

A Sustainable Future research theme | update from the theme leaders

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to this update on the Sustainable Future research theme.

Viji, Kathryn and I met with the Associate Dean Research and the other research theme leaders earlier this month for an informal stock take of how the research themes are working across the faculty. Although we are still at an early stage, we found it useful to share our progress, ideas and challenges with the group.

I, and a number of other theme members, submitted a UoA SRIF application in late 2018 to develop an Environmental CoRE. This has been merged with two other proposals and we have been developing an **Environmental Wellbeing CoRE bid** led by Simon Thrush. A proposal will be submitted to UoA by July 5 for evaluation to decide which CoRE proposals will be supported for submission to the TEC in the expected round.

We are starting to develop an **online presence** for our theme – you can check out our [webpage](#) here. We would like to commission two short videos that showcase work in our theme. The intention by the FoS website developers is for themes to become externally facing as the new UoA website design is rolled out. Please email any suggestions for the videos to Kathryn.howard@auckland.ac.nz.

Our first **seed funding project** – Automated flow technology for personalized cancer vaccine synthesis led by Emma Davison (Chemical Sciences) – has been awarded. The envisaged automated peptide flow synthesizer will optimize the efficiency of the manufacturing process, drastically reducing chemical and solvent waste.

We are investigating a number of networking opportunities that we think could be of interest to theme members.

- We are looking at organising a **writing retreat** later in the year, possibly 1-2 days in the Waitakere ranges. Please contact Kathryn.howard@auckland.ac.nz if you are interested in participating (you can work independently on your own work but have an opportunity to network with other sustainability researchers too). We will proceed with finalising dates and venue when we have an idea on numbers;
- Through UniServices we are planning a **visit to key government departments** (MfE and MPI) in Wellington in the next few months. This builds on a request from MfE for the University to present their expertise in areas of clean water, waste technologies, clean technology and the circular economy. Please contact Kathryn.howard@auckland.ac.nz if there are specific points or projects you would like highlighted.
- We plan to follow this up with a **series of ideas workshops** around key topics of government interest. We are looking at “freshwater” for the first ideas workshop. If you would like to participate or suggest other topics, please email Kathryn.howard@auckland.ac.nz

A reminder that registrations are currently open for New Zealand's second national **Sustainable Development Goals Summit**. The summit will be held at the Sir Owen G Glenn Building on Monday 2 September 2019. You can [register here](#).

My deputy theme leaders, Jonathan Sperry and Viji Sarojini have given me great support over the last six months and as I go on Research and Study Leave for the next six months, I know I leave the research theme in safe hands.



Jacqueline Beggs – theme leader



Kathryn Howard – Research programme manager