

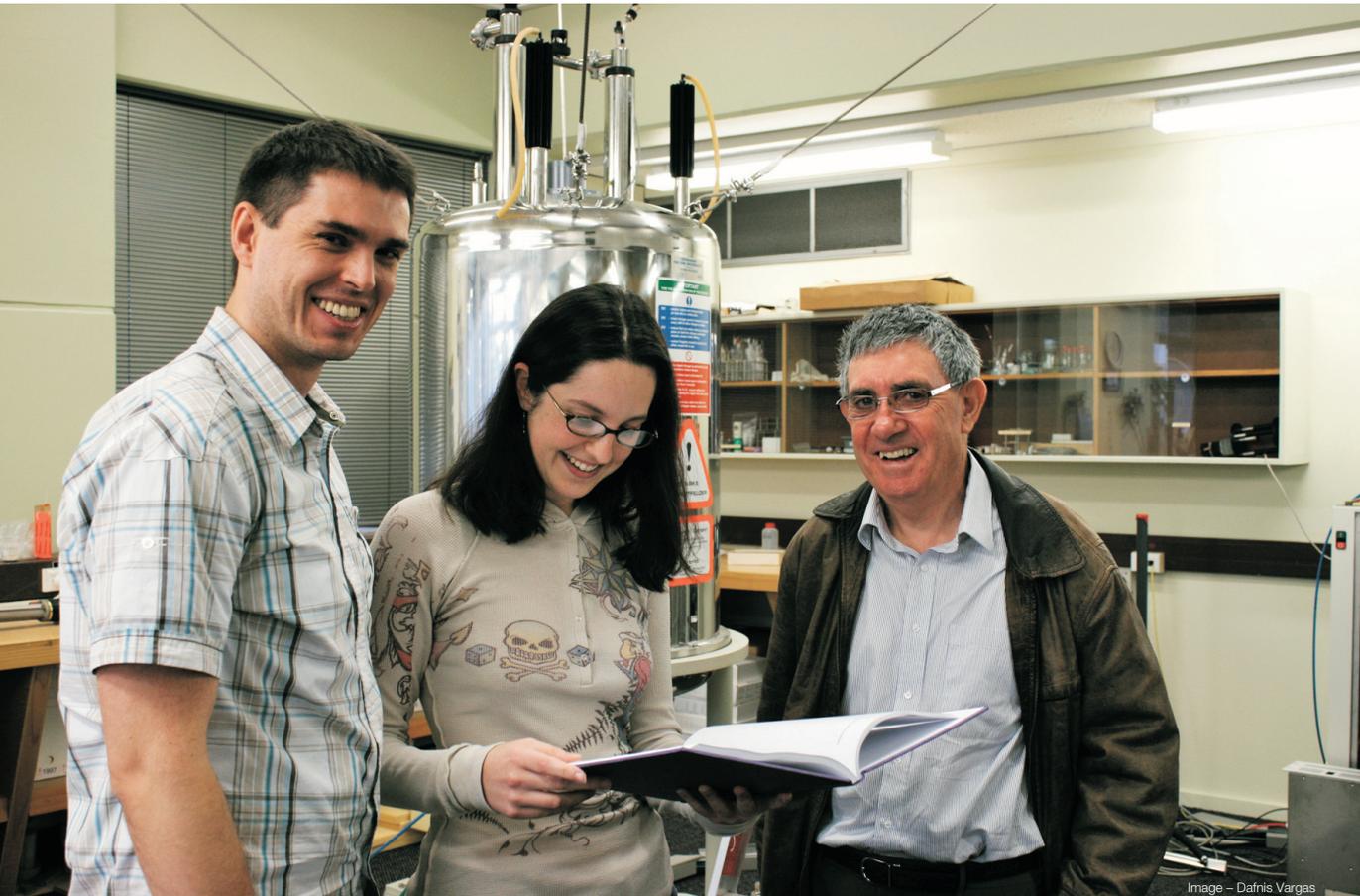


Image - The Dominion Post

Professor Sir Paul Callaghan GNZM, FRS, FRSNZ

*“New Zealand -
a place where talent
can thrive.”*

THE PAUL CALLAGHAN CHAIR
A Chair in Science for the Future of New Zealand



Paul Callaghan with Dr. Sergei Obruchkov and Dr. Lauren Burcaw

VISION

Professor Sir Paul Callaghan's vision was of New Zealand as a country that respects the natural environment, that cares for its sick and elderly, and offers exciting opportunities that will retain talented young New Zealanders. Paul saw the key to achieving his vision as a prosperous economy based on high-earning, low-impact, creative knowledge-based industries.

Paul believed that science and engineering should be major drivers of his vision and he presented an unequivocal message of optimism as he set out to transform New Zealanders' belief in their own potential.

We share Paul's confidence that New Zealand's future prosperity lies in our hands. Our objective is to create a new professorial position in physics that will carry forward Paul's vision for New Zealand, based on raising the public awareness of science and on the entrepreneurial application of good science to wealth-creation.

*“New Zealand -
where talent
can thrive”*

“New Zealand, 100% smart”



Victor Walker, Co-Chair, Transit of Venus celebrations in Uawa (Tolaga Bay) 2012, with Paul Callaghan, planning for the celebrations

INTRODUCTION

At the end of March 2012 New Zealand lost one of its most acclaimed citizens, a man who moved well beyond the boundaries of his chosen discipline in science to articulate a future vision for our country with the same passion and conviction that he brought to his teaching and research.

Such was Paul Callaghan’s international reach and mana that there were over 9700 cyber broadcasts of his funeral streamed live on the internet in 34 countries around the globe.

We are determined that the legacy left to New Zealand by Paul Callaghan - knight of the realm; winner, posthumously, of the KEA Supreme Award for 2012; Fellow of the Royal Society in London and of the Royal Society of New Zealand; co-recipient of the Prime Minister’s Science Prize in 2010; and New Zealander of the Year in 2011 - should live on and flourish.

Paul’s mission was to help create a:

“New Zealand where talent can thrive.”

He articulated this passionately right to the end of his life.

He was one of New Zealand’s most energetic ambassadors, at home and overseas, expressing with unwavering determination and conviction the importance of New Zealand’s economic success on the highly competitive international stage to secure its future prosperity.

Paul saw that this was best achieved through harnessing the ingenuity and energy of its people with “smart” solutions and commercialisation of IP in niche markets - his concept of “New Zealand - 100% smart”.

Through his decision to focus his career in New Zealand, despite many opportunities from leading institutions overseas, Paul complemented those expatriate New Zealanders who are contributing to the future prosperity of the country by bringing their talent home, either in person or through the transfer of investment finance, skills and networks.

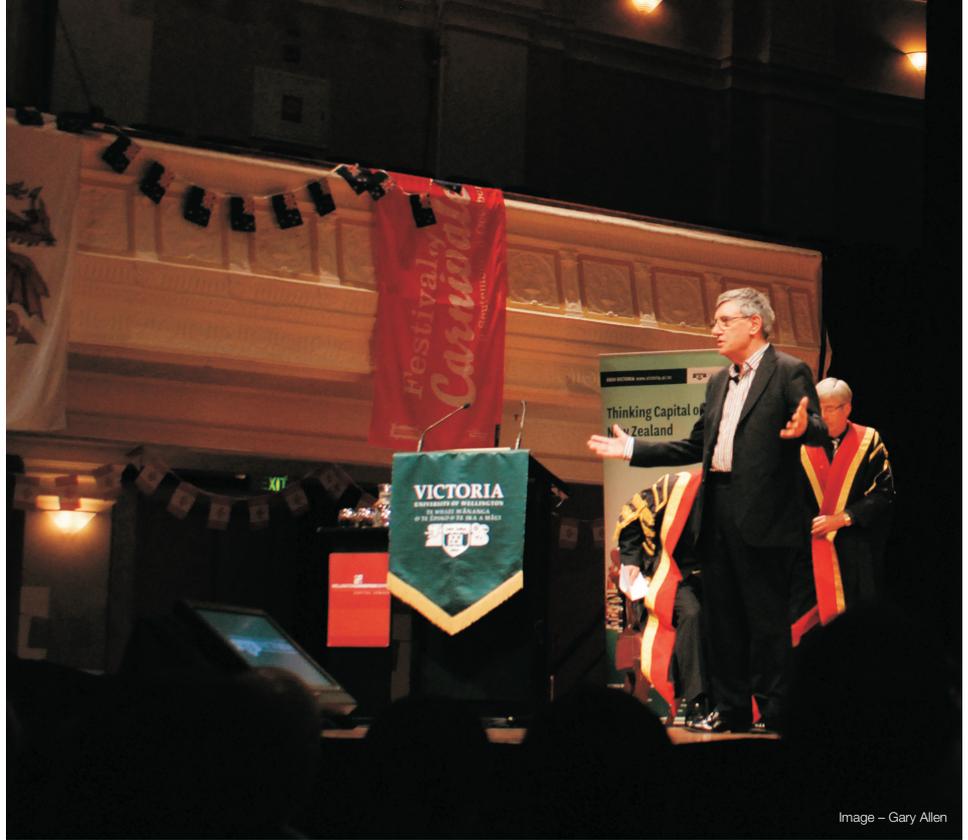


Image – Gary Allen

Paul Callaghan addressing 1,500 people in the Wellington Town Hall, 14 September 2011

BACKGROUND

The global financial crisis, climate change, and creating a sustainable future for generations to come, are just some of the very demanding challenges of the 21st century.

For New Zealand in particular, there is also the challenge of increasing productivity and generating economic prosperity through adding value to its products to ensure they are relevant in a highly competitive global market.

New Zealand, and the wider world, needs thinkers, like Paul Callaghan, who can challenge the prevailing orthodoxy on these and many other issues, and can readily articulate their ideas to a wide audience.

Underpinning this must be a vision specifically for New Zealand driven by an awareness that we cannot afford to continue to rely on traditional sources of economic activity to stay in one place, let alone to improve our standard of living relative to other developed, and emerging, countries.

Now there is a pressing need for a major initiative to ensure that Paul Callaghan's work for science, and for New Zealand, continues for many years to come.

The project described below, with its national focus, is such an initiative. It was discussed with Paul in the last months of his life and the project received his wholehearted endorsement.

The Paul Callaghan Chair



Paul Callaghan being invested with a knighthood, 2009

THE PROJECT

This project, which will promote the initiatives of, and provide a fitting tribute to, Paul Callaghan, is a new, endowed professorial chair in physics - the Paul Callaghan Chair. It will be located at Victoria University, from where he graduated in 1970 and where he continued to teach and research until shortly before his death in March 2012.

The focus of the Chair will be threefold:

- Rigorous physics research and academic teaching
- Communication and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, including the public, by making a national contribution to major issues relating to science and its application to the betterment of New Zealand
- Interaction with New Zealand businesses through demonstrating leadership in innovation, commercialisation of IP and entrepreneurship

A world class candidate with a proven track record in each of the above areas, and demonstrating as closely as possible the qualities and talents that Paul displayed, will be appointed to the Chair. This will be a person who is highly attracted to the Chair, the history that led to its establishment, and the concepts that it embodies.

Most importantly, the holder of the Chair will be required to have a national focus to their work.

The Chair is in physics and will be located in Victoria University's School of Chemical and Physical Sciences, but will also have close links to the Engineering faculties at Victoria and at other New Zealand universities.

A business orientation and strong business links, and a proven track record in commercialising scientific IP, will be very important.

SPECIFIC INITIATIVES OF THE NEW CHAIR

It is envisaged, given the breadth of focus for the Chair described above, that the successful candidate will have a specific mandate to achieve the following initiatives and goals on an annual basis:

- Communication and discussion of physics and science to the wider public and community on a regular basis through active participation within various channels. These could be, for example, public lectures, outreach to schools, or through media channels such as radio, print, TV and through a regular blog.
- Interaction with the business community with a specific focus on innovation and entrepreneurship through targeted talks and presentations, as well as active engagement with programmes and activities in this sector across New Zealand.
- Engagement with the national debate on New Zealand's future with a specific emphasis on the role of science in adding value to the New Zealand economy so that it remains relevant in a competitive global market.

Specific KPI's around these communications and engagement activities will be included in the role description for the Chair, and the appointee's performance will be measured through the University's performance review process.

KEY PERSONNEL

This project is endorsed by the Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University, Professor Pat Walsh. It is led by the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Science, Engineering, Architecture and Design, Professor David Bibby, and by the Head of School of Chemical and Physical Sciences, Professor John Spencer.

BUDGET (ANNUAL)

Professorial salary	\$200,000
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This is a premium salary for a professor, reflecting the University's determination to attract the highest calibre candidate in a very competitive global market.

CONTRIBUTION BY VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

Victoria University will contribute \$1.5 million to the endowed capital fund. The University will ensure that the Chair is fully supported in terms of research infrastructure and technical assistance.

SPONSORSHIP AND DONATIONS SOUGHT

The target for the appeal is \$5 million, including the contribution by Victoria University of \$1.5 million. This capital fund of \$5 million will be sufficient to generate at least \$200,000 pa to fund the salary of the Chair.

Donations are eligible for a 1/3 charitable tax rebate in New Zealand and tax rebates for donors in the USA and UK, through the U.S. Friends of Victoria University of Wellington and the Friends of Victoria University of Wellington in the UK. The funds will be professionally managed by the Victoria University Foundation, a registered charity.

BENEFITS TO SPONSORS

The project offers both organisational sponsors and individual donors the following opportunities:

- Ensuring that the legacy left to New Zealand by Paul Callaghan and described above continues in perpetuity
- Helping to forge practical links between scientific research and business in New Zealand
- Supporting a project with a national focus that will contribute directly to New Zealand's economic growth, the creation of jobs, and the generation of exports

CONTACT DETAILS

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