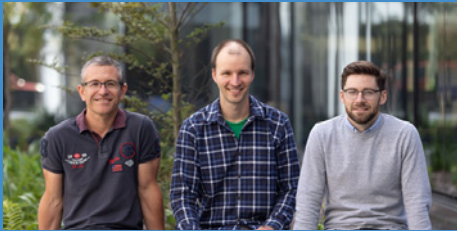


06

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

We pride ourselves on setting up our spinouts for long term success. This year, our amazing spinouts and researchers enjoyed plenty of media attention and accolades.

READ A FEW OF OUR FAVOURITE STORIES FROM THIS YEAR:



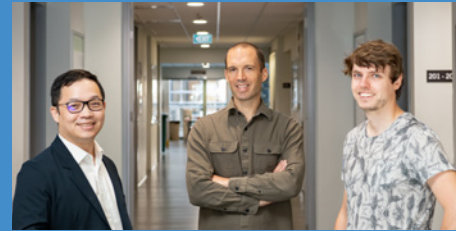
The company that turned murky water samples into wine

The Spinoff



Inhibit Coatings wins Trans Tasman Innovation & Growth Award

Accenture



New Zealand researchers use world-first technology [Advemto] to discover how melanin protects skin from UV radiation

Newshub



The 10 startups EnergyLab selected for its Climate Solutions Accelerator

Startup Daily



NZ Universities are spinning out market-ready ventures – here's what investors should know

NZ Entrepreneur



The women at the forefront of New Zealand's space industry

NZ Herald



Talking Tech Transfer: Anne Barnett

Global University Venturing



Why are we still burning coal?

NZ Geographic

