



Mānawatia a Matariki ma Puanga. At this time of Matariki, we celebrate Pleiades and Rigel, and reflect on [the connections between our science and the values of Matariki](#).



News and Updates

[Three MacDiarmid Institute researchers named in prestigious UK science award](#)

[Professor Tom Bennett](#), [Professor Shane Telfer](#) and [Dr Matt Cowan](#) are part of a global science group announced as winners of the [prestigious 2025 UK Royal Society of Chemistry prize](#) for creating an entirely new type of glass. You can read more about [glass's new chemical cousin](#) here.



[International Year of Quantum Science and Technology](#)

In honour of the [International Year of Quantum Science and Technology](#), we pulled together a few of our [Sci Fi / Sci Fact](#) podcast episodes that relate to quantum science and technology. Listen in to our researchers talk to Bryan Crump about whether an idea from science fiction holds up to scientific scrutiny and would work in reality.



[New Zealand cleantech companies make an impact on the world stage](#)

With cleantech critical to both climate mitigation and economic growth, six New Zealand cleantech companies (including [OpenStar Technologies](#), [Tasmanlon](#), [Nilo](#), [Cetogenix](#), [Mushroom Material](#), [Allegro Energy](#)), a Venture Capital firm and the MacDiarmid Institute visited Singapore in April to meet with investors and multinational partners.



'The world needs climate mitigation technologies like never before. Singapore offered a chance to connect with investors and global players who can help scale New Zealand cleantech into international supply chains and energy infrastructure'

Deputy Director for Commercialisation and Industry Engagement Associate
Professor Natalie Plank

Alumna Dr Shalini Divya [spoke with Greg Hurrell from BusinessDesk about Tasmanlon and about joining other NZ start-up companies on the cleantech trek to Singapore in May.](#)



Three groups of our Investigators have been awarded [MBIE Smart Ideas grants.](#)

Drs Jackson Miller, [Simon Granville](#) and [Will Holmes-Hewett](#) for their work towards an on-chip microwave circulator for scalable quantum computing, [Professor Aaron Marshall](#) and [Associate Professor Steve Matthews](#) for their work toward highly active low-cost electrodes, and [Dr Shen Chong](#), [Professor Grant Williams](#) and alumna Dr Joe Schuyt for a project led by Mike Packer (Algavive Ltd.), alumna Dr Hellen Nalumaga on Solar Spectral Engineering for Energy Efficient and Enhanced Growth of High-Value Algae

[Epic Angels, the largest global female investor collective](#), invests in [Opo Bio](#)

Epic Angels has invested in start-up company Opo Bio (led by Emeritus Investigator [Dr Laura Domigan](#) and alumna Dr Olivia Ogilvie). Opo Bio has developed patented cell line manufacturing technology that serves the cultivated meat, collagen and medical industries.



[Advemto selected for 2025 BioTools Innovator Programme](#)

Emeritus Investigator [Professor Justin Hodgkiss](#) and his start-up [Advemto](#) have been selected for the 2025 BioTools Innovator cohort. [BioTools Innovator](#) (BTI) is the first accelerator focused exclusively on life science tools and diagnostics startups.



Former Institute Director Professor Richard Blaikie is retiring, so with sadness we farewell him from our Governance Board. Richard has been a part of the Institute since it was founded in 2002 (he was inaugural Deputy Director). He has been [awarded an Honorary degree by the University of Otago](#) and we wish him all the best for his future endeavours.



[Turning research into reality](#)

‘His journey wasn’t one of overnight success or massive research grants.’ Read about the commercialisation journey of AUT-based Principal Investigator [Dr Jack Chen](#) and his start-up company [Dot Ingredients](#), which is offering a sustainable alternative to conventional surfactants made from petrochemicals or palm oil.



We held two well-attended Techweek events in May:



In Auckland our Principal Investigators Associate Dean Research Faculty of Science [Professor Geoff Wilmott](#), and Associate Dean Research Faculty of Engineering and Design, [Associate Professor Jenny Malmström](#) at the University of Auckland hosted *New momentum for publicly funded R&D*.



We then headed south to Dunedin where we held *Science driving commercial growth for advanced manufacturing*, opened by former Director, Professor Richard Blaikie and MC'd by [Associate Professor Natalie Plank](#).

[Our Inspired One Hundred](#)

We regularly refresh our 'Inspired One Hundred' list of our alumni working in or supporting the deep tech sector in New Zealand.

For those of you in Ōtepoti Dunedin, check out the [New Zealand International Science Festival](#). In collaboration with [Tūhura Otago Museum](#) we are running several activities including a Pop-up Science Station on Saturday and Sunday 5 & 6 July, 11am-2pm.

Content includes H₂ fuel cell kits, H₂ powered car, solar power, wind power, a MOF model, buckyballs and more.



Recent Media

[Emeritus Investigator Professor Cather Simpson](#) features in this [article on Business Desk](#).



Director [Professor Nicola Gaston](#) and Te Whai Ao - Dodd Walls Centre Director [Professor Frédérique Vanholsbeeck](#) wrote this [piece for Newsroom](#).

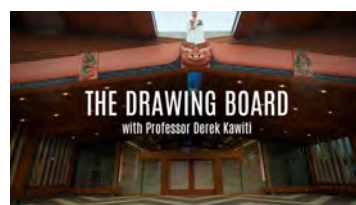


[Nicola Gaston](#) also wrote an [article for The Conversation](#) on the need for investment in order for Aotearoa New Zealand to innovate and compete.

[Otago University chemistry PhD student Kieran Demote](#) spoke with [Jesse Mulligan](#) about using chemistry to capture CO₂ and transform it into green fuels.

University of Auckland-based [Associate Investigator Dr Shanghai Wei](#) wrote [this article for Newsroom](#) addressing Li-ion battery fires.

Principal Investigator [Professor Derek Kawiti's](#) television show, [The Drawing Board](#) showcases a new wave of modern Māori Architecture that is sweeping across Aotearoa with some of the freshest up and coming talent at the helm.



[Stuff's Lloyd Burr](#) interviewed alumnus and [OpenStar Technologies CEO Dr Ratu Mataira](#) on aiming to be the first in the world to achieve the holy grail of energy generation: nuclear fusion.



Associate Investigator and UC-based [Professor Renwick Dobson](#) and alumnus Dr Daniel Mak [spoke to One News about their work on a project using human tears to develop a world first rapid home test for the detection of Alzheimer's disease](#).

[Nicola Gaston spoke with Mark Leishman on RNZ Nights about the state of science](#).

Thank you for your support of and interest in the MacDiarmid Institute – we can't wait to share more news with you as the year goes on!



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