

Autumn / Winter 2019



# BRIGHT SPARKS

**Cover Story: The 2019 Fulbright New Zealand Awards Ceremony**

**Feature Story: Theatre Connections and Collaborations Around the World**



*Also In This Issue* | In the News | In Publication | 2019 Awards Ceremony | Grantee Experiences: Mid-Year Programme | Fulbright Alumnae - Leaders in STEM | Grantee Experiences: Spring and Graduation | Fulbright Global Brand Refresh | Fulbright New Zealand Events on Campus | News from the Wellington Office | Kai and Korero |

## HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

EMAIL ALUMNI@FULBRIGHT.ORG.NZ

We would love to hear what you've been up to! We welcome your letters, articles, notices and story ideas. Please note, any material submitted may be edited for publication.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of material in this newsletter, Fulbright New Zealand does not accept liability for any errors or omissions. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Fulbright New Zealand.

ISSN 2463-3917 (print), ISSN 2463-3925 (online)



**PENELOPE  
BORLAND**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### STAY IN TOUCH



@fulbrightnz



facebook.com/fulbrightnz



@fulbrightnewzealand

PO Box 3465  
Wellington 6140  
New Zealand

www.fulbright.org.nz

SEND STORY IDEAS TO  
ALUMNI@FULBRIGHT.ORG.NZ

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are delighted that this eventful edition of Bright Sparks is going to Fulbright New Zealand alumni around the world. The last few months were filled with Fulbright firsts. In May 2019 Fulbright Executive Directors from commissions all over the world met in Washington DC, and were able to attend the launch of the rebrand of Fulbright's logo and identity at the United States Senate in the august Kennedy Caucus room which has hosted notable hearings etched in history- The Titanic, McCarthy hearings, Vietnam War and Watergate. This is the first and only time Fulbright has gone through a rebrand which we are excited to feature in this issue.

Last year we welcomed the incredible news from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade who doubled our core funding, meaning we are able to offer more awards, at higher levels, to all of our New Zealand graduates and scholars. This year on the evening of Monday 17 June, we were able to celebrate our new cohort of awardees, and the first recipients of the increased funding, during our very successful Awards Ceremony hosted by Deputy Prime Minister Rt. Winston Peters at the Banquet Hall, Parliament. Thank you to those who were able to attend the evening.

The new online networking platform the 'Fulbrighter' app, designed for Fulbright alumni and grantees was launched around the world on 15 August. We're delighted that our grantees and alumni were some of those most enthusiastic about the initial uptake and registration to this

new app. Fulbrighter has wonderful opportunities for connections, networking and engaging with the global community of Fulbrighters.

For those near and far, I hope the updates and stories from our staff, current grantees, and alumni help to capture and reiterate the importance of the Fulbright mission. Given the complexity and sometimes unpredictability of our times, the need for building inter-cultural understanding is now more important than ever - as is the mission of the Fulbright programme - to create mutual understanding and empathy in our world through building deep people to people connections through educational and cultural exchanges, ultimately building lasting connections for a more peaceful world.

The future of the Fulbright Programme between the United States and New Zealand is bright, and we are very grateful to have the continued support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the U.S. State Department, and all of our partners. Our wonderful board and staff of Fulbright New Zealand thank, from the bottom of our hearts, our current grantees and alumni who continue to help spread the message of Fulbright and strengthen inter-cultural connections and mutual understanding.

## THE TEAM



**JULIE WILLIAMS**  
CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER  
julie@fulbright.org.nz



**SARITA MAGAN**  
EVENTS AND ALUMNI COORDINATOR  
sarita@fulbright.org.nz



**CHLOE LEMUNYAN**  
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR  
chloe@fulbright.org.nz



**PIP CLIMO**  
PROGRAMME MANAGER  
pip@fulbright.org.nz



**LAUREN PARSONS**  
PROGRAMME MANAGER  
lauren@fulbright.org.nz



**ALEXANDRA MACGIBBON**  
SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR  
comms@fulbright.org.nz



The 2019 cohort of Fulbright New Zealand General Graduate Award Grantees at the Awards Ceremony, left to right: Sarah Alawi, Hitaua Arahanga-Doyle, Emma McIntyre, Henry Benson-Pope, Grace Francis, Jack Davies, Jessica Stubbing, Abbas Nazari, Melanie Puka, Dylan Asafo.



# CONTENTS

**page 4** In the News: Alumni Spotlight

**page 6** In Publication

**page 8** Cover Story: The 2019 Fulbright Awards Ceremony

**page 12** Celebrating the 2019 Grantee Cohort

**page 16** Alumni Spotlight: Fulbright alumnae – leaders in STEM

**page 20** Feature Story: Theatre connections & collaboration around the world

**page 24** Grantee Experiences: Spring & Graduation

**page 26** Fulbright Global News

**page 28** Fulbright New Zealand Events

**page 32** News from the Wellington Office

**page 33** Kai & Korero - Morning Tea Guests





### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

## AWARDS & ACCOLADES FOR NEW ZEALAND FULBRIGHTERS AT HOME AND ABROAD

- Congratulations to Fulbright alumna **Helen Ferner**, Technical Director - Structural Engineering at Beca, who has been appointed President-elect of the New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering – the first woman to be appointed to this role. Helen was a Fulbrighter in 1986 at University of California Berkeley.  
*Read more about Helen Ferner in the article 'Fulbright Alumnae - leaders in STEM' on page 16.*
- **Martha Coleman**, Fulbright alumna, has been appointed as one of five Deputy Chairpersons to the Human Rights Review Tribunal. Martha has been a Parole Board Convenor since 2017, having been a Parole Board Member from 2014, and has been a District Inspector for Mental Health since 2017. Martha holds an LLM from Yale University where she studied on a Fulbright Scholarship specialising in constitutional and anti-discrimination law.
- **Salina Fisher**, 2017 Fulbright New Zealand Graduate, is the 2019 Composer-in-Residence at Victoria University of Wellington's New Zealand School of Music - Te Kōkī. Salina graduated with a Master of Music in Composition at the Manhattan School of Music in May this year and won the Carl Kanter Award in Orchestral Composition for her thesis work *Murmuring Light*. Salina has just moved in



to Lilburn House in Wellington for the residency, and says "Wellington has inspired several of my pieces so far, and I am beyond excited to feel its energy again and reconnect with its creative community through the New Zealand School of Music."

- Fulbright alumnus **Justin Hodgkiss** gave his inaugural lecture as Professor of Physical Chemistry at Victoria University of Wellington in June. Prof. Hodgkiss received a Fulbright New Zealand Graduate Award in 2001 and completed a PhD at MIT. He is also co-director of the MacDiarmid Institute.
- **Rez Gardi**, 2018 Fulbright New Zealand Graduate, completed an LLM at Harvard University this year and has been awarded a Harvard Satter Fellowship in Human Rights. During her Fellowship, Rez will work in the Kurdish Region of Iraq and will gather evidence of the targeted genocidal campaign carried out by ISIS against the Yezidis. This evidence will be used to build cases in collaboration with relevant European and Iraqi/Kurdish authorities to prosecute the perpetrators.
- **Andrew Alder**, 2018 Fulbright New Zealand Science & Innovation Graduate, received a New Zealand Space Scholarship and has been at a summer internship at NASA's Ames Research Center in California. He is one of four Kiwis to receive the inaugural scholarships offered by the New Zealand Space Agency within MBIE. Andrew is completing an MSc in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Colorado Boulder.

### HAVE YOU JOINED FULBRIGHTER?

Fulbrighter is a new and exclusive online networking platform specifically designed for Fulbright alumni and grantees, that was launched on August 15. It is a space where you can connect and engage with the global community of Fulbrighters.

As well as connecting with the New Zealand alumni network and keeping up to date with Fulbright New Zealand's news, you can connect with Fulbrighters from around the world, share your own news and events, or build new relationships to share ideas or collaborate on projects.

To register for Fulbrighter visit  
<https://fulbrighternetwork.com/signup>  
 Fulbrighter is also available as an app for iOS and Android.



**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:**

# CLARE JONES

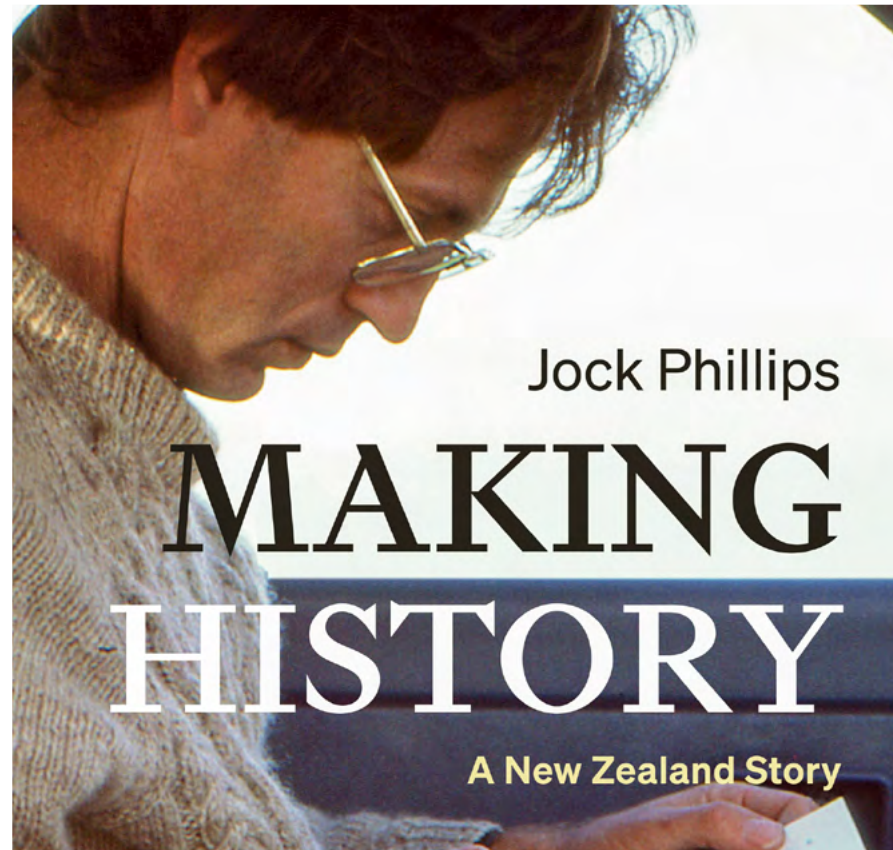
*Congratulations to Clare Jones whose poem "Rail" was published in the June issue of Poetry magazine in the USA. Clare was a US Graduate award recipient in 2016 to Victoria University of Wellington.*



**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:**

# JOCK PHILLIPS

*Fulbright alumnus and historian Jock Phillips has recently published a memoir "Making History: A New Zealand Story", which launched at Unity Books in Wellington in July. Jock was a Fulbright New Zealand Scholar in 1978. He also served on the Fulbright New Zealand Board from 1996 to 2009, including three years as chair.*



# RAIL

BY CLARE JONES

The Inaccessible Island Rail lives in Atlantis,  
with two black feet on the black plateau.  
It might be slight, it might be shabby,  
but it knows what it knows.

Rain falls from the sky.  
The sun shines, within limits.  
Wind blows in from the furthest west.  
There is nothing beyond the cliffs.

Island Cape Myrtle is not true myrtle.  
It is not the one in the myths.  
Wind-stunted trees fill the fern-bush heath.  
Sweet Roman Myrtle, True Roman Myrtle. Lies  
beyond the cliffs.

What there is is sparse.  
It is made of grass and ferns.  
The birds fill what they can with themselves and  
fledglings  
in boulders that lightning burned.

They eat beetles, flies, moths.  
They become what comes of trying.  
The downy undersides of the leaves, they take it.  
Until they can't. They take to flying.

Trying, the wind does what it can.  
In time the strangest things occur.  
The tunnel finds itself inside the grass, and eggs  
of milk, of lavender.





## COVER STORY: 2019 AWARDS CEREMONY EVENT

*TOP: Jason Mika (2019 Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Scholar) with wife Ana, and Fulbright Alumnus Darcy Nicholas (1984 New Zealand Cultural Development Grant)*

*BOTTOM LEFT: Fulbright New Zealand Executive Director Penelope Borland with U.S. Consul General, Katelyn Choe*

*BOTTOM MIDDLE LEFT: Fulbright New Zealand Board Chair David Patterson, Executive Director Penelope Borland, and Kura Moeahu, Kaiwhakarite Māori at Parliament*

*BOTTOM MIDDLE RIGHT: Te Puoho Katene, 2017 Fulbright- Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga award recipient*

*BOTTOM RIGHT: Deputy Prime Minister Rt. Hon Winston Peters*

***“We the Fulbright whānau are uniquely situated to bring positive change to whatever we choose to pursue. And this is a world calling for change.”***

*– Te Puoho Katene*





***“As a Pasifika writer, director and story teller I am lucky to live in a country like New Zealand whose institutions have helped grow and develop Pasifika storytelling.***

***While in Hawai’i I would like to attend and give talks in which I can draw on my professional experience, to help indigenous writers based in Hawai’i, in any small way that I can.”***

– Oscar Kightley - 2019 recipient of the Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writer’s Residency Award



TOP: Toi Whakaari Director Tanea Heke with 2019 Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writer’s Residency grantee Oscar Kightley.

BOTTOM LEFT: Hon Shane Jones with Jason Mika, 2019 Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Scholar.

BOTTOM: MIDDLE LEFT: U.S. Ambassador Scott Brown, U.S. Consul General Katelyn Choe, Gail Brown, and University of Otago Vice Chancellor and Fulbright Board Member Harlene Hayne.

BOTTOM MIDDLE RIGHT: Hon Shane Jones, U.S. Ambassador Scott Brown, His Honour Judge Andrew Becroft

BOTTOM RIGHT: Deputy Prime Minister Rt. Winston Peters, and Fulbright New Zealand Executive Director Penelope Borland.







## CELEBRATING THE 2019 GRANTEE COHORT

*The 2019 Awards Ceremony celebrated and honoured 63 New Zealanders and Americans. This year was particularly exciting as Fulbright New Zealand is now offering more awards at higher levels to all New Zealand graduates and scholars - this year's cohort is first to receive the extra level of support made possible with the extra funding from MFAT.*

The New Zealand Graduate Award Programme now includes second year funding - a first for Fulbright New Zealand. Students undertaking multi-year masters or PhD programmes can apply for the second year funding. Ten of this year's New Zealand Graduates are being supported across two years. More funding has also been allocated to the New Zealand Scholar Awards Programme, to better support Scholars and their dependents while in the US.



*TOP: Danielle Lindsay (2019 Fulbright-EQC Award recipient) with 2019 Science & Innovation Graduates Injy Johnstone, Nandini Nair, Mitchell Chandler, Nick Goodson, Oliver Armstrong-Scott, Marise Stuart and Ema Hao'uli.*

*MIDDLE LEFT: Carrie Clifford (2019 Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Graduate Award with 2019 Fulbright US Graduates Rory Taylor and Ingabirano Nintunze.*

*MIDDLE RIGHT: Fulbright US Graduates Hannah Dougherty, Rowena Schenck and Riley Knoedler.*

*BOTTOM: 2019 New Zealand Scholars Susan Schenk, Fiona Amundsen and Nicola Daly..*

## 2019 FULBRIGHT NEW ZEALAND AWARD GRANTEES

### New Zealand Science and Innovation Graduate Awards

- Ema Hao'uli
- Injy Johnstone
- Marise Stuart (Ngāpuhi ki Taiamai, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa)
- Mitchell Chandler
- Nandini Nair
- Nicholas Goodson
- Oliver Armstrong-Scott
- Ribbu Dhakal

### New Zealand General Graduate Awards

- Abbas Nazari
- Emma McIntyre
- Fuimaono Dylan Asafo (Salani, Satalo, Siumu, Moata'a, Leufisa)
- Grace Francis
- Henry Benson-Pope
- Hitaua Arahanga-Doyle (Ngāi Tahu, Te Atihaunui a Pāpārangi)
- Jack Davies
- Jessica Stubbing (Te Rarawa, Ngāti Awa, Ngai Takoto)
- Melanie Puka (Tokelau, Samoa)
- Robert Schultz
- Sarah Alawi

### Fulbright-EQC Graduate Award in Natural Disaster Research

- Danielle Lindsay

### Fulbright Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Graduate Award

- Carrie Clifford (Waitaha, Kāti Māmoe, Kāi Tahu)

### Fulbright US Graduate Awards

- Hannah Dougherty
- Ingabirano Nintunze
- Joshua Ferrer
- Molly Riley Knoedler
- Octavius Jones
- Rory Taylor (Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma)
- Rowena Schenck

### Fulbright New Zealand Scholar Awards

- Annette Palliser
- Fiona Amundsen
- Julia Horsfield
- Nicola Daly
- Rangimarie Mahuika (Ngāti Rangiwewehi, Ngāti Whakauae, Ngāti Ranginui, Te Rarawa)
- Susan Schenk

### Fulbright Nga Pae o te Maramatanga Scholar Award

- Jason Mika (Tūhoe, Ngāti Awa, Whakatōhea, Ngāti Kahungunu)

### Fulbright US Scholar Awards

- Dustin Ballard
- David Wells
- Peter Zazzali
- Yvonne Vadeboncoeur

### Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writer's Residency

- Oscar Kightley

### Fulbright-Wallace Arts Trust Award

- Emma Fitts

### Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Programme for New Zealand Teachers

- Michelle Ballard
- Susan Peoples

### Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Programme for US Teachers

- Bryan Dickinson
- Courtnee Bennett
- Emily Crum
- Leslie Hannam
- Margaret Kelley
- Patrick Maples
- Susannah Remillard
- Tiffany Gross

### Fulbright Specialist Awards

- Carrie Earthman
- Christopher Bellitto
- David Sedlak
- Dianne Finch
- Donna Riley
- Robert Field

### New Zealand Harkness Fellowship

- Douglas Jones (Rongowhakaata, Ngāti Kahungunu)
- Donna Provoost

### Ian Axford Fellowships in Public Policy

- Alexa Daniels-Shpall
- Laura Berntsen
- Nathan Swinton
- Paul Phifer

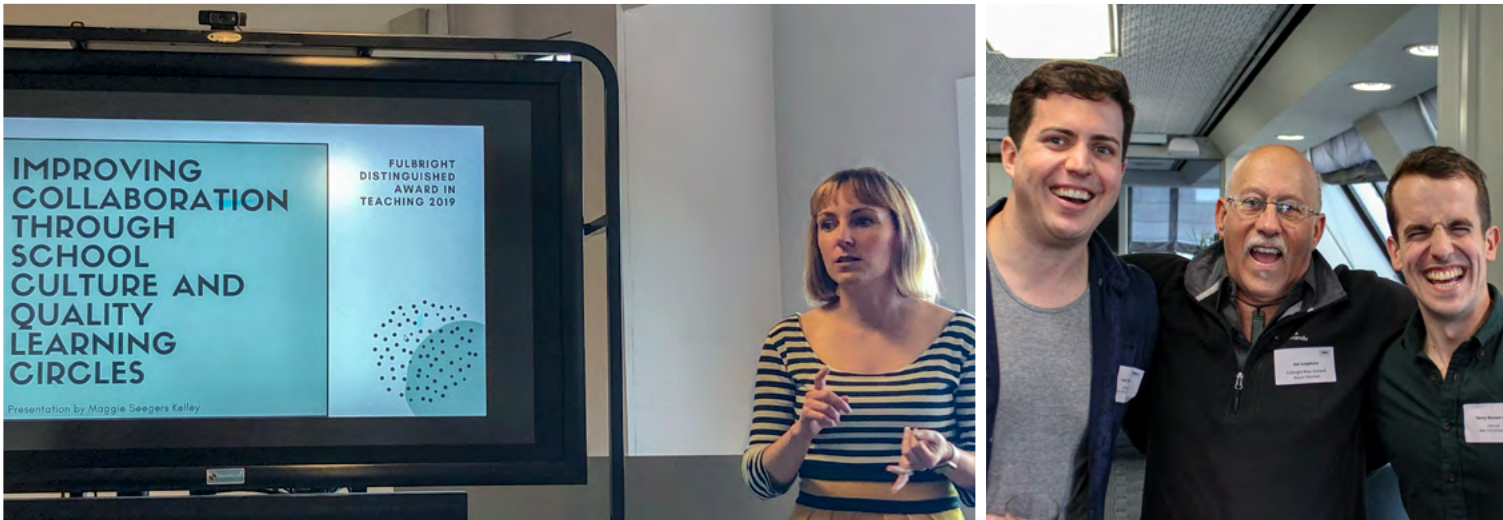


# GRANTEE EXPERIENCES: MID-YEAR PROGRAMME

The annual Mid-Year Programme ran for three days and is always a highlight of the year for Fulbright New Zealand and grantees alike.

The programme kicked off with the Awards Ceremony at Parliament on 17 June 2019, celebrating the achievements of our new grantees with friends, family, and Fulbright alumni. The Fulbright staff and facilitator Trish Lui led the New Zealand and US Graduates in workshops around topics of cultural competencies, ambassadorial leadership, and reflection. The New Zealand Graduates stayed an extra day for a more detailed pre-departure orientation, where they also heard from recently returned alumni. The Mid-Year Programme is the only time of the year that the current US and New Zealand Graduate students are brought together, which enables many special connections to be made.

TOP: The 2019 New Zealand Graduate cohort listening to recently returned alumni at the 2019 Mid Year Programme. Pictured at back, left to right: Pip Climo, Fulbright New Zealand Programme Manager with Fulbright alumni Hazelle Tomlin (speaking), Dingcheng Luo, Melissa Derby, Rachel Bonnevie and Sarah Neill. MIDDLE LEFT: US Graduate Ingabirano Nintunze. MIDDLE RIGHT: US Graduate Hannah Dougherty. BOTTOM LEFT: US Teacher Maggie Seegers Kelley. BOTTOM RIGHT: Fulbright New Zealand 2019 Graduates Jack Davies (left) and Henry Benson-Pope (right) meeting Board member Hal Josephson (centre).



## IN MEMORIAM

Fulbright New Zealand is saddened to receive notice of the passing of the below alumni. We are proud of their contributions to Fulbright, and to have had them as part of our alumni community.

**Dr. John Dawson**  
John was a New Zealand Graduate Student from 1954 who completed a PhD in Botany at the University of California, Berkeley.

**Brian Halton**  
Brian received a New Zealand Research Scholar Award in 1981 to undertake Organic Chemistry at the University of Utah. Brian was an Emeritus Professor of Chemistry at Victoria University of Wellington.

**Dr. Michael Hartshorn**  
Michael was a New Zealand Visiting Lecturer/Researcher in Chemistry in 1966 at Cornell University.

**John Fitzmaurice**  
John received a New Zealand Graduate Award in 1954 to complete a Masters in Sanitary Engineering and part-time teaching fellowship at Harvard University. John has made a huge contribution to sewage projects throughout New Zealand, and was a recognized leader in his field. After completing his Fulbright scholarship, John returned to work at the Drainage Board where he was based before leaving for the USA. He stayed there for twelve years before leaving to set up his own consultancy

firm with partner Lester Steven. The practice later merged with Beca Carter Hollings and Ferner (now known as Beca Group). John continued to stay busy in retirement; he was a Deputy Environment Commissioner for the Environment Court from 1995 to 2001, and Deputy Convenor of the Audit Group for Project Manakau from 2001 to 2014. He also served as IPENZ Auckland Branch Chairman in 1966. John was the recipient of multiple prestigious awards in his field. We would like to acknowledge the generous donation made to Fulbright in his legacy.





FULBRIGHT ALUMNAE

# LEADERS IN STEM

Many New Zealand Fulbrighters are working and conducting research at the forefront of their area in STEM – including women who are leaders in their field and are inspiring others to follow an interest in science, math, engineering or technology. Here are a few of the Fulbright women in STEM we have been in touch with recently.



## WOMEN IN STEM INSPIRE WELLINGTON STUDENTS

*In May this year, Fulbright New Zealand hosted an inspiring Women in STEM panel at Victoria University of Wellington.*

Fulbright New Zealand joined forces with Techwomen New Zealand and Graduate Women New Zealand, to host a women in STEM panel at Victoria University of Wellington. The four panelists are innovators and leaders in their fields, and included three Fulbright alumnae:

- Helen Ferner, Technical Director in Structural Engineering at Beca New Zealand, and Fulbright Graduate in 1986
- Laura Sessions, Science and Technology Manager at Hutt City Council, Fulbright US Graduate to New Zealand in 1996
- Sue McLean, Digital Technology Services Manager at Transpower
- Hazelle Tomlin, Climate Change, Adaptation, Reporting and Evidence Team at Ministry of Primary Industries, and a Fulbright Science and Innovation Graduate in 2017

The group shared their common passion for problem solving and working collaboratively. They each spoke about being driven to seek solutions to the major issues facing our world today, and discussed how important creative thinking and being curious is - in any sector.

“I’m very interested in the future,” said Helen Ferner. “I’m always looking for ways on how to

improve the current situation, that’s very much where my focus is all the time. So my work is in of itself future focused... what technology can we use. We’re constantly looking for new ways to communicate with our clients and use technology. And it’s not that I know a lot about it all – it’s all about connecting with the person who does.”

Many tips were shared in the wide-ranging discussion - from following your interests through to harnessing soft skills of communication and relationship building. And, the panel reminded us of the power of shoulder tapping - to offer opportunities to the next generation of women in STEM.

“There are lots of opportunities that are not necessarily at a lab bench or in front of a computer – so if you have other skills that you are interested in combining with science and technology that’s definitely a possibility” said Laura Sessions

Thank you to our four panelists and event chair, Kirsten McLay, from Deloitte New Zealand.

**Full audio of the event available online:**  
[www.fulbright.org.nz/2019-05-02-fulbright-women-in-stem-podcast/](http://www.fulbright.org.nz/2019-05-02-fulbright-women-in-stem-podcast/)



# DR LIZ BROADBENT AT TECHWEEK 2019

Elizabeth Broadbent is a Professor in Health Psychology at the University of Auckland, and a Fulbright alumna. In 2017 Elizabeth received a New Zealand Scholar award to research the design of companion robots to improve health at Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts. She has a particular interest in building emotional intelligence in robots.

In 2019 Elizabeth has been conducting research into how we can enhance robot-patient communication via verbal and nonverbal behaviours. She shared her research at our Fulbright Forum event at Auckland University of Technology (AUT), which was part of Techweek 2019.

In her presentation, Elizabeth talked about the role of robotics in healthcare in assisting patients with adherence and also providing companionship. She is currently conducting research into how we can enhance robot-patient communication via verbal and nonverbal behaviours, and talked about how these behaviours (also known as emotional intelligence), may increase patient trust and satisfaction with healthcare robots, and result in better health behaviours and outcomes.

# FULBRIGHTER WINS PHYTOBIOMES FELLOWSHIP AT PENN STATE

Hanareia Ehau-Tuamaunu, 2017 Fulbright Science & Innovation Graduate, is completing a PhD in plant pathology at Pennsylvania State University. She recently won the 2019 Phytobiomes Fellowship at Penn State Microbiome Center.

Hanareia presented her current research findings at the Plant Health 2019 American Phytopathology Society Annual Meeting.

“I am currently exploring the modes of competition that bacteria employ to compete with one another, in particular I study the production of bacteriocins, which are toxins that bacteria produce to kill other bacteria.

At the recent conference I presented my findings - that bacteriocins are critical when invading a bacterial population in the plant

apoplast (under certain circumstances), and that they are also effective at reducing a toxin sensitive competitor.

It was my first time speaking at the national conference, which has given me confidence in presenting to colleagues, and enabled myself to see the progress I have made while being in the States.”

Connect with Hanareia via Twitter:  
[twitter.com/hanareiaehau](https://twitter.com/hanareiaehau)

## WHAT'S YOUR AREA OF STEM?

EMAIL: [ALUMNI@FULBRIGHT.ORG.NZ](mailto:ALUMNI@FULBRIGHT.ORG.NZ)

We'd love to hear from you. Are you conducting new research, working with new technology or an area of innovation? Please let us know about your news, publications or events.



# DO YOU KNOW A FUTURE NEW ZEALAND SCHOLAR?

New Zealand academics, artists or professionals are invited to apply for a NZ Scholar Award. Scholar Awards aren't just for academics – we encourage professionals, artists and other leaders to apply. There are a large variety of US institutions who host Scholars – from universities or colleges, to museums, non-profits, think-tanks – any organisation with a research or lecturing component. The awards are valued at up to US\$37,500 towards three to five months of lecturing and/or research at US institutions.

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON 1 OCTOBER.**

[WWW.FULBRIGHT.ORG.NZ/AWARDS/NZSCHOLAR/NZSCHOLAR/](http://WWW.FULBRIGHT.ORG.NZ/AWARDS/NZSCHOLAR/NZSCHOLAR/)





## FEATURE STORY:

# THEATRE CONNECTIONS & COLLABORATION – US TO NZ

### Part 1: Peter Zazzali - 2019 Fulbright US Scholar

*Peter Zazzali recently departed New Zealand shores after a five month Scholar residency at Toi Whakaari, the national drama school in Wellington. During his residency, Peter was actively involved in Toi's learning environment on a daily basis, immersed in the community and engaged in group activities and classes including instructing and directing student actors. Here he shares how transformational his experience at Toi - and in Aotearoa - has been.*

“When I applied to be a Fulbright Scholar at New Zealand's national drama school, my goals were to develop research in the area of actor training, to explore the school's indigenous teaching methods, and to enhance my work as a theatre artist. In the spirit of cultural exchange, I also wanted to establish new relationships with colleagues and students that fostered knowledge, expertise, and possibilities for future collaborations. Finally, I wanted to learn more about Aotearoa culture, most especially the traditions and practices of its indigenous people.

By all measures, I was able to meet and exceed these goals. My five-month residency spanned two terms, during which time I partook in Toi's learning environment on a daily basis. I immersed myself in the community and consistently engaged in group activities, observed classes, interviewed staff and students—including alumni, and instructed and directed student actors.

Of the many productive outcomes from my residency, building relationships with colleagues was among the most salient. I greatly valued the chance to share ideas and collaborate with peers from another culture and country. The exchange with my Toi counterparts was strong at the outset and grew throughout the months of my visit. From the spontaneous conversations

on pedagogy to our time in rehearsals, my colleagues and I nurtured a bond that will lead to future collaborations.

Having the opportunity to be a Fulbright scholar has been a transformational experience.

My residency contributed to both Toi Whakaari's pedagogy and my professional development in the context of a rich cultural exchange. Becoming immersed in their learning community facilitated my ethnographic research while reshaping my scholarship and practice. The Acting Program's use of the Tikanga Māori frameworks was especially impressive and will have a lasting effect on my own teaching.

From the moment I arrived in Wellington to the poroporoaki marking my departure, I was treated with the same rigor and respect as any other member of the whanau. My bond with Toi Whakaari will remain intact as we endeavor to create future exchanges and collaborations. As such, Māori distinguish between the concept of goodbye and bidding someone farewell.

Whereas the former is a western conceit suggesting finality, Māori underscore a person's (or group) visit by acknowledging the host/guest connection as indelible, thereby inferring the parties will meet again. I am eternally grateful to Fulbright and Toi Whakaari for this life changing opportunity.”

*Peter Zazzali with students and staff at Toi Whakaari.  
Photos by Philip Merry.*



*“Having the opportunity to be a Fulbright scholar has been a transformational experience.”*





## FEATURE STORY:

# THEATRE CONNECTIONS & COLLABORATION - TAKING NZ THEATRE TO THE WORLD

## Part 2: Jane Yonge - 2018 Fulbright New Zealand Graduate

Jane Yonge completed a Masters in Art Politics at Tisch School of the Arts at New York University and recently returned to New Zealand. We caught up with Jane recently over coffee in Wellington and heard more about her energising and inspiring Fulbright experience in New York City.

The first few months of Jane's international Fulbright experience were a whirlwind - as just before starting her Masters in NYC, Jane travelled to the UK to take her play *The Basement Tapes* to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with Zanetti Productions. The production went on to win a Fringe First Award from The Scotsman! The award recognises outstanding new writing premiered at Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Once she settled in to NYC she relished the opportunities in front of her.

"My cohort was so amazing. Such a great range of people. The course was so good. But it was the people that made it. And I got to make other work. It was so great to be in New York. I got to go see stuff, go to conferences."

While in NYC, Jane was able to find time to get involved in the local theatre scene and collaborate with classmates on new work.

"I assistant directed a show at The Public

Theater and presented a new work called *All Look the Same* which I made with some class mates. We were awarded a Graduate Student Organisation Inter-Departmental Grant to make the piece."

Jane says she loves sharing her Fulbright and New York experience with friends and colleagues. When people ask her about Fulbright she encourages them to have a chat with the Fulbright New Zealand team.

Jane is now exploring the possibilities of new theatre work in New Zealand and maybe even some overseas projects next year.

With the Fulbright and NYC experiences energising her creative work, and with new connections made in theatre in UK and the US - we know Jane won't have any trouble finding new projects or collaborators.

Watch this space!

## SHARE YOUR STORY - CONTRIBUTE TO BRIGHT SPARKS

EMAIL: [COMMS@FULBRIGHT.ORG.NZ](mailto:COMMS@FULBRIGHT.ORG.NZ)

We'd love to feature more content created by Fulbrighters. Send us your articles, blog posts, event reports, travel adventures or photo essays.

Did you know Bright Sparks is sent to over 2200 Fulbright New Zealand alumni around the world?! We also share it with friends of Fulbright in the private, public and tertiary sectors across New Zealand.



**GRANTEE EXPERIENCES:**

# SPRING & GRADUATION

TOP LEFT: Melissa Derby and Fulbrighter friends lending a hand to the North 5th Street Revitalization Project in Philadelphia.



TOP CENTRE: Rez Gardi, graduating with an LLM from Harvard Law School. "This degree is for my parents who fled war and left everything behind to ensure their dream of receiving an education would be a reality for me. It is for my Kurdish people, who are still struggling for self-determination, and it is for the millions of voiceless refugees, globally, who drive my passion and give me purpose."



BOTTOM LEFT: Salina Fisher, graduating from the Manhattan School of Music 2019.



BOTTOM CENTRE: US Graduates Ziibiiins Alexandra Johnson and Riley Knoedler enjoy autumn adventures on the Whanganui River in New Zealand.



RIGHT: Trish Tupou, graduated with an MA in Pacific Islands Studies from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. "Mahalo nui loa and mālō 'aupito to everyone who has been a part of my academic journey so far!" (Photo credit Diliaur Tellei)



**HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?**  
EMAIL [ALUMNI@FULBRIGHT.ORG.NZ](mailto:ALUMNI@FULBRIGHT.ORG.NZ)

We would love to hear what you've been up to.



# FULBRIGHT GLOBAL NEWS

## GLOBAL MEETING IN WASHINGTON DC

*Fulbright New Zealand Executive Director, Penelope Borland, joined international educators from across the world at the NAFSA: Association of International Educators conference in Washington D.C. in May 2019. This was the first time ever the Global Fulbright Commission Executive Directors meeting took place in Washington D.C. The face to face meetings and time provided invaluable opportunities to discuss issues and exchange feedback. The week was filled with discussion and the evenings busy with events at the Germany, Canadian and New Zealand Embassy.*

On Tuesday 21 May, the Executive Directors from Fulbright Commissions gathered in the Kennedy Caucus Room at the the US Senate on Capitol Hill to celebrate the launch of the new Fulbright brand. Penelope described the evening as, “a night filled with moving speeches that were a total reinforcement of Fulbright’s absolute relevance in today’s world of confluence of

unprecedented challenges”. Following the meeting of Executive Directors and NAFSA conference, Penelope participated in the Axford selection interviews. The week in Washington DC ended with Fulbright New Zealand/Axford reception, and Fulbright specialist, Jeff Mosley, hosting the Axford annual alumni pot-luck dinner on Sunday 2 June.

### GLOBAL BRAND REFRESH

*The refreshed Fulbright identity shows how the Fulbright Program innovates to meet complex global challenges and increase mutual understanding. It demonstrates Fulbright’s renewed commitment to its mission: to forge lasting connections, counter global misunderstandings, and help people and nations work together toward common goals. This updated visual identity better enables Fulbright’s broad network of alumni, supporters, and partners to attract the most talented and passionate applicants from all backgrounds.*

To undertake the Fulbright brand strengthening work the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and the Fulbright Program’s Leadership at the United States Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) gathered input from global Fulbright connections the around the world – from Fulbright alumni, current Fulbright students and Scholars, private sector and NGO

partners, binational commissions around the globe, leaders in higher education, potential Fulbrighters, and many others. We are excited to begin using the new logo in Aotearoa to support our communications goals and the Fulbright New Zealand mission. The new logo is immediately in use on our digital channels and is being rolled out across physical collateral in a sustainable way over the coming months.



TOP RIGHT: Fulbright Global Executive Directors' Meeting, Washington DC

BOTTOM LEFT: Kennedy Caucus Room, US Senate.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Event at the New Zealand Embassy, Washington DC.





## FULBRIGHT EVENTS ON CAMPUS, TECHWEEK & NYC

Fulbright worked with University of Waikato, University of Otago and University of Canterbury during the months of April and May to host information sessions with the help of grantee and alumni representatives who shared their experiences with interested students. At University of Otago, Fulbright alumnus Neil Gemmel presented on his research and time in the USA. Neil is a Professor and AgResearch Chair in Reproduction and Genomics at the University of Otago. On his Fulbright award he researched the utility of new “gene drive” technologies for the control of predatory pests at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Broad Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

### Fulbright Techweek Forums – Wellington & Auckland Wellington - Tuesday 21 May and Auckland - Wednesday 22 May

We enjoyed participating in the national Techweek NZ festival again with two Fulbright Forum events open to the public. 2019 US Graduate Octavious Jones discussed his research around digital storytelling and the role of Māori women in marine science at our Wellington and Auckland TechWeek events. At the Auckland event we were joined by 2017 Fulbright alumnae Elizabeth Broadbent who presented her research on the role of robotics in healthcare.

### New York Alumni Dinner

In June, our Executive Director Penelope Borland hosted a dinner for alumni and grantees in and around New York. This was a small gathering, but a lovely occasion to get together and share Fulbright experiences.





## FULBRIGHT EVENTS

# NAISA – WAIKATO 2019

*It was a great privilege for Fulbright New Zealand to attend the NAISA Conference from 26 to 29 June 2019. The conference was hosted by the University of Waikato and we were delighted to be present and have a stand adjacent to our award partners and NAISA sponsors, Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga.*

NAISA (Native American and Indigenous Studies Association) is the largest scholarly organisation devoted to critical Indigenous Studies globally. The annual conference is the premiere international and interdisciplinary professional event for scholars, graduate students, independent researchers, and community members interested in all aspects of Indigenous Studies.

The aim of the conference is to provide a critical and safe space for scholars to critique, go beyond, perform and advocate within a number of interdisciplinary Indigenous Studies forums.

The NAISA conference brought together over 1,700 staff and students from Indigenous Studies and other cognate disciplines from all over the world to interact with the best Indigenous minds of our time. It was also an incredible opportunity for Fulbright New Zealand to promote our Fulbright- Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Graduate and Scholar awards, and grow awareness of all of our awards amongst attendees.

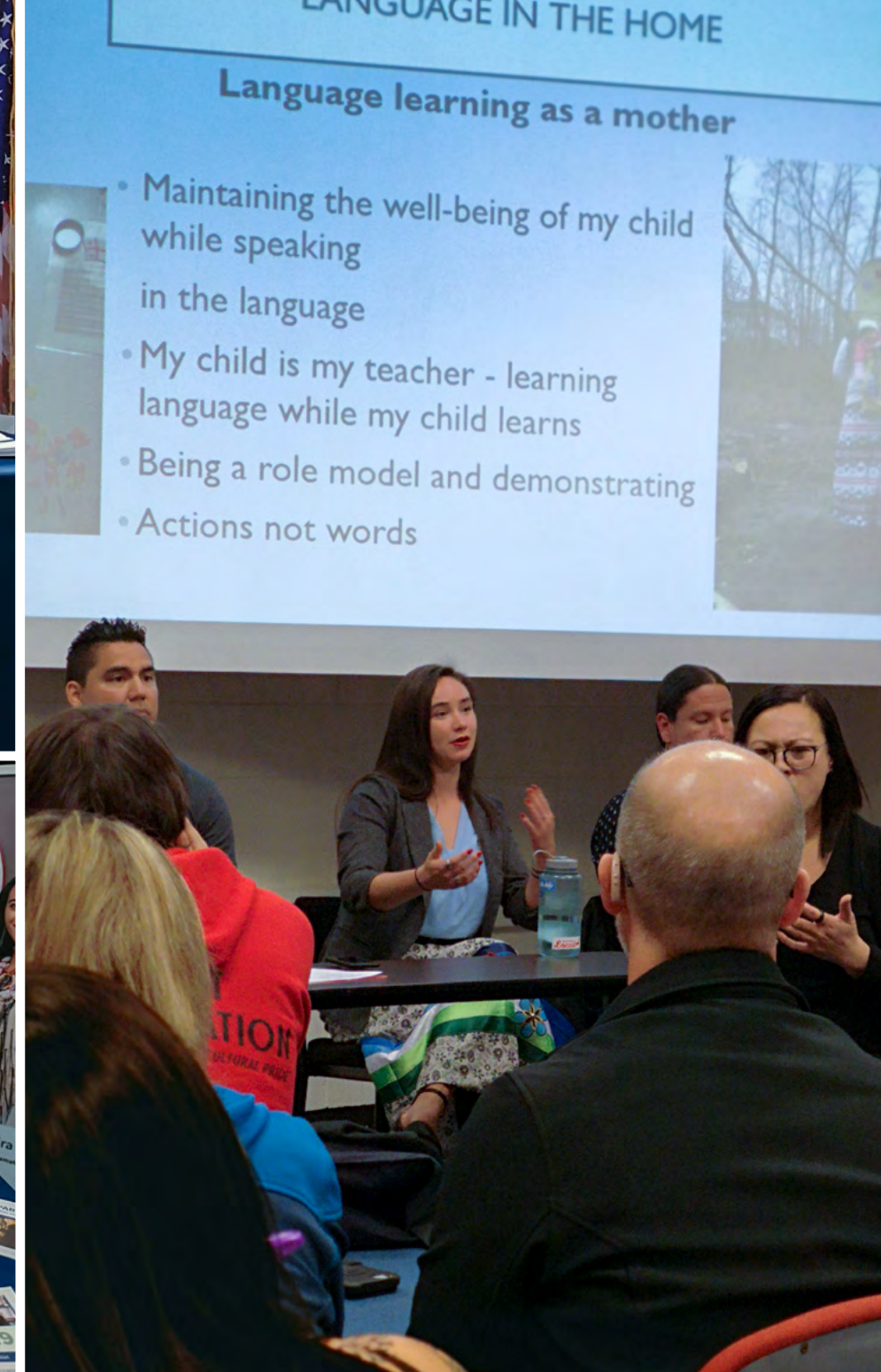
Not surprisingly, the programme featured a great many Fulbright and Fulbright- Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga award alumni including but certainly not limited to; Jacinta Ruru, Michelle Johnson-Jennings, Rangi-Anehu Matamua, Joanna Kidman, Nepia Mahuika, Rangimarie Mahuika, Te Kawehau Hoskins, Chanel Clarke, Te Hereripine Sarah-Jane Paine, Huia Tomlins-Jahnke, Claire Charters, Sophie Nock, Melinda Webber and Robert Jahnke.

TOP LEFT: Pip Climo, Fulbright New Zealand Programme Manager, at NAISA 2019.

RIGHT: US Graduate Award alumni Ziibiins, Alexandra Johnson, Anishinaabe from the Red Lake Nation, presented on creating second-language speakers of endangered indigenous languages. Pictured with fellow presenters, from left to right Mskwaankwad Rice, Anishinaabe from Wasauksing First Nation, Ozaawaa Giizhigo Ginev, Monty McGahey, Anishinaabe from Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Mshkogaabwid Kwe, Emmaline Beauchamp, Anishinaabe from Long Plain First Nation in Manitoba, Canada.

BOTTOM LEFT: New Zealand Distinguished Award in Teaching alumni Sera Henare (Muaūpoko, Ngāti Raukawa and Ngāi Tahu), Fulbright New Zealand Programme Manager Pip Climo, and Ziibiins, Alexandra Johnson, Anishinaabe from the Red Lake Nation.

BOTTOM CENTRE: US Graduate Award grantee Rory Taylor (Chatsiks-si-chatsiks/Chahta) and Ziibiins, Alexandra Johnson, Anishinaabe from the Red Lake Nation at the Fulbright New Zealand booth.





## STAFF UPDATES

The Fulbright team gives a big farewell to Programme Manager Kyla Orr and Communications Manager Rachel Tilghman. Kyla Orr has taken up a new role at BRANZ following nearly four years at Fulbright New Zealand. Rachel Tilghman has gone back to the United States of America working at Honor in Austin, Texas. We wish both all the best and look forward to hearing about their the new adventures.

Alexandra MacGibbon joined the Fulbright family in April as our Senior Communications Advisor. Alex has a background in media engagement, content writing and planning for community outreach and engagement. She loves reading about what our #Fulbright grantees are up to on social media and looks forward to continue meeting the people that make Fulbright what it is. Welcome to the whanau, Alex!

Magnolia Wilson has returned to Fulbright to look over our Axford and Harkness Fellowships in Public Policy. Magnolia continues to work part time at Massey University and recently finished her first book published with Auckland University Press. Good to have you back, Magnolia!



## KAI AND KORERO:

# MORNING TEA GUESTS

- US grantees definitely play a big part in our near perfect morning quiz scores. We've appreciated the catch ups from US grantees here in Wellington and all across New Zealand. Thanks for visiting **Octavius Jones, Riley Knoedler, Alexandra Ziibiins Johnson, and Joshua Ferrer!**
- 2007 Axford alumni **Ann Morse** joined us on the first day of March for morning tea and a quiz. Later in the year, our new Axford and Harkness Programme Manager Magnolia Wilson met some of the current Axford cohort during coffee, quiz and cookies.
- We loved having so many Wellington-based Fulbright teachers visit us for coffee. From March to May we had visits from US teachers **Maggie Kelley, Emily Crum, Tiffany Gross, and Susy Remillard.** Congratulations to all the teachers on completing their Fulbright programme. We loved having you and the diverse knowledge you brought to our morning quizzes.
- Once you've done a quiz with us, it's hard to stay away! Thank you to Fulbright alumni who helped us achieve a few extra points on the quiz the last few months: **Hazelle Tomlin, Lindsey Pointer, Browyn Kivell and Richard Arnold.** It is always nice to hear what our alumni are up to.
- US Scholars **Dave Wells** and **Peter Zazzali** popped in to the office to help us with the quiz. We will definitely be phoning a friend in the future when questions come up about Pacific Blue-Fin Tuna and Theatre!

## WANT TO JOIN US?

EMAIL [ALUMNI@FULBRIGHT.ORG.NZ](mailto:ALUMNI@FULBRIGHT.ORG.NZ)

We always welcome those in the neighbourhood to drop by and join us - if you'd like to schedule a time feel free to email [alumni@fulbright.org.nz](mailto:alumni@fulbright.org.nz) or reach out to your Programme Manager.



# KNOW A FUTURE FULBRIGHTER?

Fulbright New Zealand offers a range of exchange awards for New Zealand and United States citizens wanting to study, research, teach or present their work in each other's country. We love for our alumni and contacts to share their experiences, and spread the word about our programme to potential applicants.

## AWARD TYPE

Fulbright New Zealand General Graduate Awards  
Fulbright Science & Innovation Graduate Awards  
Fulbright-EQC Graduate Award in Natural Disaster Research  
Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Graduate Award  
Fulbright Specialist Awards  
Fulbright US Scholar Awards  
Fulbright New Zealand Scholar Awards  
Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Scholar Award  
Fulbright US Graduate Awards  
Fulbright-Scholar in Residence Program  
New Zealand Harkness Fellowships  
Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Programme for US Teachers  
Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writers' Residency  
Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Programme for NZ Teachers  
Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowships in Public Policy  
Fulbright-Wallace Arts Trust Award  
John F. Kennedy Memorial Fellowship

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

1 August annually  
1 August annually  
1 August annually  
1 August annually  
1 August and 1 April annually  
1 August annually  
1 October annually  
1 October annually  
9 October annually  
14 October annually  
15 October annually  
1 December annually  
1 March annually  
15 March annually  
1 April annually  
End of July annually  
By appointment only

Fulbright New Zealand is jointly funded by the governments of New Zealand and the United States of America. We gratefully acknowledge additional sponsorship and donations from generous supporters including organisations, philanthropists and individuals. To make a donation, please visit [www.fulbright.org.nz/donate](http://www.fulbright.org.nz/donate)

