

26 March 2026

By email: fyi-request-33889-5e00a2ac@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe AC

I refer to your information request dated 27 February 2026 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). You have requested the following information:

I request a digital copy, preferably in PDF format, of the most recently finalized edition of the University's record of scholarship and prize winners, typically titled "Scholarships, awards, prizes" or the equivalent annual publication of award recipients. If the 2025 record is not yet finalized, please provide the 2024 edition.

Regarding the precedent for release, I note that the University has previously released specific names and lists of award recipients in response to prior OIA requests, such as the request titled "Scholarship recipients" from January 2024 and "Otago Scholarships and Prestige Scholarships" from January 2026. Furthermore, as the University already records these awards in a formal booklet held by the University Library and notes them on official academic transcripts, the names of these recipients are already a matter of University record. Since these awards involve the distribution of University funds and the public recognition of academic merit, the public interest in transparency and the celebration of academic achievement outweighs any generic privacy interest under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

I request the information in a digital format to avoid any printing or postage costs. If any individual names are withheld under section 9(2)(a), please provide the remainder of the document with those specific names redacted, rather than withholding the document in its entirety.

Our response to your request follows.

The Scholarships, Awards and Prizes booklet is produced to officially record and recognise our scholarship, award and prize recipients.

A physical copy of the booklet is held at the Hocken Library; no digital format is provided for public distribution. The Hocken Library currently holds copies of the Scholarships, Awards and Prizes booklet for the following years: 2008-2009, 2012-2016, 2019-2022, and 2024. The 2025 booklet will be printed by approximately mid-2026.

If you can visit in person, the Hocken library is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm. If you are a University staff member or student, you will only need to bring your University ID card with you. If you

are a member of the public, you will need to bring a form of photo ID with you to be issued with a library card.

If you are unable to visit in person, the booklet can be scanned by Hocken Library staff. The scans are \$1 per page, or are free for University staff members and students.

Further information on the Hocken Library can be found on the University website:
<https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken>

We are making the requested information available to you in this way under section 16(1)(a) of the Act, in the same way as it is provided to University staff and students, so as not to provide an improper advantage within the meaning of section 9(k) of the Act.

We hope this information will be helpful.

If you are not satisfied with our response to your information request, section 28(3) of the Act provides you with the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate and review this response. However, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns with you first.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo Pearson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'J' and 'P'.

Jo Pearson
Coordinator Official information and Compliance