

## Events: sport and culture a winning combo for alumni in March



*Composer Chris Gendall and Māori Centre manager Pearl Matahiki*

Some preferred the dulcet tones of a contemporary Māori vocal quartet while others enjoyed the sound of leather on willow, or hearing about cyber crime. Whatever their preference, Otago alumni were well entertained by several Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO) events in March.

Alumni from around Otago enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere at events before and after the NZSO Summer Pops with the Modern Māori Quartet concert at the Dunedin Town Hall on 2 March.



*NZSO Chief Executive Christopher Blake discusses the concert with alumni and guests.*

Host Professor Terence Dennis from Otago's Department of Music, Theatre and Performing Arts outlined highlights from his prolific career as a pianist, including accompanying world-

renowned soprano Dame Kiri Te Kanawa at more than 50 performances, before discussing the significant changes the Department had undergone since he joined its staff in 1981.

The Department often had cause to celebrate the successes of alumni such as Jonathan Lemalu, who will bring his Song in the Key of Life concert to Dunedin in April, and had worked to create a diverse educational setting which produced world-class research and graduates in a range of areas, from ethnomusicology to contemporary and classical performance.

Professor Dennis referred to alumni-funded scholarships for traditional Scottish bagpiping and drumming and Dr Jennifer Cattermole’s work researching and recreating taonga pūoro (traditional Māori musical instruments) as examples of the breadth of work the Department did.



*Rose Nettleton, Emmeline Kendrick and Ben Nettleton (right) alumni Ken Lister and Barbara Bridger.*

NZSO Chief Executive Christopher Blake shared insights about the Summer Pops series and the collaboration with the Modern Māori Quartet, which he described as “a fusion of classical and garage party themes.”

After the concert alumni mingled with NZSO musicians, including Bridget Douglas (principal flute), Brigid O’Meeghan (cello assistant sub principal emeritus - pictured below, left) and Heather Thompson (horn sub principal - below, right).



## NZ vs South Africa, University Oval, 10 March



**Even the weather (mostly) played ball during the DARO-run New Zealand vs South Africa cricket test event at the University Oval on 10 March.**

A group of local and international alumni competition winners enjoyed uninterrupted views of the on-pitch action from the Oval Suite.



*(Left) Joe and Raeleen Thompson and (right) Judy Rodda and Kirk Hamilton.*

University Oval groundsman Mike Davies gave alumni special insights into the logistics of hosting an international test, recent improvements to the University Oval and the technical requirements of preparing a test pitch that provided opportunities for both batsmen and bowlers over five days.

Dunedin Venues event co-ordinator Amanda Milne said alumni and cricket-goers enjoyed all-day access to a range of food, beverage and entertainment stalls in the “highly successful” Village Green entertainment area, which was run for the first time this year.



*(Top, from left) Dion Crannitch, Guy Wilson and Jason Cushen (Deputy-Director, International), (bottom left) Rebecca Cornelius and Ben Wheeler, (right) Emma Smith and Charlotte Crack.*



Associate Professor Hank Wolfe, Information Science, discusses cyber security at the inaugural Alumni, Books and Conversation with Otago Lecturers event, held in conjunction with the University Book Shop, on 21 March.



Students Robbie O'Hara, James Tweed and alumna Pat Merrilees discuss the student exchange programme, and the [Brian Merrilees Canadian Alumni Travel Awards](#).