



The MacDiarmid Institute

for Advanced Materials and Nanotechnology

2020 was an extraordinarily challenging year worldwide. It came as no surprise to us as directors of the Institute to find that in the midst of all of this, the community that the MacDiarmid Institute has become was an amazing resource and support network.

And amongst the challenges, we've seen some success - we were [refunded as a Centre of Research Excellence for \\$48 million](#) for another 7.5 years starting July 2021. Thank you, Aotearoa, for supporting our work and all the young researchers this funding will go to. We look forward to helping New Zealand navigate some of its biggest challenges of the next decade!

This year four MacDiarmid affiliated researchers were awarded prizes from the [New Zealand Institute of Chemistry \(NZIC\)](#) for research excellence. Two of our people won at the [KiwiNet Research Commercialisation Awards](#) and our newest affiliated spinout company [Zincovery won this year's Callaghan Innovation C-Prize](#) and navigated a successful seed funding raise. 131 students applied for our annual DiscoveryCamp, and 198 for our annual NanoCamp, an increase of over 50 applications across both camps from last year. We funded 12 three-month internships for our PhD graduates in the government, social enterprise and commercial sectors.

For our thoughts on the importance of these post PhD opportunities, and postdoctoral fellowships in particular, in New Zealand's response to the impact of COVID-19, see our opinion piece on Postdocs below!

News and Updates



[Discovery Scholarship Programme continued for 2021](#)

We're delighted to announce the continued funding of this Scholarship Programme, for Māori and Pasifika students in tertiary science. Our first cohort of scholars completed their 2020 studies. You can read more about them [here](#).



[MacDiarmid Alumni Business Scholarships](#)

Every year we offer a limited number of competitive scholarships for our alumni to undertake further postgraduate study in business-related areas. This year we awarded four scholarships across the University of Auckland and Victoria University of Wellington.

Recent media



[Materials Fact or Fiction - Kryptonite](#)

Principal Investigator Professor Bill Williams gives us his scientific take on Superman's Kryptonite on RNZ Nights' Materials Fact or Fiction.



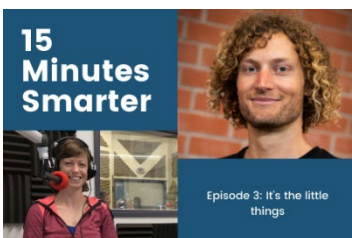
[How high-tech recycling could stop waste batteries becoming the next plastic crisis](#)

Nano-recycling is making the most of the tiny-scale but potentially harmful waste from batteries, circuit boards and more.



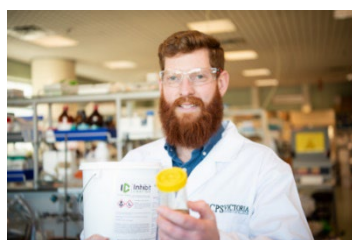
[Big waves brings Kiwi home](#)

Dr Leighton Watson reflects on how his experience at NanoCamp as a 17 year old gave him an early taste of research life.



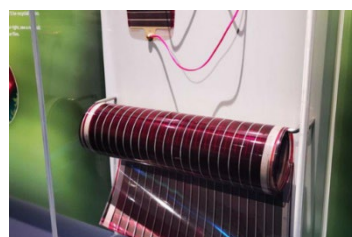
[15 Minutes Smarter - Episode Three](#)

In the third episode of 15 Minutes Smarter, Claire and Jono take a trip to the nanoscale where things get weird, and Dr Anna Garden shares her enthusiasm for the power of tiny things.



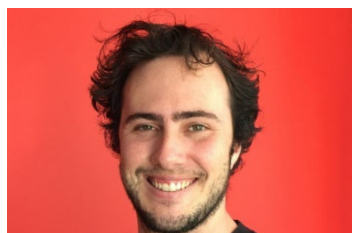
[Postdocs: the key to NZ's post-Covid recovery](#)

Co-Directors Nicola Gaston and Justin Hodgkiss write about funding postdocs to keep talent in New Zealand and elevate the economy.



[Green energy: You've got cheap data, is cheap power next?](#)

The iPhone transformed mobile phones in just 10 years. BBC chief environment correspondent Justin Rowlett asks whether green energy could create a similar revolution.



[Unexpected directions make new maps](#)

Becoming CEO of a startup is never straightforward. MacDiarmid Institute alumnus Dr Kyle Webster discusses his 'long road' from university to creating his start-up Litmaps.



[Industrial toxin recycling startup attracts international investors](#)

MacDiarmid Institute affiliated spinout company Zincovery has raised over \$1 million to help commercialise a product that will reduce environmental toxins created by the galvanising industry.