Community

Cycling up Mount Everest

The Mental Health Foundation received a $2,400 boost thanks to Dr John Randal from Victoria Business School, who held a cycling fundraiser in the Hub at Kelburn campus in March. A further $750 in cash donations were collected for the University’s Student Hardship Fund as Dr Randal pedalled for 15.5 hours, up and down a virtual hill 66 times until he had ridden the equivalent of the elevation of Mount Everest (8,848m). Dr Randal’s epic cycle began at 7 am, and with only a couple of short breaks, he reached the ‘summit’ at 11.15 pm. During the day, students, staff, supporters, and family kept him company, stopping by for a chat and to donate to the cause.

Student Volunteer Week

Victoria University of Wellington celebrated the volunteers who give to our community and encouraged others to give volunteering a go as part of Student Volunteer Week in April. Alongside their studies, student volunteers support services on campus and organisations throughout the wider Wellington region, helping build a supportive, engaged community, while developing their leadership skills and increasing their employability. To celebrate the work of student volunteers, staff and students hosted a range of events on campus across the week including a quiz night, a healthy eating stall, and a seminar about the impact of volunteering.

The University was also the naming sponsor for the 2018 Volunteer Wellington Corporate Challenge, which encourages organisations to get involved in volunteer activities throughout the community. A group of student volunteers worked behind the scenes of this event in June to make sure it was a success.

Relay for Life

A total of $8,790 was raised by university staff, students, and friends as part of the Cancer Society’s Relay for Life in March, placing the team ninth in the list of top fundraisers for the Wellington event. It was the first time the University had entered a team in the annual fundraiser.

Digital heritage

A group of Architecture students brought historical architecture and social history to life with a virtual reality project to explore Wellington’s Gordon Wilson Flats. As part of the University’s Summer Research Scholarships programme, students explored contemporary methods of digital heritage by developing a virtual reality experience that recreated the flats within the 59-year-old building on The Terrace in central Wellington and overlaid the experience with the social histories of tenants who lived there over the past five decades.

Spotlight, Inaugural, and Provost Lectures

This year the University continued to stimulate public thought and discussion by hosting a range of public lectures, with 10 Inaugural Lectures, eight Spotlight Lectures, and four Provost Lectures. All lectures were open to the public, and they covered a diverse range of topics including taxation equity, the skyscraper and its place in socio-political history, plate tectonics in Zealandia, and the role of poetry in the twenty-first century.

Dr John Randal raised money for the Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand and the Student Hardship Fund by spending nearly 16 hours on a stationary bike to cycle the equivalent height of Mount Everest.