



Messages

Take every opportunity as it comes, get onboard every ship of opportunity and don't let any sail on past you

Get amongst every event, they're all valuable in their own unique way

Always go to the events, the amount of free food is unimaginable"

Having a good environment to study in makes a world of difference, you're not going to be your best at a desk with 3-day old snack wrappers all over the place

Don't go kayaking in the Avon if you are clumsy, you may fall in and have to put your white shoes in the washing machine three times, I've been there and let me tell you it is not great, they still have a slight smell of the Avon, they will never be so white ever again

Take your flat application with you to your flat, work hard/play hard and have fun in your first year!!

Always have spare toilet paper

One bad grade is not going to destroy your future, as long as you are passionate and show your tutors how hard you are working then they will help you. University wants you to succeed.

Make the most of first year uni! It goes so fast

Get a decent can opener

Treat yourself and try to go to as many of the GWC events as you can!

Nuggets of Wisdom

Go Canterbury Welcome

By Faakhira Hassan



The GWC Welcome was a fantastic first event for us to learn more about the scholarship. We received a GWC sweater, sunglasses, munchies, and a reusable straw in our goody bags.



This was very exciting as it got us into the GWC spirit.

All of the leaders were introduced to us, and they sang a Māori song in the spirit of biculturalism. The first activity we had was talking to leaders about different aspects of university such as courses, time management, and hall life. There were different tables labelled with various parts of university which we can go to, to talk to the leaders. This activity was interesting since everyone had the opportunity to ask questions about the various topics and get in-depth with the leaders—it was a great learning and bonding experience.

We were then divided into groups and taken to a little picnic where we got to know our leaders before being taken on a tour around UC. Overall, it was a fantastic first event that brought valuable knowledge, bonding, and free goodies!

Sumner Beach Surfing Trip

by Anisha Satya



Our adventures around Christchurch began with the sun and sand.

An early start had students out the door at 8.30am and on a half-hour bus ride to Sumner Beach; Christchurch's little Zion. With its homely cafés and clean, white sand, the beach offers Cantabrians an escape from the bustle of the city. The day retreat was a welcome thought to those of us recovering from the week been.

The day consisted of group surfing lessons and leisure time. The instructors at Stoked Surf and Skate School did a wonderful job of mentoring the groups – between teaching, motivating and babysitting students on the water, they made us all feel at home. Some had better luck than others at successfully catching and riding the waves, but overall, it was a great experience.

Apart from surfing, students spent time on the beach. We threw around a frisbee, got a tan, and talked whilst snacking on fish and chips, or the real-fruit ice cream from the cafés around. Some went to explore the rock cave and took a long stroll along the shore.

The beach gave us a chance to properly meet each other, find what we had in common, and make better friends with some of our fellow Tupuānuku residents. We also got to know our student leaders better, stealing some life tips off of them and learning from their mistakes experiences.

As 4.30pm rolled around, with the marquee packed up and the wetsuits out to dry, the team left the beach tired and satisfied. The bus ride home was a quiet one as we all began to unwind from a day of intensive relaxing. Sumner Beach was a wonderful day out for all of us.

And to think, it was only the first stop.



UC Student 101 Workshop

By Lucy Gray



With uni about to start emotions ranged from nervous to confused to excited! But never fear, Student 101 was here to help the GWC students.

The leaders brought together all their tips, tricks and personal expertise to share with bright eyed and bushy tailed freshers. From using LEARN to joining clubs, the endless nooks and crannies of life at UC were explored. I imagine now looking back it all seems so simple!

‘Oh, the bird just pooped’

trip to Lyttelton

‘Bus rides go faster when you bring a pillow’

Someone well rested

‘I’m a Capsicum’

Anonymous

Explore Christchurch City

By Nathan MacCormick



A month after lectures had started, and most of us Freshers were still riding the high of the Uni lifestyle, whether we liked it or not. The first four weeks had been a barrage of event after event.

The chaotic move in day had everyone scrambling to escape Auckland and Wellington. Orientation Week had boasted a line-up that ranged from the family friendly Toga to Electric Ave, to whatever that was at Lincoln. Not to mention the first assignment due dates, which had begun to snowball into our lives. We were spent. Our brains were full, eyes tired, wallets emptied, and livers shrivelled.

Still, we were standing only at the cusp of what was to come. With both surfing and rugby behind us, we had only just scratched the surface of the Go Waitaha events that awaited us. However, between the high testosterone introduction to Southern Rugby culture, and the high adrenaline white water rafting trip the following week, lay the promise of a gentle weekend. 'Explore Christchurch', a kayak down the Avon accompanied by a tour around the city with a stop for gelato.

On Saturday the 20th of March then, the Go Waitaha Scholarship students left Tupuānuku for a quiet punt down the river.

After the intensity of the first month, the boating should have been comparatively calm, but for a group of over-achievers, we found it easy to turn it into a challenge, albeit an unspoken one. As soon as one kayak overtook my own, my boating buddy and I would paddle aggressively to catch up and reclaim our spot. This seemed to be the mindset of most of the other boats on the water, and so at the midway point, an impromptu race began to see who could get back first.

I was paddling along pretty powerfully, until my dazed condition got the best of me, (9:30 am following a Friday night is too early for me). I neglected to steer for maybe 2 or 3 minutes, nothing major, and was nearly paralysed by a low hanging branch that just about folded me in half.

So, I didn't win the kayak race, but the following tour around Christchurch was a good opportunity to chat to my group leader Harrison about Uni, and meet some new people. It was nice to get to know the city I'd be spending the next 3-4 years of my life living and studying in.

After visiting Cathedral Square, we stopped by the city library, where we went looking for things to learn, something that every student is actively pushing themselves to do. I learnt the library has some seats by a window, where I watched a couple dance for probably thirty minutes on a dance floor next to a carpark.

The final stop was gelato, at the well-known 'Rollickin'. Because the ice cream was provided by the scholarship, I allowed myself to splash out on some fish and chips at the nearby Riverside Markets. After some more food and chats we walked back through the Botanic Gardens to our vans.

The trip was great fun in a 'take-it-easy-Saturday-morning' kind of way, and provided a much-needed break from the first hectic month. A great opportunity to meet new people and get a grip on the more down-to-earth, sustainable aspects of Uni life. Most likely not anyone's most remembered trip, but definitely the most genuine. 10/10 would go again.

Rafting Trip

by Anisha Satya



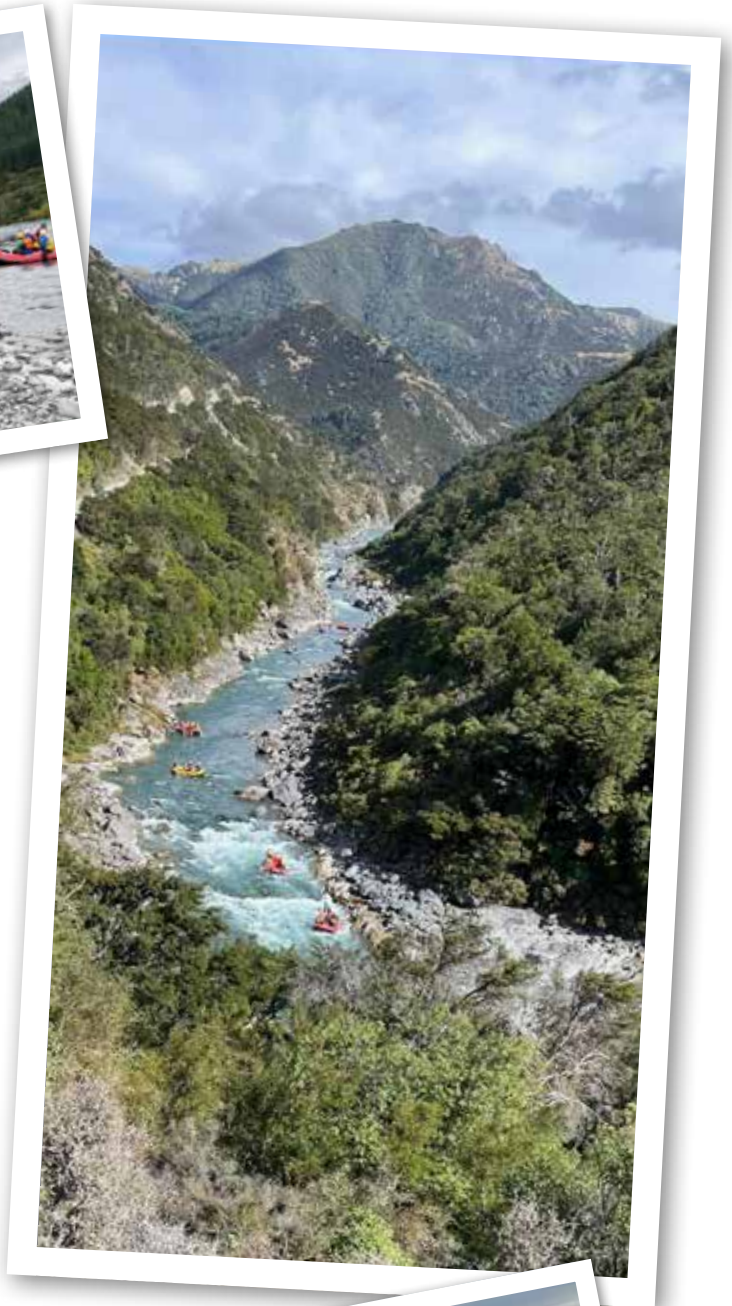
To round off an eventful first term, the GWC team took to the Hurinui River for some Whitewater Rafting. Despite a 6am start, students boarded their minivans and headed off, ready for another adventure.

After a quick stop off to grab rafting gear – life vests, wet suits and thermals – the minivans made their way down dusty dirt roads and towards their start point on the river. They suited up, received the health and safety talk, then hit the water.

Each raft sat a group of five or six students, many of whom had just met each other. Over the three hours aboard our boats, students spent their time splashing rival rafts, taking quick swims in the river, and getting to know the members of their rafting party. Except for the occasional rapid, the venture was mostly calm and a great way for the Go Waitaha Canterbury squad to start winding down for the term.

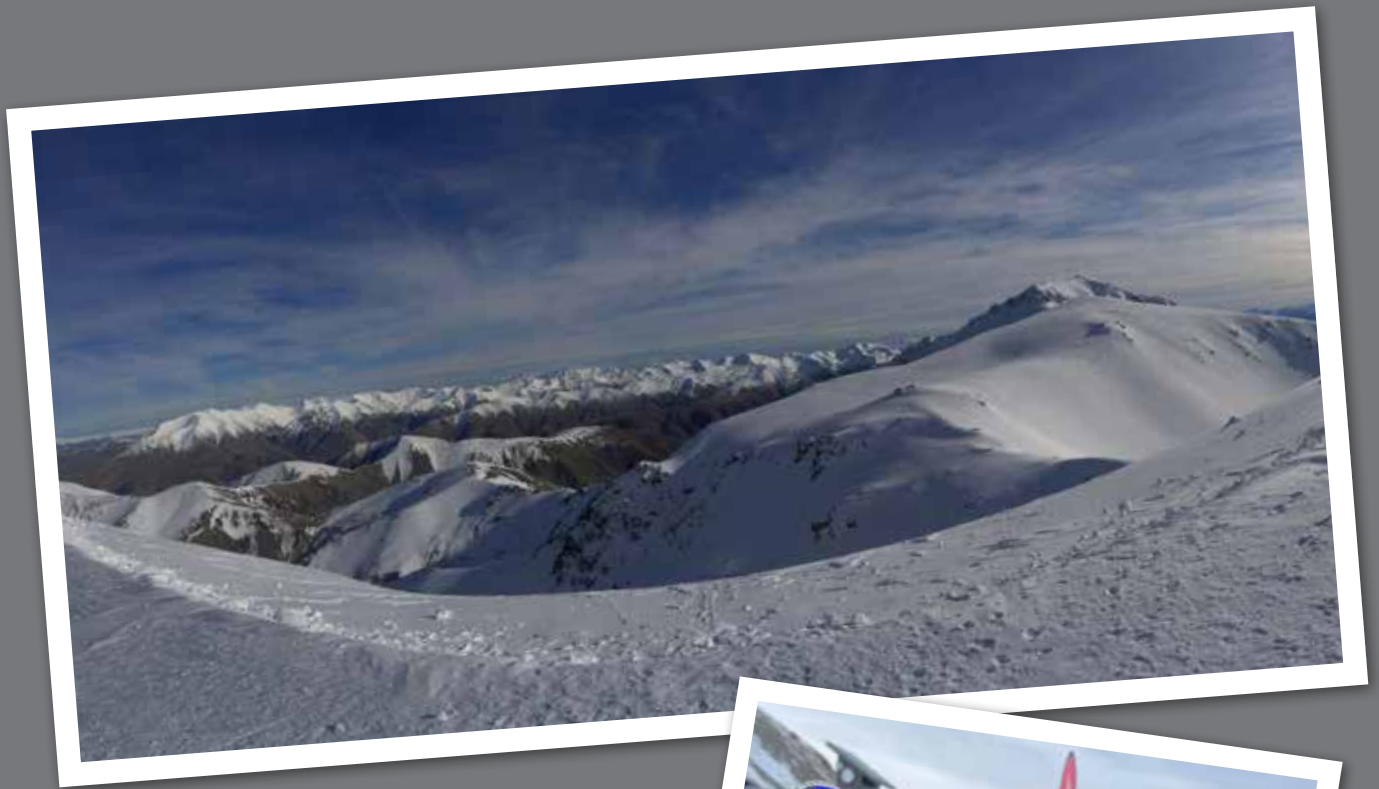
To round off a day's rafting, students dug into a hearty lunch provided by the team at Southern Whitewater NZ. They sat around and munched down wraps while sharing their experiences on the rafts with each other. Despite the cold water in their shoes and the lack of feeling in their hands, all agreed that the trip had been a success.

The trip home was quiet, with most students taking the opportunity to sleep. A great day on the river had left them relaxed, content, and expectant – they had three more terms to go!



Ski Trip

By Lydia Ainsworth



For someone who had never been on the snow before, this trip was incredible. I started off not even knowing how to put my skis on and by the end of the day was off the beginners slopes and on to the big kid slopes.



Even though getting up at 4am to catch the 5am bus was a painful wake up on a Sunday morning, the trip was incredible. The lessons we got, and the gear provided meant anyone from being a newbie to being a professional skier and snowboarder got to take part. Learning alongside each other allowed many of us to get closer with our friends and GWC groups

On top of all of this the weather and views were incredible this day. So many of us dared to go up to the beautiful summit even though it meant that afterwards we would have to somehow make our way back down the slopes. But this just meant we worked together and encouraged each other to try new things and step out of our comfort zones.

Study 101

by Satwik Meravanage

We were well into the first semester of the year, and we thought it would be a good idea to give you all a study skills workshop. We were trying to implement more of an interactive element in this workshop by giving you guys a chance to discuss your own study tips with us and each other. The workshop concluded with a short catchup and pizza at the Forestry reception.



The first key takeaway was the importance of time management. Ryan shared how it is essential to create your own schedule, take regular breaks and plan what/how you will prioritise your assessments.

Mads then spoke about finding discipline and motivation in your studies. It is incredibly easy to sleep in, over-commit, and not actually go through with your plans. She stressed the importance of a strict mental discipline, as it will set you up for the long term very well. However, discipline looks different for different people. It is also important to look after yourself and enjoy your time at uni. It is also important to find intrinsic motivation, as these will be more satisfying than materialistic extrinsic ones. Motivation also comes in different forms. Writing down goals, planning your days, tracking progress, or looking for inspiration from other people are good ways to find your spark of motivation.

Satwik spoke about different study areas around the campus. Studies show that it is good to “mix up” where you study. A different environment causes your brain to be more active, which is very beneficial during your studies. A general rule when choosing study spots are to pick somewhere that’s clean and gets plenty of sunlight. Often, studying from

home does not fit at least one of those categories, so he suggested a few good study spots on campus. Central library, EPS library, and Macmillan Brown library are all on campus and have very good studying areas catered to university students. Engineering core is good, but only if you can grab a study pod! There are some nooks and crannies around Jack Erskine, Ernest Rutherford, and Rehua if you have access to those buildings. Bonus tips: You can sneak into tutorial rooms and lecture theatres when they are not used for classes.

Steph then spoke about study strategies. It is essential to take notes throughout the semester for all your courses. There is a sense of it all coming together when compiling all your notes into one organised doc, especially for open book exams. In the same way, writing a mind map or cheat sheet might be helpful to collate important content together. Practice questions and past papers are a great way to get familiar with the commonly asked questions – cannot stress this enough for calculation-based exams! Another good way to study might be by teaching the content to your friend. If you can explain the content to someone else, you further strengthen your understanding of the content. Study groups can be hit or miss, but it is a gamble worth taking.

Harrison then spoke about study groups. The first step is finding people within your paper/discipline that are keen to work together. The size of the group matters. Bigger groups often get more distracted, so it might be more successful in sticking to a smaller group. Look for people in your halls. Try and meet new people in your courses. It can be hard to strike up a conversation during a lecture but try saying hi during tutorial and lab sessions. Some clubs also offer tutoring services for specific courses, particularly for first years.

Conor spoke about special considerations. The take-home message is: if you feel withheld from performing to the best of your abilities by something out of your control, apply for special considerations. If granted, it is up to the course coordinator to give you an extension, derive your grade or change the weighting of your assessments. It is recommended to contact your course coordinator before applying for special considerations. It is also important to note that you can only apply for special considerations within five days after the assessment is due, and the assessment is worth more than 10%. The form is easy to submit and can be found on the university website. There is no harm/penalty in applying for special considerations, so if in doubt, apply! The Equity and Disability Support

are the people you should talk to if you want to get special conditions for tests/exams. This could be in the form of more time for the assessments, a reader/writer or having someone to take notes for you during lectures.

To conclude, Charlotte spoke about mental health and looking after yourself. Uni can be a stressful time, so look after yourself. To avoid burnout, try mixing it up and take some time for yourself. It is not very practical to study 24/7, so take breaks. There is usually something going on around the campus every week so keep an eye out. Keep up your hobbies. Find your study patterns. Some people find studying more effective in the morning, others at night. Some people find studying in groups effectively, others find studying by themselves works. Everyone’s studying nature is unique. To finish off, everyone feels the imposter syndrome. We all feel like “the dumbest of smart kids” sometimes. This is far from the truth. It is very hard to “fake” your way to where you are now, even if your mind tells you otherwise. Keep at it, and don’t give up! Perseverance is a valuable quality, and you are on your own journey. You’ve all made it so far and are exceptionally awesome and talented in your own way. Don’t let anyone, especially yourself, say otherwise!

Port Hills Trip

by Anisha Satya



The Go Waitaha Canterbury crew were up and ready at nine for another adventure.

The day began with gondolas – a few minutes' journey uphill to the Red Rock Café at its summit. Viewing Christchurch from above was its own amazing experience and made for a great photo op!

From there it was a half-hour or so walk down to Lyttelton.

Now, look, I'm not unfit, but the second half of that walk was a real test. For the first part, we were walking over rocky path which sat relatively flat on the hill, which was perfectly fine. The second half saw the road decline at an awkward angle; each step had to be calculated, else you'd slip and make like a luge cart down the gravel. I'd considered rolling down at several points in the walk, but my conscience decided against it. We all reached the end just fine.

We made our way into Lyttelton and got to explore a marketplace, with food stalls and trinkets and cacti and all the rest of it. I snagged myself a hand-wrapped necklace for ten bucks, not a bad buy, and explored further before re-joining the group for doughnuts.

All in all, it was a successful expedition and showed us another side of Christchurch in allowing us to explore Lyttelton. Many pictures and purchases were made, and we arrived home satisfied with the day's outing.



Flatting 101

By Harrison Leach

During mid-July, GWC participated in the much-anticipated workshop of the year: Flatting 101.

The student leaders presented on all of the ins and outs of student flatting, giving valuable information over to our first-year cohort. We were also lucky enough to have a spokesperson from CLV pass on information about Ilam apartments, also being an option for second-year students. We touched on a lot of valuable insights into the flatting world. Some of these were: checking for insulation, double glazed windows, private landlords or through a company, how many people do you want to live with?

The student leaders each took turns presenting a specific topic about flatting. We hope this workshop has given you valuable insight into what flatting looks like next year and confidence in signing the tenancy agreement form!

All the best for your flatting experiences for next year and the many years to come.



The Crusaders

By Harrison Leach



On the 13th of March Go Waitaha Canterbury travelled to the mighty Orangetheory Stadium to watch the beloved Crusaders take on the Chiefs, in what was set to be a thrilling game.



Loaded up with a variety of merchandise from the CANTABS we were lucky enough to score some fantastic seats for us to all support the Crusaders fully decked out in our best red and black gear. We thank Jarred for managing to source us some food and drink vouchers so we poor students wouldn't have to worry about spending any of our precious student loans and settled into to watch the game.

Naturally, the Crusaders did not disappoint and delivered a fantastic win for our cohort allowing us to head home on a positive night and really get stuck into the rest of the weekend. It was awesome to have so many of our cohort turn up for such a great event.



First Aid Training

By Madeline Anderson



GWC was extremely lucky to have the opportunity to take part in a First Aid Course this year - an opportunity that would usually cost a lot of money to do.

For many students, this was their first exposure to first aid training. We learnt about a range of accidents and medical events, such as heart attacks, diabetes, burns and broken bones. We also were lucky enough to gain the invaluable skill of CPR.

This is learnings that the students of GWC will be able to carry with them for the rest of their lives. We heard a few experiences from students who have had to use first aid before. You never know when your first aid skills will come in handy, and one day it could be lifesaving.

**‘Sometimes,
the stars look
best at 2:00am’**

A Day at Hanmer

By Jonathan London



A day at Hanmer Springs was my favourite event of the lot. It started out with the bus ride up. We saw amazing scenery with mist rolling over the hills and rivers running alongside us. I also brought my pillow because bus rides are a great time for a nap.

When we arrived, we split into two groups with half of us playing minigolf while the other half went to get lunch. After looking around the town a bit my group went to the minigolf. It was a typical outdoor course with iron sculptures and obstacles, as well as water features to be avoided. A light rain was starting then my friends and I decided to speed run the course without keeping score. That led to several wild shots, but we all made it to the end eventually. After a bit more wandering around we managed to find where we were having lunch, a place called 'Salt N Pepper'. We each chose either a top-quality burger and chips and or some great nachos. I rate it 10/10.

The hot springs themselves were on another level. When you got out of the changing room you couldn't get into a pool fast enough! The ground was freezing, and the rain was still drizzling down but that only made the pools all the more welcoming. It was fun to watch as the rain drops landed in the water. They were going so fast that you would miss the rain, and just see the pool water suddenly bouncing up which looked almost magical.

However, the best part was by far the hydro slides! They had two slides each with two-person inflatable rafts-like things to ride down on. You ended up in either a really steep drop or a funnel that sent you round and round. I took one look at them and I felt like a kid again! [A younger kid, I still consider myself a kid now :-)] I must have gone down half about a dozen times before retreating to the warmer pools again. Overall, it was a great day and I'm sure you guys will love it just as much as we all did ;)

Recipes

Mi Goreng Instant noodles

1. Fill up the jug and set that puppy to boil before doing anything else, it'll take some time
2. Get your favourite noodle bowl out along with your favourite flavour of noodle
3. Rip that packet open and plop it into the bowl, if you're messy don't throw away the packet just yet and use it as a convenient trash parcel
4. After the jug hits its boil pour that water all over those noodles, age old question to cover or not, covering will accelerate the softening time and bring you to enjoying your delicious snack, all the sooner so I say go for it
5. After that baby is all nice and floppy another personal preference comes into play, you can choose to drain all some or none of the water, the more you keep the less flava you get in each bite, the choice is yours
6. Add the sachets I have to use scissors at the moment because I have the current motor capabilities of a toddler, but you do you, (the chilli should be included) and discard the trash parcel of wrappers
7. Stir that baby up and get ready for culinary excellence, Enjoy.

Side note: using a pot is only marginally better and is not worth all the extra hassle

Turkish Flatbread

Ingredients:

4 cups of plain flour
1 tsp salt
100g butter
1 ½ cups of milk
1 Tbsp oil (for cooking)

Method:

Heat butter and milk until just melted

Combine flour, salt and flour and milk mix

Sprinkle a clean surface with flour and knead until smooth – add a little extra salt if too sticky

Place in a bowl and cover with clean tea towel. Rest at room temperature for 30min.

Sprinkle a surface with flour, cut dough into 8 pieces and roll into balls.

Roll into 3mm thick rounds

Heat oil in a pan over medium heat

Place one round in the pan and cook for 1-1.5min. When flatbread bubbles up, flip and cook other side (press flatbread down if it bubbles up too much)

Enjoy

Cooking time:

1-1.5 min each

Prep time: 30-40 min

The best student bacon and egg pies

You'll need:

muffin tins

one egg for each pie

bacon (or ham)

cheese

leftover (or fresh)

fish & chip chips

Grease muffin tray, crack each egg into separate muffin tray cups, whisk the eggs with a fork to break the yolk.

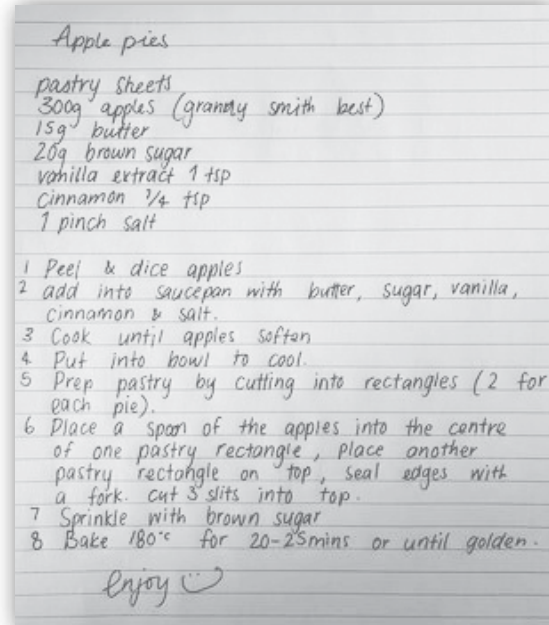
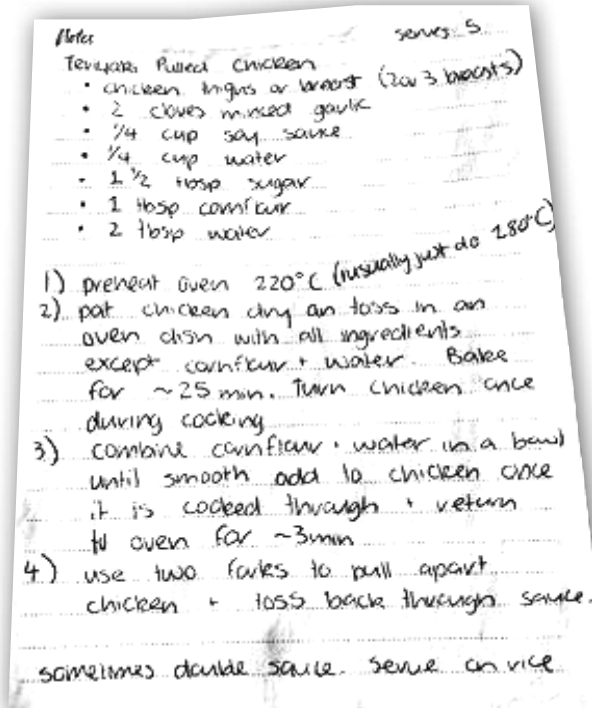
Add as much bacon or ham as you like, grated cheese, and cut the chips into small squares and add to each pie.

Cook for around 10 minutes at 180 or until a fork stabbed in one of them comes out clean.

Chicken Nachos

- Chicken (you can either dice it or poach it in hot water and shred it, depends on what consistency you want)
- Tin of diced tomato's (literally 90c)
- Mushrooms
- Tin of corn
- Capsicum/onion/garlic
- Tin of beans
- Spices: paprika, Cajun, salt and pepper, chilli flakes (some ppl add in taco seasoning!)
- Nacho chips

Cook the chicken first. Then add mushrooms to pan. Then add tin of tomatoes. Then add everything else apart from chips. Let it boil and simmer for a couple of mins. Delish easy and cheap to make!



GINGER CRUNCH RECIPE

BASE

- 220g unsalted butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup golden syrup
- 1 cup coconut
- 3 cups crushed cornflakes (or weetbix)
- 1 cup of flour
- 1 Tbsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp baking powder

ICING

- 100g butter
- ¼ golden syrup
- 1 Tbsp ginger
- 2 cups icing sugar

1. Melt the first three ingredients together.
2. Combine coconut, cornflakes, flour, ginger and baking powder.
3. Add the melted mix to the dry ingredients and stir.
4. Press into large slice tin and bake for 30 minutes at 160C.
5. For the icing, melt the second measures of butter and golden syrup then mix with ginger and icing sugar and beat well.
6. Pour icing onto the cooked slice when cooled.
7. Place out to cool and harden and cut into bars or squares when set.

Tip: If you don't like the taste of too much ginger, instead of 1 Tbsp in the icing only put in 2 tsp. Works like a charm.

Student Leaders

Kate Sheppard

Briana Smith

What an amazing year for team Kate Sheppard! With a few bumps along the way from lockdowns and Covid-19 restrictions the group kept their spirits high and had a great year with Go Waitaha Canterbury! Kate Sheppard made the most of all the opportunities available to them, with great attendance at all the events. Our group catch ups over sushi and curry and the zoom quiz night were some personal highlights this year!

Our first event after the GWC Welcome was surfing in Sumner, which really brought everyone together to get to know each other. Our first term together also involved watching a Crusaders game, a kiwiana themed quiz night, a bike tour around Christchurch and some white water rafting for the thrill seekers. Throughout the rest of the year, we visited the Port Hills and Lyttelton, relaxed in Hanmer Springs, learnt study tips and flating tips from all the leaders, went to a Scared Scriptless show, some people skied for the first time, and we completed our first aid certificates, just to name a few!

With a dislocated kneecap, a head shaved to raise money for cancer and a whole bunch of smiles, team Kate Sheppard made 2021 an amazing and exciting year. I have really appreciated how enthusiastic you guys are and it has really made my year so enjoyable knowing that you guys really appreciate all the time and effort we put into organizing great events! Hopefully some of you will be in my shoes next year, writing one of these leaders' reflections.

I wish you luck for your next few years at uni and making Christchurch your home. Finally, don't forget I'm always a quick text away!



Sam Neill

Charlotte Duke

This year has been an epic one for team Sam Neill! We started the year strong with the GWC welcome and the surfing trip both packed into O-Week. The rest of term one was a whirlwind... we got to go rafting, kayak up the Avon, spend a day at the Riccarton Racecourse markets, and watch the Crusaders take on the Chiefs.

The rest of the year (while not all smooth sailing) has lent itself to some fantastic opportunities.

We've had some awesome trips like the Port Hills and the ski trip, and I'm so glad I got to watch you guys throw yourselves into every opportunity that's come your way!

While the abrupt lockdown in term 3 put you all in a pretty strange and uncomfortable position, you all handled it like pros. First year can be a challenging time for everyone so I'm so proud of how much you've grown and adapted to university life, especially with the additional challenges that this year has thrown at you.

All 12 of you are kind, hardworking individuals, and I'm glad I got to be a part of your first year at UC.

I know you guys will continue to grow and shape the world around you over the coming years and I hope the rest of your time in Canterbury is amazing!



The Wizards

Conor Fuller

With a new year and a new hall ready and waiting for The Wizards of Go Waitaha Canterbury, the year was off to a good start. After forgetting all of my notes in the welcome room I finally made it to the meeting area where we had some yarns and got to know everyone in the group.

Following the welcome was the surfing trip at Sumner and the weather 100% pulled through, the sun was scorching, the waves were vibing and the day was good, a home run event to kick off the year.

Unfortunately, due to my arm being all messed up I had to miss out on one of the craziest events, the white-water rafting! Though from what I hear you guys enjoyed yourselves and I'm gutted that I missed it.

Once again right as the year was coming into full swing Covid decided to rear its ugly head, sending most of you home and grinding all events to a halt, not letting it get the better of us there were some kahoots and convos to be had with the promise of level 2 just around the corner.

Now with the fan favourite of the year! The snow was almost begging to be carved up, a beautiful day with some fantastic runs, good to see so many of you get amongst it, even if I couldn't ski alongside you guys it was still fun being the mum of the group having some chats with you in between runs, and by the end of it, everyone was knackered and eager to be back at the hall, but the year wouldn't stop there!

Going to the driving range with Charlotte, Steph, and Satwik's groups was the last thing on the agenda before the year started to wrap up, and quite frankly I'm glad I came out of that with my head still attached to my neck! I didn't even know it was possible to hit a ball backwards, but I did find out pretty quick. That was

such a fun event, definitely my favourite made all the better by the stop-off at Maccas and getting to have yarns with everyone there, a terrific event all in all.

But as all good things must, the year had to come to an end, but I'm so glad to have been able to spend it with you guys as my group, you were hilarious, fantastic, and have really been an amazing team, I've loved being your leader this year and I hope that you continue to enjoy your future years studying at UC! If you see me around don't hesitate to say hi!



Sir Richard Hadlee

Harrison

Sir Richard Hadlee is a fantastic group of young inspiring adults. I have been very privileged to be their leader this year and have enjoyed the massive uptake in events by everyone in this group.

It has been fantastic to get to know everyone in my group, we discovered we had heaps of different connections with each other and had a couple of awesome hangouts such as Zyka curry night, lunch at the Foundry and Sumner sunset with fish and chips!

Sir Richard Hadlee thank you for being such a special group, I look forward to catching up with you next year and see what you are up to!



Rhys Darby

Joel Cutler

From the start of this group there was a strong cohort, with most of the team being from the superior location of Wellington, I was stocked to meet a band of open-minded kind people! After explaining who Rhys Darby was, we started our journey as a team.

This group has been a pleasure this year, getting to know this team has been a bunch of fun, we were a group with a wide range of degrees, but everyone got along very well! I hope you guys have enjoyed the Go Waitaha Canterbury experience, and the first year University experience. I have loved showing you the many experiences on offer down here, from slipping down Mt Hutt, riding the rapids, and hitting golf balls to the point of exhaustion.

We haven't had the smoothest year, with lockdowns and a quick change to online University, but you all have smashed it! Keep up the hard work and you have all earned a nice break over summer. This program aims to make you all feel at home in a new city, and I have seriously enjoyed being able to help create a home away from home down here in the garden city.

I know you will all thrive at UC in the future, thank you for letting me be your leader. All the best!



Anika Moa

Lucy Gray

It was all smiles at the GWC Welcome back in February, so many friendly and eager faces. The activities kicked off with a bang with the surfing trip which spotlight some keen Mick Fanning as well as some fabulous first goers. Among workshops we also frothed the rafting for a lovely dusty Sunday thrill. Throughout the year we continued the fun with skiing and other events.

As the Anika Moa leader, I had the pleasure of watching everyone grow up a little and settle into the life of being an adult (a bunch of very fun adults for that matter). The road, as we have learnt, isn't always smooth but the group of freshers (soon to be second years) couldn't be more capable or enthusiastic.



Sir Charles Upham

Madeline Anderson

Congratulations to the students of Sir Charles Upham (aka Madz group) - and to the entire cohort on making it through the FIRST YEAR of university! Wow. You will only ever have one first year in your life - whether it was a fantastic experience or not. Hopefully, your time as a part of GWC has been all positive.

We have had a cool year. We have indulged in a lot of food catch up sessions, which I hope has opened your eyes to the many food offerings that Christchurch has!

It has been great seeing you all develop and face the challenges that first year university throws at you. Don't worry - you will still face a lot more problems throughout your years at university but hopefully now you have the skills to face them head on and potentially become a leader to other incoming students that you may know.

It's been a great year, Sir Charles Upham. I hope that you still all stay in touch with one another, and never be afraid to message us leaders!



Richie McCaw

Ryan Thompson

2021, WHAT A MASSIVE YEAR. We started with a flying start with trips like surfing and white-water rafting. Over the course of the year, I have gotten to know each of my students on a great individual level. Helping them explore Waitaha, Canterbury has been a great pleasure. My favourite trip together would have been Hanmer Springs, didn't get to do it in my first year so was great to get out there, if only it didn't rain all day.

I have had a great time being the leader of the Richie McCaw Whānau and wish you all the best with your future endeavours. I hope you have had a fantastic year throughout all the different events and trips. I am always a message/call away and hope you take every opportunity UC has to offer along the way.

You're onto the next chapter of your university experience, live in the moment and enjoy every part of it. Because before you know it, it's all over and you have to go find a real job!



John Britten

Satwik Meravanage

In my biased opinion, this has been the best group this year. From meeting you guys on that scorching Christchurch summer day, to shredding some ice down Mt Hutt, and all the catch ups we've had in between, you guys have been a blast to get to know this year.

It's always been good to yarn and catch up during the big or small events we've organised. Its always puts a smile on my face seeing you guys opt in for so many of the events. I know I'm going to forget a couple but highlights for me were definitely getting a few strikes at bowling & laser strike, having a few "swings" at the driving range, and that nice meal to finish off a hard semester's work at Zyka Indian.

I hope you guys keep that keen attitude all throughout uni and life - keep learning, trying and don't be afraid. You are all awesome and have grown so much this year. I hope you all know that you can move mountains. Thanks for being an awesome team.



Dan Carter

Stephanie Maritz

It's been an absolute blast leading the Dan Carter team this year! Although it hasn't been entirely COVID free, we have definitely made the most of the time we've had together. Term one saw us surfing at Sumner Beach, watching the Crusaders destroy the Chiefs, exploring Christchurch, scoring some deals at the Riccarton markets and rafting the Hurunui River. Term two was filled with a study skills workshop, exploring the Port Hills/Lyttelton, laughing at Jarred's jokes in Scared Scriptless, relaxing in the Hanmer hot springs and thrashing other teams at bowling and laser tag. Term three included the flat workshop, first aid training, taking some swings (that sometimes hit the ball, sometimes not) at Riccarton Golf Club and of course, the infamous Mt Hutt ski trip. Term 4 had a bit of rough start given level 2 restrictions but we were thankfully able to fit in an escape room before the final farewell!

To those in my group, you have been an absolute pleasure to lead and I have enjoyed getting to know each one of you! I look forward to seeing what the future holds for you all and if you see me around campus in the future or just want a yarn sometimes, don't be shy to yell out.



Recommendations

Port Hills! Little high eatery! Visit Kaiapoi on the bus - Five peaks Pizza is really good. The Springfield doughnut is about a 40 min drive!

Rollickin gelato, Riverside markets, ride on the tram, go to a cafe on New Regent Street

Definitely go to the gondola and walk down the hills to Lyttelton to the markets, definitely my favourite event, apart from skiing! :)

Visiting the Riverside market is a must!

Rollicking Gelato (I think that's how you spell it). Note, it's not how you spell it (Rollickin Gelato)

Go to Rollickin Gelato, it has the best variety and caters to so many dietary requirements.

Make the most of the Botanical Gardens in summer and spring! And try a cinnamon bun from Rollickin Gelato.

Look out for the cherry blossoms in September. They are stunning, but they'll be gone before you know it if you aren't paying attention.



Thank you

Hey Steph!!

Thanks heaps for everything you've done this year! I really appreciate all the times you checked in and the times you took our group out (even if it was just a couple of us). Really made the transition to uni heaps easier. See you around next year!!

Thanks – Hannah

Huge thank you to the single best leader, Charlotte,

you have been outstanding this year. You are an incredibly friendly person who is always ready with a smile and a joke. Your kindness and approachability have made the transition into uni so much easier. Every event you have organised has been a blast and allowed our group to really bond. You are going to go on to do fantastic things and continue to be an amazing person.

Many thanks - Emily Butler

I just wanted to say, thank you Satwik

for all you have done for us this year. We truly appreciate the work you have done behind the scenes to help us settle in at UC, right from the first day when you gave Andrew and I a one on one campus tour. Thank you for always checking in on us (even if we weren't the best at replying right away), for always looking out for us during events to check how we were doing, for inviting us to play squash, and perhaps most importantly, for having an infectious positive attitude which was a joy to be around. Both the Zyka and Shang Chi nights were two of my favourite events so we appreciate you for organising those out of your spare time. You have been an awesome mentor, leader and friend. All the best for your studies and I hope to see you around campus more next year :)

Many thanks - Arsh

Hey Joel,

just wanted to say a huge, huge thanks for the mahi that you and the other leaders put in this year. All of the events were super well run and I know that you put in a lot of time to make that happen, so cheers!! (Especially white-water rafting, that was sick!!).

Cheers – Julian

Bri

This year has been very tough for me due to a severe injury suffered during semester one. Bri was amazing. She always checked in on me to see how I was coping and was a great person to contact if I had any questions on getting help on and around campus. I thought it would be challenging for me to get involved with many of the GWC events post-surgery, but she always found a way to incorporate me, which meant I didn't feel left out, something I am very grateful about! She was a great leader this year, even when she was swamped with her commitments. Bri inspired me to give the application for GWC leader a really good go as I want to positively impact people like she had on me and my group this year.

Thank you, Bri, for your efforts this year, and Goodluck! – Finn

I'd just like to say how awesome Ryan

was as a leader this year. He made the transition into uni a lot easier. Right from the start with any events we had he always made the effort to make sure we were having a good time and always saying hi to me around uni. He was always there to help with any problems and especially during lockdown. I'll always swear by having the best leader no matter what.

Thanks, Lydia.

"I would just like to say a huge thank you to Bri.

Your positive energy and bubbly personality really made myself and others feel so welcome. The immense support has been amazing and wouldn't have been able to get through this year without it.

So thankful to have made these incredible memories with you and my group. - Sophie xx"

Lucy

made a really positive impact on my first-year experience at uni. I loved chatting with her and she was always there to provide help when I was struggling with the pressures of uni. She was a really good friend to me and made all my experiences in GWC amazing.

Thanks Lucy for being such an awesome leader and friend :) - Claudia

Madz

was an awesome GWC leader. Not only was she helpful, organised and approachable, but she kept a sense of humor that really made us feel included. She was always encouraging and fun to be around, and I feel that she is someone who I always feel I can go to for support. A huge thanks to both Maddy and Jarred for making this year's GWC experience such a success, even through the restrictions of Covid. Your hard work is definitely noticed and appreciated! I look forward to applying for this position myself in the coming years!

Thanks - Christie

Thanks for everything this year Madz,

from the check ins to buying us dinner. Really grateful to have had you as my leader. All the best for your law degree, take care :)

Thanks - Sarah

Cheers for all your hard work this year Harrison!

Your fun loving, easy going attitude constantly made scholarship outings enjoyable. It was great to have a friendly face around campus to say hi to, your care for your group members really showed through. I would like to say a big thank you on behalf of your GWC group this year.

Cheers - Sam

Harrison,

we really appreciate the effort you put into showing us what Canterbury has to offer and helping us through the first year of university. The outdoor activities were definitely a highlight of 2021 and made us very keen to get out there and explore the rest of what Canterbury and the rest of the South Island has to offer. First year wouldn't have been as exciting without the opportunities provided by you and GWC.

Cheers for all the hard work - Hayden

Conor,

thank you so much for making us feel so valued, appreciated and cared for throughout the entirety of this year. We are so blessed to have such a bubbly, happy and knowledgeable leader and are seriously going to miss you like crazy next year. You have been our shining light and you truly brighten up anyone's day by simply talking to them. You have such a kind heart and I will never forget all that you have done for me.

Thanks again - Caylee-Grace :)

