

Dunedin Hospital and Medical School

The University of Otago's Medical School is the oldest in the country.



Who's who

Te Rangi Hiroa, Sir Peter Buck, doctor, politician and anthropologist was the first Māori graduate of the University of Otago Medical School. He received his degree in 1904 and ended his highly distinguished career as Director of the Bernice P Bishop Museum in Hawaii in the same year.



Who's who

The Medical School's first female graduate was Emily Siedeberg, admitted to the School in 1891. She is commemorated in a street named after her and by a building at Otago Girls' High School which she attended.



Who's who

Sir Truby King was the first New Zealander to have his image on a New Zealand postage stamp and the first private citizen in New Zealand to be given a state funeral. Although he is renowned for his work in the mental health field, he is best known for the establishment of the Plunket Society in 1907. Set up to apply scientific principles to nutrition of babies, the Plunket Society was credited with lowering infant mortality in New Zealand from 88 per thousand in 1907, to 32 per thousand over the next 30 years.

In 1891, a Faculty of Medicine was formally constituted within the University. Sir John Halliday Scott was appointed the first Dean. The Medical School's Scott Building, which occupies a full block of Great King Street, opposite the hospital, commemorates his tenure. Sadly, World War One had a positive effect on the Medical School, due to demand for graduates in the fighting services, and by 1918 it was the largest of the University's faculties. Although in 1887 there were only 31 students enrolled, by 1941 a limit on numbers admitted to the second year had to be introduced.

The School of Massage, as it was originally known, was established in 1913 within the Medical School. When management shifted to the Hospital Board and then the Otago Polytechnic, it became known as the New Zealand School of Physiotherapy. Today, the University of Otago awards a Bachelor of Physiotherapy.

Dunedin Hospital is one of the largest employers in the city with more than 3,000 staff. The original hospital was established here in 1850. After the Industrial Exhibition of 1865 the hospital moved to the former exhibition hall in Great King Street and has remained in that location ever since, expanding into purpose-built buildings over the years.



The Lindo Ferguson medical school building



Dunedin's 'A&E' (Accident and Emergency)

