

## After years of study, a parade for Victoria students



Students take part in the Victoria University graduation parade in Wellington.

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Central city traffic came to a standstill and camera-wielding spectators clicked madly as 1000 Victoria University graduands wove their way through Wellington to be addressed by mayor Celia Wade-Brown in Civic Square.

As the graduands formed a sea of caps in Civic Square, Ms Wade-Brown called out: "Well done! We're so proud of you!" to a round of applause from the excited students and their families.

"From here, wherever you go your future is bright. You may return to Victoria for more study, you may stay in Wellington and play a part in our city's future and you may travel overseas - we hope you come back.

"You're not here as observers only to study academically, you are here as agents of change towards a better world."

Earlier, proud family members lined the parade route, waving and snapping photographs as the graduands passed the traditional parade from the Law School in the Government buildings.

The parade left from the Law School in the Government Buildings at noon and took about 40 minutes to move along Lambton Quay, Willis and Mercer Streets to finish in Civic Square.

Most of the graduands have completed a mix of commerce, arts and science degrees, and include 45 PhD students.