

GRADUATION 2026

SATURDAY 16TH MAY



OUR VISION

To be a relational, responsive and transformational Christ-following tertiary learning community committed to growing a faithful expression of the Kingdom of God on earth.

OUR MISSION

To provide Christ-centered, biblically-informed professional preparation, development and research for influential service.

OUR ETHOS

We believe that people teach, counsel and relate out of who they are. Because of that, we are interested in the growth of people, not only towards a professional goal, but towards reaching their God-given potential. Relationships are central to life at BTI as we work and grow together.

**GREAT
& HEARTS
& MINDS**

The logo features the words "GREAT", "& HEARTS", and "& MINDS" stacked vertically in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. A red cross is positioned between the words "HEARTS" and "MINDS". The text is set against a light blue background with a subtle geometric pattern.

PROGRAMME

THE PROCESSIONAL - 2:00PM

'Peace Like a River' by John Watson, played during BTI Academic Staff, Board of Directors and Honoured Guests' procession
Karanga for Graduands
Graduands' procession

MIHI

Teimana Bennett

KARAKIA AND WELCOME

Dr Philip Larking: Professional Lead: Social Work, School of Social Practice

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Music by John Woods; lyrics by Thomas Bracken and T.H Smith
Pianist: Rhena Kulasingham and Singer: Naomi Jones

ADDRESS FROM KAIARORANGI PRINCIPAL

Dr James Arkwright

AWARDING OF THE NEW ZEALAND CERTIFICATE IN STUDY AND EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS

Introduced by Gayle Te Kani

AWARDING OF THE TEACHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS

Karyn Robertson, Janette Blake, Daniela Brown (Programme Leaders) - Introduced by Gayle Te Kani and Dr Bev Coombridge

PERFORMANCE BY LEE UNIVERSITY CHOIR

AWARDING OF THE COUNSELLING AND SOCIAL WORK QUALIFICATIONS

Rebekah Thomas, Michelle Youngs, Dr Philip Larking (Professional Leads) - Introduced by Richard Cook and Tauha Te Kani

AWARDING OF THE POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN RESPONDING TO TRAUMA

Dr Hyeun Kim - Introduced by Dr Lindsay Fish

AWARDING OF THE POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMAS and MASTERS DEGREES OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND LEADERSHIP

Dr Peter Bray - Introduced by Dr Lindsay Fish

GRADUATE ADDRESS

Amorangi Kuka

THE STAFF BLESS THE GRADUATES

'The Blessing Song' by Dale Garratt

COMMISSIONING PRAYER

Dr James Arkwright

KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Dr James Arkwright

RECESSIONAL

'We'll Walk the Land' by Graham Kendrick

AFTERNOON TEA FOR GRADUATES, WHĀNAU, & FRIENDS - approximately 4:15PM

GRADUATES

NEW ZEALAND CERTIFICATE IN STUDY AND EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS (LEVEL 4)

In Absentia

Abigail Rose Brown
Ricci Leigh Thompson
Jada-Arielle Tufuga

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (TEACHING) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (LEVEL 7)

Rachel Natalia Kennerley

BACHELOR OF EDUCATION (TEACHING) PRIMARY (LEVEL 7)

Vasa Lu'isa Tupou Loloa 'I Vaha Aleamotu'a
Leah Michele Bentz
Aimee Lauren Dixon (with Distinction)
Jacinta Johanna Field
Christa Victoria Henry
Amorangi Adam Kobe Kuka
Ani-Te-Mea Kuka (with Distinction)

Kate Florence McDonald
Sophia Grace Salsido
Kaitlyn Rose Smyth (with Distinction)

In Absentia

Jenna Ann Barton (with Distinction)

GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF TEACHING (SECONDARY): WHAI PURAPURA (LEVEL 7)

Kirsty Lynne Brooking
Ronald Vikash Chand
Roha Henare Hamuera Dalton-Reedy
Sara Veronica Erbacher
Elke Arianne Haakma (with Distinction)
Lorraine Anne Jayme (with Distinction)
Andrea Jane Logan
Irene Wangari Maina-Stevens (with Distinction)
Wendy Ann Miller
Stephen David Pickett (with Distinction)
Morlu GF Stevens (with Distinction)
Chloe Michelle Holly Turner
Mitchell Thomas Youngs (with Distinction)

In Absentia

Suzanne Kaye Burnett
Mehak (with Distinction)
Erin Jessica Bshennaty (with Distinction)
Carla Marie Cerny (with Distinction)
Yanfen Chen
Mary Adelina Fitzpatrick (with Distinction)
Sanjay Kumar (with Distinction)
Aimee Cheri Leiataua (with Distinction)
Richard Lewis Wedding Stanyon (with Distinction)
Cecily Claire Palisoc Tiu
Christopher Allen Tonkin (with Distinction)
Suzanne Catherine Tye (with Distinction)

GRADUATES

BACHELOR OF COUNSELLING (LEVEL 7)

Adam Denis Appleton
Sam Christopher Beard
Raewyn Patricia Berkahn
Deborah Leigh Dallas
Natasha Dianne Dalley (with Distinction)
Esther Dupu
Lisa Jacoba Elder
Rebecca Jean Escott
Trent Nicolas Carson Fawcett
Sharon Natasha Fromont
Brooke Lenore Geddes
Shari Suzette Gibson
Lorraine Sheree Goulton
Donna Lee Grant (with Distinction)
Neil Graham Hamilton
Diana Jean Holloway
Vanessa Maree Holmes (with Distinction)
Katherine Lisa Jourdain (with Distinction)
Pauline Elisabeth Knoop
Christina Sonia Koutsimanis
Cushla Maree Lahmert
Amy Patricia Larkin
Bronwynn McWilliams
Miriam Grace Minnee Kent (with Distinction)
Jane Penelope Moimoi
Wendy Laura Molony
Matilda Magilasi Mountfort
Micaela Hope Parkes
Louise Jane Parry
Grace Ruth Pethybridge (with Distinction)
Mckenzie Joy Robinson (with Distinction)

Justina Jo Roche (with Distinction)
Delia Maewyn Schaeffer
Juliette Shaw (with Distinction)
Ashleigh Rebekah Siale (with Distinction)
Julie Mamie-Jean Smith (with Distinction)
Chin Boo Soon
Maria Louise Sowter (with Distinction)
Jennifer Marie Stephenson
Penny Jane Stock
Emma Jane Stuart
Roanne Tracy Thatcher
Patrick James Trace
Kerianne Turchie
Sasha Mary Turner
Damian Rhys William Clifford Turner-Smith
(with Distinction)
Sherrilyn Anne Van Asch (with Distinction)
Renee Van der Merwe
Amelie Jane Warner
Jodi Terry Wichers (with Distinction)
Sarah Jean Wilson

In Absentia

Glenn Richard Bilby
Yana Breindl (with Distinction)
Lydia Catherine Esveld
Leeann Michelle Makinson
Laura Marie McGeough (with Distinction)
Galgamuge Anjie Dilka Silva
Corinne Maree Strickland

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK (LEVEL 7)

Karissa Rexena Cunningham (with Distinction)
Chevy Myles Cuthbert
Gemma Rose Hanna (with Distinction)
Dawn Miller (with Distinction)

GRADUATES

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN RESPONDING TO TRAUMA (LEVEL 8)

Debra Ann Cunningham
Joanne Davies
Alexandra Anahera Day Duncanson

In Absentia

Epenisa Makato'a Ahio
Diane Louise Anderson Geboers
Ruby Rachel Bishara
Sandra Lee De Haas
Sandra Dean

Molly Kate Gerritsen
Elizabeth Mary Griffiths
Nicola Hubble
Isabella Audrey Johnson
Nanzelelani Ngirazi
Sharon Joy Overall
Sharmila Pathak
Rebecca Anne Sly
Jenna Lee Sproull
Tina Marie Walker

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE (LEVEL 8)

In Absentia

Hana Greenfield
Sharon Joy Overall
Vilma Katerina Pearson

MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND LEADERSHIP (LEVEL 9)

Timothy James Buchanan - *Exploring the understanding and application of teaching creativity: A qualitative case study of three Year 7-8 teachers practising at a faith-based school in Aotearoa New Zealand*

Kelly Brad Durston - *Cognitive to spiritual journeying; A reflective account of personal/leadership development*

Davina Marie Plummer - *Ngā ara whāinga - Pathways of purpose: Understanding motivation and recruitment in frontline Christian social services*

Ashleigh Louise Wales - *A phenomenological exploration of how kaiako, working in Christian early childhood education in Aotearoa New Zealand, express the Christian ethos of their centres*

Elizabeth Joy Young - *How do counsellors understand the concept of “soft hearts” as practitioners and how does this way of being influence their therapeutic relationships with clients?*

In Absentia

Susana Vaea Lotulelei - *A strengths-based qualitative research project: Seeking to understand students' behaviour*

MUSIC

THE BLESSING SONG

Whakapaingia te Atua
Tiaho mai rā ki runga i a koe
He aroha tē mimiti
Kia huri mai, kia aro mai
Kia au mārire

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious
to you
The Lord lift up His countenance on you
And give you peace

*Music by Dale Garratt
Translated by Mikaere Norris
Arranged by C. Allan & E. Bernstein
Pianist: Rhena Kulasingham*

THE LEE UNIVERSITY SINGERS

The Lee University Singers was established in 1963 as a 50-member choral ensemble that emphasizes excellence in music and sacred music. They are known for an eclectic repertoire of music from choral classics to contemporary Christian music. The group performs in churches, schools, campus events, and many other venues. The Lee Singers have performed literally around the world including Europe, Russia, South Africa, Indonesia, Philippines, and, in May of 2026, New Zealand.

Dr. Randall Sheeks has directed the Lee University Singers since 2024. He is the Dean of the Lee University School of Music and has taught at Lee since 2010. Prior to coming to Lee, he served in full-time music ministry at churches in Ohio, Alabama, and Georgia. He earned degrees from Lee College, Samford University, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is married to Debbie, also on the teaching faculty at Lee, and they have two adult daughters.

Student President: Amber Trottman
Club Sponsor: Dr. Brad Moffett



QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

New Zealand Certificate in Study and Employment Pathways - Level 4

If you're interested in studying but are worried about whether or not you've got what it takes to be successful, BTI offers this six-month certificate programme, designed to equip graduates with increased knowledge, skills and confidence in their ability to succeed academically. This can be a stepping stone to applying for full degree programmes.

6 months full-time. NZQA accredited. Study from anywhere in NZ.



Bachelor of Education (Teaching) Early Childhood Education - Level 7

Study to be an early childhood educator and make a difference that lasts a lifetime. Our field-based ECE programme enables you to work or volunteer in an early childhood centre while you study from anywhere in Aotearoa, NZ. The programme is underpinned by a biblical worldview and integrates both personal and professional learning and development. Full-time and part-time study options are available.

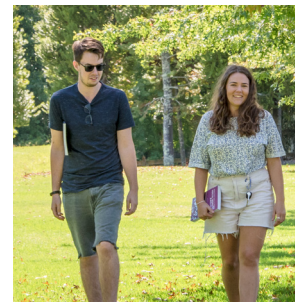
3 years full-time. NZQA accredited. Field-based.



Bachelor of Education (Teaching) Primary - Level 7

Make a difference in the lives of children and their whānau and study to be a teacher in a primary, intermediate school or kura. Our Primary Teacher Education programme is based on biblical values and creative, person-centred learning. Complete your study in a highly relational, collaborative learning environment where relevant, contextualised learning is provided. Full-time and part-time study options are available.

3 years full-time. NZQA accredited. Onsite and distance options.



Graduate Diploma of Teaching (Secondary): Whai Purapura - Level 7

Our unique Secondary programme blends biblical worldview, mātauranga Māori, innovative coursework, and professional experience placements to enable you to be responsive, relational and transformative as a secondary teacher/kaiako. Part-time and LAT pathways available.

1 year full-time. NZQA accredited. Study by distance.



*Programme offerings are current as at 2026 and reflect the Institute's programmes at the time of graduation.

QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Bachelor of Counselling - Level 7

BTI's Counselling programme offers students a unique blend of courses. In the three-year degree programme, you will experience personal transformation as well as gaining the knowledge and skills for supporting children, young people and adults when they are facing personal distress, relationship struggles and/or parenting challenges. Full-time and part-time study options are available.

3 years full-time. NZQA accredited. Onsite and distance options.



Bachelor of Social Work - Level 7

Our Social Work programme at BTI is based on biblical values, cultural competencies and professional standards. Gain real-world professional experience while building your knowledge, awareness, and skills to practise as a social worker in Aotearoa New Zealand. Full-time and part-time study options are available.

3 years full-time. NZQA accredited. Onsite and distance options.



Postgraduate Certificate in Responding to Trauma - Level 8

Do you want to learn how to respond to trauma with greater confidence and research-informed understanding? This postgraduate programme is suitable for people from all professional backgrounds who are seeking to gain a deeper understanding of how to respond to individuals and communities (including tamariki and rangatahi) who have experienced trauma.

Part-time across 12 months. NZQA accredited. Study from anywhere in NZ or overseas.



Postgraduate Diplomas and Masters Degrees in Professional Practice majoring in Leadership, Trauma-Responsive Therapy or Trauma-Informed Leadership and Service - Level 9

Study while you work with our range of programmes for busy professionals. These are online so can be studied from anywhere in the world. Join our unique biblically-based professional practice majors. The Masters degree is completed with a research thesis.

3 years part-time. NZQA accredited. Study from anywhere in NZ or overseas.



*Programme offerings are current as at 2026 and reflect the Institute's programmes at the time of graduation.

SPECIAL GUESTS

BTI DIRECTORS

Pastor Jonny Boom (Chairperson)
Nathan Balmer
Dr Jacqui Burne
Dr Andrea Hall
Joshua Naeff

CET TRUSTEES

Helen Gregory (Chair)
Pastor Jonny Boom
Jo Wallis
John McDougall
Jon Parker
Peter Haywood
Dr Jacqui Burne

Emeritus:

Graham Preston, MNZM
Peter Ewart

INVITED GUESTS

Larisa Anderson
Ruth Barber
Dr Barbara Bulkeley
Dr Andrew Butcher
Yvette Butcher
Lynda Coley
Dr Tim Collins
Caroline Cook
Mahé Drysdale
Larne Edmeades
Dr Alaster Gibson
Dr Nikki Kiyimba
Shirley Kuka
Helen Leonard
Brigid McGillivray

Nynette Martin
Dr Peter Maslin
Lynne Miles
Reka Nemedi
Dr Bev Norsworthy
John Norsworthy
Le Roy Pinkerton
Graham Preston, MNZM
Vicky Preston
Dr Marion Sanders
Laurie Sanders
Nelson Schonfeldt
Belinda Schonfeldt
Kate Weir
Representatives from Ngāti Kahu

**Special thanks to Life by Lens Photography, Lemongrass Catering,
Holy Trinity Church, Vicki Ward NZ Original, Pure Print, Waikato Graduate Women
Charitable Trust, Bay of Plenty Pipes and Drums and the BTI student volunteers who
helped make this graduation a special and memorable day.**

GRADUATION PHOTOGRAPHY



A link to our graduation images will be emailed to graduates approximately 3-4 weeks after Graduation

GREAT PLACE, GREAT PEOPLE,
GREAT HEARTS + MINDS



www.bti.ac.nz



bti  bethlehem
tertiary institute
TE WHARE TAUIRA O PETERHEMA