

# KuDos Lifetime Achievement Award for Roy Daniel

**EMERITUS PROFESSOR ROY DANIEL HAS BEEN AWARDED THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AT THIS YEAR'S KUDOS SCIENCE AWARDS HELD RECENTLY.**

**The Lifetime Achievement Award recognises a Waikato scientist whose research has made a major contribution to Waikato and the international profile of New Zealand science.**

Professor Daniel says that, like all endeavours, science has its ups and downs, but this award is primarily a reminder of the constructive and supportive Waikato School of Science environment.

"I've been fortunate academically and in friendships among my local and international collaborators, and in the quality and enthusiasm of my graduate research students. And I've always had the ongoing support of my family," he says. "Most of all, the award reminds me of what huge fun it all was."

In a career spanning 38 years at the University of Waikato, Professor Daniel's work on enzyme properties has been recognised both internationally

and within the university where he was awarded a personal Chair in Biological Sciences in 1985 for his research on thermostable enzymes and their commercial implications.

Work by Professor Daniel, a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand, led to a substantial grant for the building and equipping of the university's Thermophile Research Unit (TRU) where he acted as co-director with Professor Hugh Morgan.

During its 32-year existence, the unit has gained an international reputation as a leader in an international network of extremophile research groups.

The applied work of the Thermophile group involved close relationships for more than 30 years with national and international companies including research contracts with British Petroleum, Shell, Liquid Fuels Trust Board, Sandoz, Clariant Biotech, Novo and Carter Holt Harvey.

Professor Daniel was instrumental in the formation of Pacific Enzymes Ltd, a joint collaboration with oil company Shell and the Universities of Waikato and Auckland, and in 2004, the formation of ZyGem Ltd.

With both fundamental and applied biochemical research interest in enzyme stability, Professor Daniel has been internationally recognised for his research and has been Primary Investigator on several Marsden Awards, with an A rating in the PBRF assessment.

His pioneering work on the way in which temperature affects enzyme activity has been cited in undergraduate and advanced textbooks, and could have a profound influence on future attempts to engineer enzymes and proteins.

Professor Daniel's 200-plus publications span 47 years and include many high-profile journals.

He came to the University of Waikato in 1975 as a lecturer in biochemistry and was made Professor in Biological Sciences in 1984. From 1987-1991, he was the Dean at the University's School of Science and Technology. On his retirement in 2013, the University awarded him the title of Emeritus Professor.



Back L-R: Dr Doug Edmeades, Chris McBride, Prof Craig Cary, Prof Phillip Weston (on behalf of Deborah Harris PhD), Dr Simon Taylor. Front: Emeritus Prof. Roy Daniel, Dr Bruno David

## KuDos for Antarctic researcher

**An American academic whose main area of research is 5000km away in Antarctica has been recognised for his environmental science work.**

Professor Craig Cary from the University of Waikato's Faculty of Science and Engineering won the Environmental Science Award at the annual KuDos Science Excellence Awards in Hamilton recently.

The awards - now in their eighth year - support and recognise outstanding achievement in scientific research and innovation from the Waikato region.

Professor Cary considers himself a Microbial Ecologist and his interest lies in researching bacteria which live in extreme environments, including deep sea thermal vents and the soils of Antarctica.

He is interested in learning how bacteria in these environments establish themselves, maintain life, and evolve as



**PROFESSOR CRAIG CARY from the University of Waikato's Faculty of Science and Engineering**

communities.

He says it is an honour to receive the award.

"It has been received by many prestigious researchers before me."

The recognition of awards such as KuDos encourages scientists to "do better science," he says.

"People get the chance to see what we're doing and that's great. It is important people know. You always want to get better and do it better, ask harder questions."

He says the KuDos awards are an important way to recognise science in Waikato.

Professor Cary's work now

includes areas such as lake restoration in the region, and didymo research, where his laboratory is charged with monitoring for this pest throughout the North Island.

He is based in the Thermophile Research lab (TRU) and a containment lab wing which was built recently allowing the university to bring in samples from Antarctica for research.

University of Waikato advanced technical officer Chris McBride was also a winner at the awards, taking out the Hill Laboratories Laboratory Technician Award, ahead of aquatic technical team leader Dudley Bell, who was also a finalist in the category.

Associate Professor Nicola Starkey was a finalist in the Gallagher Medical Science Award while Emeritus Professor Roy Daniel was presented a Lifetime Achievement Award.

## The KuDos winners

*Hamilton City Council Agricultural Science Award*  
**Dr. Doug Edmeades - AgKnowledge Ltd**

*Wintec Secondary Science Teacher/Educator/Communicator Award*  
**Dr. Simon Taylor - University of Auckland**

*New Zealand National Fieldays Society Innovation Award*  
**Dr. Bruno David - Waikato Regional Council**

*Gallagher Medical Science Award*  
**Deborah Harris, PhD - Waikato DHB**

*Hill Laboratories Laboratory Technician Award*  
**Chris McBride - The University of Waikato**

*Environmental Science Award*  
**Prof. Craig Cary - The University of Waikato**

*The University of Waikato Lifetime Achievement Award*  
**Emeritus Professor Roy Daniel - The University of Waikato**

## Medical man of long-standing helps drive Waikato Research Foundation

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remain there forever. Only the investment income generated from the fund is used for qualifying medical and health related research projects.

Another benefit that appealed to Peter is that the Foundation is not typical of many other not-for-profit charitable organisations in that it is a very "lean" organisation in terms of costs and overheads. Apart from one part time administration assistant all others involved in the day-to-day running of the Foundation are volunteers.

It does not own or lease buildings or vehicles and so its overheads are extremely minimal thus maximising the investment potential of donations to the fund.

Today, the Foundation is a registered charitable trust based at the Waikato Clinical School at Waikato Hospital.

Waikato is now a major centre for the training of health professionals. This is only possible because there

are a cadre of research-active health professionals based in the region. Local medical and health researchers are involved in training the next generation, whether it is medical, nursing, allied health or psychology students.

Each year the Foundation invites research proposals from local researchers related to health and medical issues. These are carefully considered by the Foundation Grants Committee and projects are selected in line with set criteria. This multi-disciplinary committee is able to provide feedback on ranking and how grant applications can be improved.

In addition, this committee can assist other groups by evaluating the worthiness of research funding requests, and providing supervision and reporting on progress. Innovative research projects that have the potential to significantly benefit the health and well-being of the wider community are also considered.

The Foundation works

closely with local health care organisations such as the Waikato DHB, The Cancer Society and Braemar Trust, and has had substantial annual funding from Trust Waikato.

The Foundation's close connection with the Waikato Clinical School provides a valuable resource for the Waikato medical community via education and training for selected medical and clinical staff.

The next stage in development of medicine in the region is a sustainable research programme.

The WMRF trustees administer a fund of \$1.3 million. This is insufficient to meet the ever-increasing demand for medical research funding. For example, in the 2013 funding round the Foundation received applications for more than \$350,000, but given its limited resources and even with generous assistance from Trust Waikato was able to fund just over \$145,000.

In 2012, the trustees accordingly commissioned a

major gift fundraising appeal aimed at lifting the available funding to at least \$5 million. Feasibility research conducted before the commencement of the appeal indicated that for such an appeal to be successful there would need to be significant financial support and endorsement from the Waikato medical fraternity, the business and corporate community and the regional rural community.

Fundraising teams comprising a number of prominent business people and medical professionals have been operating for some time encouraging support for the appeal. To date, thanks to the hard work of the fundraising teams and generous supporters, the fundraising teams have lifted the research fund to just over \$3 million.

Although retired since 2001, Peter is currently an active member of both of these fundraising teams and has personally made a key donation to the fundraising appeal.

A regional fundraising team has recently been brought

together comprising senior representatives from within the rural and business community. This team is charged with assisting the Foundation to reach out to organisations, trusts, and individuals throughout the Waikato region and to encourage their financial support and endorsement for the research fund appeal.

The new Foundation Patrons, Sir William and Lady Judi Gallagher, keenly support the Foundation and the fundraising appeal and are proud to be associated with WMRF.

The appeal is a call to all sectors of the community to support the trustees' efforts to provide the region with a fund that will support health research funding needs, for today and for many years to come.

You can also read more about the Foundation or make an online donation at [www.wmrf.org.nz](http://www.wmrf.org.nz)

Should you wish to discuss any particular aspect of the Foundation or the pro-

posed Fund Development Programme, please feel free to make contact with:

*Peter De Luca, WMRF fundraising appeal chair*

*Email: pdeluca@tomwake.co.nz*

*Mobile: 021 998 327*

*Russell Mayhew, WMRF fundraising manager*

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**Important facts:** The Midland Region, to which Waikato Hospital provides specialist (tertiary) services, has a population of 800,000 (equal to the whole of the South Island) and ranges from the tip of the Coromandel Peninsula in the north to Turangi in the south, and from New Plymouth in the west to Gisborne on the east coast.

The Waikato District Health Board serves a local population of 373,000, and has 6000 employees across the district, the majority on the Waikato Hospital campus, which has completed a \$500m rebuild.

It is stated to be Hamilton's largest employer.