



Te Mana Tangata Whakawhanake

MacDiarmid Institute

Advanced Materials & Nanotechnology

We hope you stay warm and safe as winter sets in. We'd like to firstly acknowledge the pressure that many of our colleagues are under, due to redundancies having been announced to address major funding shortfalls across the university sector. In recent media, our Co-Director Professor Nicola Gaston has written extensively on the wider impacts of this, as you'll see below. Here in our quarterly newsletter, we showcase the work of our researchers, our alumni, and our partners.

Looking ahead, our annual Regional Lecture Series is just around the corner. If you're interested in attending any of the lectures, which will look at the sustainability tech already happening around the country and at how materials science is critical to this, [please let us know](#).

News and Updates



New Deputy Directors announced [Associate Professor Anna Garden](#) from [University of Otago](#), is our new Deputy Director Outreach and Education, and [Associate Professor Natalie Plank](#) of [Victoria University of Wellington](#) our new Deputy Director Commercialisation and Industry Engagement. Huge thanks go to [Associate Professor Geoff Willmott](#) and [Professor Paul Kruger](#) for all their work in the deputy director roles. You can see more about Geoff and Paul's legacy across [our social media](#).



[Strategic Manager Māori role introduced for the MacDiarmid Institute](#)

Introducing [Kirsty Doyle](#) from Ngāti Kahungunu, Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Rakaipaaka, who has been appointed to the new position of Strategic Manager Māori. Kirsty's role is to provide strategic advice and implementation of building capability and capacity of Māori research.



[Career Relevant to Industry Skills Programme \(CRISP\) held in June at University of Canterbury, with site visits to MacDiarmid alumni and partners](#)

We held four CRISP sessions in Christchurch this week, with 50 MacDiarmid students, Postdocs and RAs in attendance. This replaces the [Future Leaders' Programme \(FLP\)](#) and is hosted throughout the year at our partner centres. We're grateful to alumni Jono Ring for hosting a site visit at [Zincovery](#) and to Dr Ben Westberry for mentoring at the Hackathon.



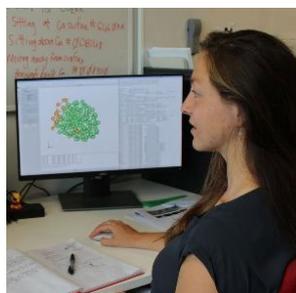
[Two successful Techweek events with many firsts.](#)

In May we hosted our annual [Techweek](#) events in Auckland and Palmerston North (the latter for the first time!). One of the highlights was a talk by [Mike Lim](#), visiting from Singapore on behalf of the CleanTech investor group [Trirec](#), who gave a strong appraisal of NZ Deep Tech at the Auckland event – including using HTS-110 as a key example of the quality of our ecosystem. Thanks to our speakers (including Investigators [Taniela Lolohea](#), [Keith Gordon](#) and [Shane Telfer](#)) and our event partners ([Dodd-Walls Centre](#), [NZPA](#), [BIC](#), [AUT Chemistry](#), [Momentum Committees](#), [CHIASMA](#), [MESA](#)).



[MacDiarmid Independent PDF fellowships](#)

We're delighted to announce the recipients of the MacDiarmid Institute Independent Postdoctoral Fellowships. The call for proposals was made late 2022, and now we welcome Dr [Caitlin Casey-Stevens](#), Dr [Kimtien Nguyen](#), Dr [Amy Yewdall](#), and Dr [Bicheng Zhu](#). Their independent projects will be in alignment with our [Research Programmes](#), [Reconfigurable Systems](#), and [Hardware for Future Computing](#).



Dr Steph Lambie [awarded the Vice-Chancellor's prize](#) Congratulations to Dr Steph Lambie, who was [awarded the Vice-Chancellor's prize](#) for the best doctoral thesis in the Faculty of Science at [University of Auckland](#), supervised by Principal Investigator [Professor Nicola Gaston](#). Dr Lambie's research achievements include this [Science paper](#) last year. She was also a former MESA co-chair.



Chemistry Outreach with Dave Warren in Northland The MacDiarmid Institute helped support [Dr Dave Warren](#), Chemistry Outreach at the [University of Otago](#), on his trip to Northland this week. Five schools were visited (three primary and two secondary, seeing around 300 children), and the group were hosted on a marae by Ngati Kahu. He was joined by our PhD student Sam McIntyre, and other University of Otago students.

Recent media



[When downsizing means destroying our universities](#)

Co-Director [Professor Nicola Gaston](#), shares her reckons with [RNZ](#), [The Spinoff](#) and the [Conversation](#) saying funding cuts to our Universities, mean more than academic job losses. It's clear that these cuts impact on the health and viability of our sector as a whole. We all lose when our universities are struggling. [Read the collection of articles here.](#)



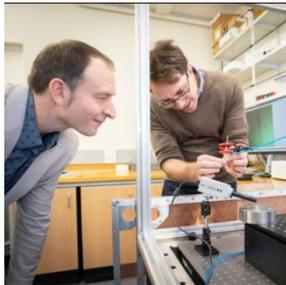
[Clean tech unleashed at a lab near you](#)

This Newsroom article on the rise of deep-tech in New Zealand, particularly the clean tech sector, interviews founders, investors, and others, including emerging [MacDiarmid Institute affiliated spinout Liquium](#).



[Budget 2023 won't move dial on R&D 'hole'](#)

In this article Co-Director, [Professor Nicola Gaston](#), highlights the massive deficit in R&D expenditure. "There are a lot of areas of research where the effort we put in needs to scale with the size of our country, not the size of our population." [You can read the full article here.](#)



[Entrepreneurship at Wellington UniVentures, Kim McKelvey](#)

Associate Investigator [Dr Kim McKelvey](#) from [Victoria University of Wellington](#) is working with [Wellington UniVentures](#) on commercialising electrochemistry tools for clean tech. Dr McKelvey has invented a novel technology that makes it possible to measure electrochemical reactions across surfaces quickly and cheaply. [Read more about his work here.](#)



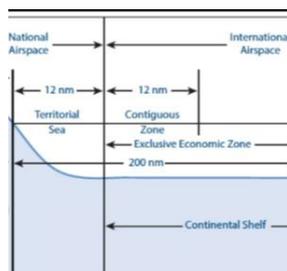
[No silos or ivory towers: How Wellington's innovation hub aims to supercharge science](#)

"It's really good to have this nice little community around with similar people" – our former Investigator [Dr Jérôme Leveueur](#), who is now chief technology officer at [Bspk](#) (a MacDiarmid Institute affiliated spin-out) on the [Gracefield Innovation Quarter](#) which is part of the three multi-institution research hubs in Wellington that the government's announced funding of \$451 million towards in the [Budget](#). [Read more about it here.](#)



[Matariki Award - Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year](#)

Tino pai to our Deputy Director [Associate Professor Pauline Harris](#), who worked closely with Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year, [Dr Rangi Matamua](#), promoting and educating New Zealanders regarding the new Matariki holiday last year. [You can read all about Dr Matamua's award here.](#)



[Seabed Mining Around Aotearoa - Expert Q&A](#)

A select committee will consider the risks and benefits of seabed mining in New Zealand waters. The [Science Media Centre](#) has published a press release on [Scoop](#) with expert opinion on the topic. Principal Investigators Professors [Chris Bumby](#) and [Nicola Gaston](#) provided comment, which you can [read here.](#)



[One small step towards banning 'forever chemicals'](#)

Associate Investigator, [Dr Erin Leitao](#) contributed to this [Newsroom](#) piece about how PFAS in cosmetics enter the environment through the water we drink, the food we eat, and the air we breathe. [Read the full article here.](#)

Thank you for your continued interest and support in the MacDiarmid Institute and if you know anyone who is also interested in receiving our General Newsletter [please let us know.](#)