

UNIVERSITY NEWS



Strengthening our reputation



Like me, many of you have a strong attachment to Victoria University of Wellington and want to see it thrive in a competitive international landscape.

As we've become more globally engaged and our students are living and working in all corners of the world, it's become more and more apparent, both through research and anecdotally, that our qualifications are not travelling as well as they should, based on the high quality of this institution.

Part of the reason for this is that the word 'Victoria' is increasingly associated with geographical regions, for example in Australia and Canada, rather than Queen Victoria or our University in Wellington. This question of name confusion has been troubling the University throughout its 120 year history, and many staff, students and alumni now agree it's time to get on and simplify our name by phasing out the word 'Victoria'.

The key benefit of this change for alumni is in degree equity—or equity in your qualification. We want to make sure the strong quality of this University is reflected in the recognition of our degrees so that our graduates succeed wherever they are in the world. Find out more about strengthening the [University's international reputation here](#).

Professor Grant Guilford, Vice-Chancellor

An academic's perspective

Associate Professor Dan Laufer from the School of Marketing and International Business shares his views on the proposal to simplify Victoria University of Wellington's name.



Leading judge to receive honorary doctorate



Alumnus and former Supreme Court judge Sir Terence Arnold QC will receive an honorary doctorate at a Victoria University graduation ceremony this month, acknowledging his outstanding contribution to the legal profession.

Steering climate change policy



Five Victoria University academics have been confirmed as lead authors for the next report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change—one of the world's leading independent reports on our changing climate.

Campus developments win awards



Two of Victoria University's building projects—Te Toki a Rata and the Rutherford House extension at the Pipitea campus—have received prestigious awards from the New Zealand Institute of Architects.

The aftermath of the First World War



The turmoil of the First World War didn't simply end at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month 100 years ago, writes historian and Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies Director, Associate Professor Kate Hunter.

Kitchen sink ingenuity



After studying languages and Linguistics at Victoria University, Kati Kasza went on to literally follow her nose as an independent herbal skincare producer, becoming the founder and managing director of the successful natural skincare brand Evolu.

Better lives, a better New Zealand



Professor Girol Karacaoglu, Head of the School of Government, highlights the importance of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and explains why he and his colleagues are developing a website to monitor New Zealand's performance toward achieving them.

Parallel parking



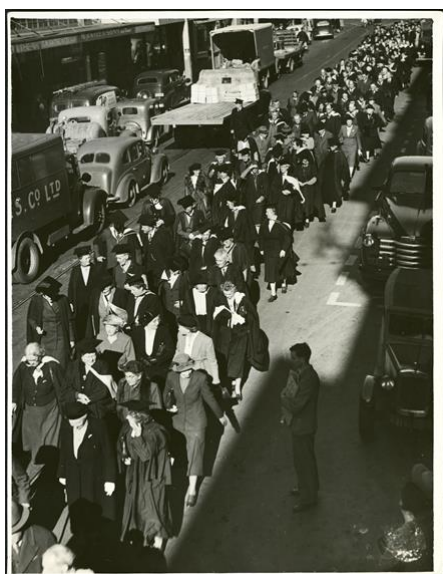
Three Victoria University students have created a start-up business they say could solve the capital's parking problem.

Deep-water denizens



A Victoria University research team led by Associate Professor James Bell and supported by the Department of Conservation has uncovered new insights on marine life in the rarely explored deeper waters of the Fiordland Marine Area. [Watch a video](#) showing some of the species they encountered, including the spiny dogfish, sevengill sharks and hagfish.

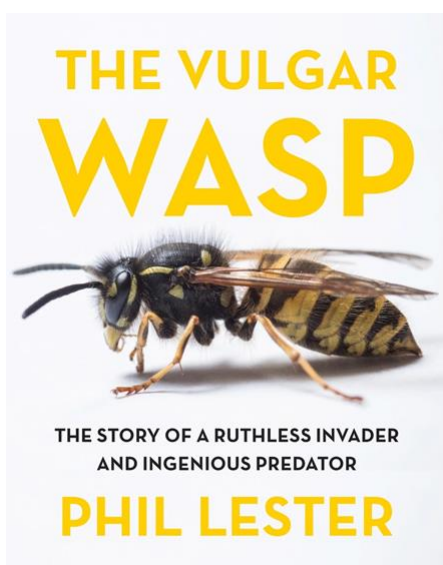
Graduation week: 14-18 May



Graduation is always an important and exciting time for graduands, their families and friends, as well as Victoria University of Wellington staff and alumni. Find out about our May graduation events [here](#), and remember you can watch the live-stream of the ceremonies on our [website](#).

Pictured is a graduation procession down Cuba Street in 1949.

Win a copy of The Vulgar Wasp



Go in the draw to win a signed copy of Professor Phil Lester's book *The Vulgar Wasp*, a new title from Victoria University Press.

In this book, Victoria University entomologist Professor Phil Lester describes the many fascinating and lesser-known sides of the common wasp. He asks: how can we manage wasps? Can we ever learn to live with them? What can they teach us about the challenges we face for pest control? *The Vulgar Wasp* tells the story of the common wasp and its impact on us and our biodiversity.

ALUMNI EVENTS

April events recap



April was a busy month, with alumni events in San Francisco, New York and Hawke's Bay. We also hosted Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern at our Kelburn campus as she announced an end to new contracts for offshore oil and gas exploration in New Zealand, and we hosted a summit about what New Zealand can do to achieve the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Go to our [alumni Facebook page](#) to see some of the highlights.

Public meeting



Alumni are invited to attend a public meeting in Wellington about the proposed name simplification of Victoria University of Wellington. We're keen to hear your perspectives, so come along on Wednesday 23 May to have your say. [Register here.](#)

Growing graduates



Now in its sixth year, the Growing Graduates programme is your chance to leave a lasting legacy at Te Ahumairangi Hill in Wellington. Join us for a unique opportunity to celebrate your time at Victoria University of Wellington by planting trees on Saturday 26 May, and to add to the more than 10,000 trees that have been planted by our

graduates.

The University is currently updating its privacy notice to ensure greater transparency and reflect upcoming changes in European privacy law. A link to the updated notice will be included in the next alumni e-newsletter and will be available on our website shortly.

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Victoria University of Wellington

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