2018

Grantees Booklet
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Cover Photo: Elizabeth Adetiba (Page 10) hiking on Matiu/Somes Island in Wellington, photographed by fellow grantee, Jorlyn Le Garrec (Page 10).
Messages of Congratulations

“For seventy years the Fulbright programme has helped foster closer relations between New Zealand and the United States through friendship and academic excellence. As Senator J. William Fulbright said the programme brings “a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into world affairs.” The New Zealand Government congratulates the worthy recipients of the 2018 Fulbright Awards on this 70th anniversary year. We wish you all the best in your undertakings and hope you continue the long standing tradition of excellence and enrichment through the Fulbright programme.”

Rt. Hon Winston Peters
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, New Zealand
Honorary Chairperson, Fulbright New Zealand

“Congratulations to all of the 2018 Fulbright grantees! For 70 years Fulbright has been at the pinnacle of academic exchanges between the United States and New Zealand, and it is my great pleasure to welcome you all to this distinguished global community of scholars. We deeply appreciate your commitment to excellence not only within your chosen disciplines, but also toward sustaining and building the enduring relationship between our nations.

In keeping with Senator Fulbright’s vision for the promotion of international goodwill you have embarked on a journey of learning and sharing both knowledge and friendship. We honor you this evening for your achievements, and look forward to seeing the impact of your endeavors in the future.”

Scott P. Brown
US Ambassador to New Zealand
Honorary Chairperson, Fulbright New Zealand

“On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Fulbright New Zealand, I would like to congratulate this year’s grantees. By receiving a Fulbright New Zealand award, you have shown that you were outstanding among the many applications received and that you each possess academic, personal and professional excellence. As an American who has made New Zealand my home, I have a deep affection for both of the countries that Fulbright New Zealand grantees will experience on their exchanges. I hope that you find your time abroad enriching, interesting and challenging. Embrace this opportunity to meet new friends, step outside your comfort zone and gain new knowledge.

I hope that you will be as proud as I am to contribute to the deep connection between New Zealand and the United States. We warmly welcome you to the Fulbright family of alumni and wish you well on the journey ahead.”

Harlene Hayne
Vice-Chancellor, University of Otago
Chairperson of the Board, Fulbright New Zealand

Fulbright New Zealand

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Minister of Foreign Affairs, New Zealand
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The Fulbright Programme

The Fulbright programme of international educational exchange was an initiative of US Senator J. William Fulbright from Arkansas, who in the aftermath of World War II believed that mutual understanding between different countries and cultures was crucial to ensure a peaceful future for the world.

The Fulbright Act, an ingenious piece of legislation passed by the United States Congress in 1946, directed proceeds from the sale of surplus war property, foreign loan repayments and reparations to fund the “promotion of international good will through the exchange of students in the fields of education, culture, and science.”

In Senator Fulbright’s own words, the Fulbright programme aims “to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby to increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship.”

New Zealand was the fifth country to sign up to the Fulbright programme by bilateral treaty with the United States of America, in 1948. Since then Fulbright New Zealand has granted more than 3,000 exchange awards, sending 1,835 New Zealand graduate students, artists, academics, teachers and professionals on exchanges to the US and welcoming 1,520 Americans on exchanges to New Zealand.

Fulbright New Zealand is jointly funded by the US and New Zealand governments with additional funding from award sponsors, private philanthropists and alumni donors. It is governed by a twelve member Board of Directors comprised of six New Zealanders and six Americans.

The Fulbright programme has been described as one of the largest and most significant movements of scholars across the face of the earth and now operates in over 155 countries, funding around 8,000 exchanges per year for participants to study, research, teach or present their work in another country.

The more than 300,000 Fulbright alumni worldwide include heads of state, cabinet ministers, ambassadors, politicians, judges, heads of corporations, university presidents, journalists, artists, professors and teachers.

Esteemed alumni of the Fulbright programme include Dame Marie Clay, Sir Kenneth Keith, Sir Wallace Rowling, Dame Anne Salmond, David Cunliffe, Gareth Farr, Witi Ihimaera, Michael King, Alan MacDiarmid, Bill Manhire, Ron Paterson, Jan Wright and many other prominent New Zealanders.

Fulbright grantees make the most of their exchanges to get to know and understand a different country and culture, to advance themselves academically or professionally and to make lifelong friendships and professional relationships. Many look back on their Fulbright exchange as a life-changing experience and a defining moment of their career.

Fulbright Graduate Programme

Fulbright New Zealand offers a range of awards to New Zealand and American graduate students to study or research in each other’s countries. Grantees are selected on the basis of academic excellence, leadership potential and ambassadorial qualities. In addition to award payments towards study or research, all grantees receive return airfares, a health benefit plan, enrichment activities and programme support during their exchange.

Andrew Alder

Andrew Alder from Auckland will complete a Masters of Science in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Colorado Boulder in Boulder, Colorado.

Andrew graduated with a BA and BE (Hons) Conjoint from the University of Auckland in 2018.

Cameron Birchall

Cameron Birchall from Auckland will research New Zealand’s markets for natural resource quotas at the University of California, Davis in Davis, California towards a PhD at KU Leuven University in Belgium.

Cameron graduated with a BSc from Victoria University of Wellington in 2014, and an MSc from KU Leuven University in Belgium in 2016.

Lizzie Christmas

Lizzie Christmas from Rotorua will complete a Masters in Law specialising in Law, Technology, and Entrepreneurship at Cornell Tech in New York City, New York.

Lizzie graduated with an LLB (Hons) and a BA in Politics from the University of Otago in 2016.

Fulbright Science and Innovation Graduate Awards

These awards are for promising New Zealand graduate students to undertake postgraduate study or research at US institutions in fields targeted to support growth and innovation in New Zealand.

Ten awards were granted this year. These awards are sponsored by the Minister of Research, Science and Innovation.
Francis Hwang
Francis Hwang from Auckland will complete a Masters of Public Policy specialising in Health and Urban Policy at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts.
Francis graduated with a BE (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Auckland in 2015.

Guy Jones
Guy Jones from Tauranga will complete a Masters of Law specialising in Information Privacy at Columbia University in New York City, New York.
Guy graduated with an LLB (Hons) and a BA from the University of Otago in 2013.

Dingcheng Luo
Dingcheng Luo from Christchurch will complete a PhD in Computational Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin in Austin, Texas.
Dingcheng graduated with a BE (Hons) in Civil Engineering from the University of Canterbury in 2018.

Sophie Matthewman
Sophie Matthewman from Auckland will complete a Masters of Public Health specialising in Health Policy at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.
Sophie graduated with a BHSc (Hons) from the University of Auckland in 2016.

Isabelle Smith
Isabelle Smith from Auckland will complete a Masters of Law specialising in Environmental and Energy Law at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.
Isabelle graduated with an LLB (Hons First Class) from the University of Canterbury in 2018 and is currently completing a BSc in Geography with an Environmental Science endorsement at the University of Canterbury.

Natasha Ironside
Natasha Ironside from Nelson will research an automated tool for the analysis of head scans in patients with brain bleeds at Columbia University in New York City, New York towards a BMSc (Hons) at the University of Auckland.
Natasha graduated with an MBChB from the University of Auckland in 2017.

Paris Watson
Paris Watson from Wellington will complete a PhD specialising in Biological Chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Paris graduated with a BBMedSc (Hons) in Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology from Victoria University of Wellington in 2018.

Fulbright-EQC Award in Natural Disaster Research
This award is for a promising New Zealand graduate student to undertake postgraduate study or research at a US university in the area of natural disaster research.
One award was granted this year.

Amanda Wallis
Amanda Wallis from Palmerston North will research human behaviour in disaster preparedness at the University of Colorado Boulder in Boulder, Colorado towards a PhD in Psychology at Victoria University of Wellington.
Amanda graduated with a BA and a BSc (Hons) from Victoria University of Wellington in 2017.
Fulbright-Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Graduate Award
These awards are for promising New Zealand graduate students to undertake postgraduate study or research in the US in the field of indigenous development.
Two awards were granted this year.

Melissa Derby Ngāti Ranginui
Melissa Derby from Tauranga will research critical theories of race, ethnicity and indigeneity at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado and at San Diego State University in San Diego, California towards a PhD in Education at the University of Canterbury.
Melissa graduated with a BA from Victoria University of Wellington in 2002 and an MA (Hons First Class) from AUT in 2016.

Rachael Jones Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Rakaipaaka
Rachael Jones from Dunedin will complete a Masters of Laws specialising in Constitutional and Indigenous Law at Columbia University in New York City, New York.
Rachael graduated with an LLB (Hons First Class) and a BA in Economics from the University of Otago in 2013.

Fulbright New Zealand General Graduate Awards
These awards are for promising New Zealand graduate students to undertake postgraduate study or research at US institutions in any field.
Four awards were granted this year.

Rez Gardi Kurdish
Rez Gardi from Auckland will complete a Masters of Law in Human Rights and International Law at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
Rez graduated with an LLB (Hons) and a BA conjoint from the University of Auckland in 2016.

Tess McClure
Tess McClure from Wellington will complete a Masters of Arts specialising in Journalism at Columbia University in New York City, New York.
Tess graduated with a BA and PGDip in Journalism from the University of Canterbury in 2013.

Kate Stone
Kate Stone from Wellington will complete a Masters of Law specialising in Human Rights at Columbia University in New York City, New York.
Kate graduated with a BA (Hons) in Political Science in 2008 and an LLB in 2011 from Victoria University of Wellington, and an LLM from the University of Auckland in 2016.

Jane Yonge
Jane Yonge from Wellington will complete a Masters in Arts Politics at Tisch School of the Arts at New York University in New York City, New York.
Jane graduated with a BA (Hons) in Drama from the University of Auckland in 2011 and an MThA in Directing from Toi Whakaari: NZ Drama School and Victoria University of Wellington in 2015.

Above: Melissa Derby (page 8) showcases her doctoral research, which explores emerging literacy in bilingual children (te reo and English). The books are some of the resources used by the families in her study. Melissa argues that literacy is a fundamental human right, and that literacy interventions designed to support Māori children need to be culturally responsive and appropriate. Photo provided by Melissa Derby.
Elizabeth Adetiba
Elizabeth Adetiba from Dallas, Texas will research the relationship between various justice processes and the needs of victim-survivors of sexual violence, while based at Victoria University of Wellington.
Elizabeth graduated with a BA (Hons) from the University of Chicago in 2017.

Erin Houlihan
Erin Houlihan from Boulder, Colorado is completing a Masters by Thesis in Marine Science investigating ocean acidification and life in the boundary layer for invertebrate marine larvae at the University of Otago.
Erin graduated with a BA in Coordinate Earth and Oceanographic Science and Education from Bowdoin College in 2017.

Ziibiins Alexandra Johnson
Ziibiins Alexandra Johnson from Minneapolis, Minnesota will complete a Masters of Arts in Applied Linguistics, researching indigenous language revitalisation at the University of Auckland.
Ziibiins graduated with a BA in American Indian Studies, focusing on Ojibwe language, from the University of Minnesota in 2016.

Jorlyn Le Garrec
Jorlyn Le Garrec from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania will complete a Masters of Science in Physics at the University of Auckland. She is based at NIWA (National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research) in Wellington.
Jorlyn graduated with a BS in Mechanical and Ocean Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2017.

Cara Lembo
Cara Lembo from Weston, Massachusetts is completing a Masters of Science in Geology focusing on environmental change in early Holocene Fiordland at the University of Otago.
Cara graduated with a BA from Amherst College in 2017.

Mallory Sea
Mallory Sea from Sioux City, Iowa will complete a Masters in Marine Science in shellfish restoration focus on the spatial distribution of sub-tidal mussels in the Hauraki Gulf at the University of Auckland.
Mallory graduated with a BS in Biology and a BA in Chemistry from Morningside College in 2016.

Oscar Yip
Oscar Yip from Lone Tree, Colorado will complete a Masters of Science in Plant Biotechnology investigating pollution resistance in plants at the University of Otago.
Oscar graduated with a BA in Biology with an emphasis in Cellular and Molecular Biology from Occidental College in 2017.

Above: Erin Houlihan assisted with a glider drone research project while visiting the University of Waikato in Hamilton. “It’s all part of the experience—science is collaboration.” Photo provided by Erin Houlihan.
Fulbright New Zealand Scholar Awards
These awards are for New Zealand academics, artists or professionals to lecture and/or conduct research in the US for three to five months.
Five awards were granted this year.

Richard Arnold
Richard Arnold from Wellington will research mathematical models for repair times in complex and repairable ageing systems, such as computers or aircraft, at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.
Richard is an Associate Professor at Victoria University of Wellington.

Karin Bryan
Karin Bryan from Hamilton will research the role of the fringing forest environment in controlling the development of global mangrove forests at Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts.
Karin is a Professor and Assistant Dean (Research) at the University of Waikato.

Neil Gemmell
Neil Gemmell from Dunedin will research the utility of new “gene drive” technologies for the control of predatory pests at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Broad Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
Neil is a Professor and AgResearch Chair at the University of Otago.

Bronwyn Kivell
Bronwyn Kivell from Wellington will research the development of better medications to treat pain and addiction at the Scripps Research Institute and Florida Atlantic University in Jupiter, Florida.
Bronwyn is a Senior Lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington.

Tony Merriman
Tony Merriman from Dunedin will research the genetic basis of urate control and gout in African-Americans at the University of Alabama Birmingham in Birmingham, Alabama.
Tony is a Research Professor at the University of Otago.

Andrew Erueti
Andrew Erueti from Christchurch will research changes in international human rights law and the implications for the future development of law as it relates to Maori and the Crown in New Zealand at the University of Colorado Boulder in Boulder, Colorado.
Andrew is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Auckland.

Fulbright Scholar Programme
Fulbright New Zealand offers a range of awards to New Zealand and American academics, artists and professionals to research, teach, present their work and gain practical experience in each other’s countries.

Awards range from small contributions towards short term visits to fully-funded exchanges of up to one academic year, including airfares, a health benefit plan and programme support.
Fulbright Global Scholar Award
This award allows US academics and professionals to engage in multi-country, trans-regional projects. Global Scholars are able to research or combine teaching/research activity in two to three countries.

This year, two Global Scholars are travelling to New Zealand for a segment of their award.

Michael Falk
Michael Falk from Fort Wayne, Indiana will research hyperplane arrangements, Artin groups and matroids at Victoria University of Wellington.
Michael is a Professor of Mathematics and Statistics at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Isabel Hawkins
Isabel Hawkins from Cordoba, Argentina will research the Pleiades in Polynesia, Mesoamerica and the Andes, in particular, cross-cultural connections and the science of ancestral timekeeping.
Isabel is an Astronomer and Project Director at the Exploratorium in San Francisco, California.

Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Programme for New Zealand Teachers
These awards are for highly accomplished New Zealand teachers in primary or secondary schooling to participate in an intensive professional development programme in the US for four months at a US University.

Two awards were granted this year.

Eva Cornforth
Eva Cornforth from Auckland will research high leverage initiatives that target transition points and curriculum alignment across a community of learning in order to raise engagement in STEM by priority learners.
Eva is the Head of Science at Otahuhu College in South Auckland.

Sera Henare Muaūpoko, Ngāti Raukawa and Ngāi Tahu
Sera Henare from Levin will research culturally responsive and relational pedagogy with a foundation in drama.
Sera is the Head of Dance and Drama, and Kaitiaki Hauora (Māori Dean) at Te Kauwhata College in the Waikato.

Above: US Scholar Smitesh Bakrania (page 17) went beyond his research and started an initiative in his children’s Auckland classrooms to inspire the next generation of STEM students. Featured in March/April 2018 Bright Sparks. Photo provided by Smitesh Bakrania.
Jessica ‘Coco’ Hansell Ngāpuhi | Māori Samoan German
Jessica Hansell from Auckland will complete a collection of new writing and visual works at the University of Hawai‘i, Manoa for three months.
Jessica graduated with a BA in Broadcasting from Christchurch Polytechnic in 2006 and an MA in Creative Writing from Victoria University of Wellington in 2012.

Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writer’s Residency
This award is for a New Zealand writer of Pacific heritage to carry out work on an approved creative writing project exploring Pacific identity, culture or history at the University of Hawai‘i, Manoa for three months.
One residency was granted this year.

Smitesh Bakrania
Smitesh Bakrania from Chesterfield, New Jersey is researching effective methods of engaging engineering students in and outside classrooms at AUT.
Smitesh is an Associate Professor at Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey.

Fulbright-Wallace Arts Trust Award
This award is for an outstanding mid-career or senior New Zealand visual artist to undertake a ten week residency at Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, California.
One residency was granted this year.

Rebecca Swan
Rebecca Swan from Auckland is an interdisciplinary artist researching the nuances of interconnection and cycles of exchange from an ecological and community perspective.
Rebecca is a part time Lecturer in Contemporary Arts at Unitec.

Turner Goins
Turner Goins from Asheville, North Carolina is researching the influence of cultural factors on healthy aging among Maori at the University of Auckland’s School of Population Health and Maori Studies.
Turner is a Professor at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina.

Fulbright-US Scholar Awards
These awards are for US academics, artists or professionals to lecture and/or conduct research in New Zealand for three to five months.
Four awards were granted this year.

Amelia Jones
Amelia Jones from Los Angeles, California will write a book on queer performance theories and histories.
Amelia is the Robert A. Day Professor in Art and Design and Vice Dean of Critical Studies at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, California.

Tim Weihs
Tim Weihs from Baltimore, Maryland will research and teach biodegradable scaffolds and bio-degradable Mg alloys for use in the human body at the University of Canterbury.
Tim is a Professor in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.
Leslie Hannam
Leslie Hannam from Anchorage, Alaska will research culturally relevant practices in the 21st century school library.
Leslie graduated with a BA from George Washington University in 1992 and an MLS from the University of Oklahoma in 1998.

Maggie Kelley
Maggie Kelley from Springfield, Virginia will research special education inclusion.
Maggie graduated with a BA in English from The College of William and Mary in 2010 and an MAEd from George Mason University in 2014.

Charles Patrick Maples
Charles Patrick Maples from Austin, Texas will research non-traditional library approaches to support collaboration with teachers.
Patrick graduated with a BA from Texas State in 2000, and an MS from the University of Texas School of Information in 2014.

Courtnee Bennett
Courtnee Bennett from Albuquerque, New Mexico will research cultural competence in secondary visual arts classes and the guidance emerging artists receive to become professional artists.
Courtnee graduated with a BA in Geology from Washington University in St. Louis in 1998 and an MFA in 2D Design and an MAAE from the University of Cincinnati in 2009.

Sarah Emily Crum
Sarah Emily Crum from Portland, Oregon will research the professional development and whole-school implementation of restorative practices in New Zealand schools.
Sarah graduated with a BA from the University of Oregon in 2005 and an MA from Portland State University in 2008.

Bryan Dickinson
Bryan Dickinson from Albuquerque, New Mexico will research extracurricular math opportunities that allow students to experience fields often ignored by the standard K-12 curriculum.
Bryan graduated with a BA from Western New England University in 2012 and an MA from the University of New Mexico in 2015.

Tiffany Gross
Tiffany Gross from Brooklyn, New York will research the use of restorative justice practices and culturally responsive teaching to increase student agency and academic achievement.
Tiffany graduated with a BA from Long Island University in 2001 and an MA from Hunter College in 2006.

Susannah Remillard
Susannah Remillard from Dennis, Massachusetts will research nationalised mythology, standardisation, and the teaching of indigenous history.
Susannah graduated with a BA in English from Colby College in 1987 and an MA in Linguistic Anthropology from the University of South Carolina in 1997.
Awards for Institutions

The Fulbright programme offers a range of awards to New Zealand and American institutions to host visiting academics, artists and professionals for lectures, seminars, workshops, conferences or symposiums, to help initiate international programmes and to contribute to curriculum development at the host institution.

Fulbright Specialist Awards

These awards are for New Zealand academic institutions to host US academics, artists or professionals for two to six week programmes of lectures, seminars, workshops, conferences or symposiums.

Six awards were granted this year.

Lynn Bloom

The University of Waikato is hosting Lynn Bloom from Connecticut to deliver workshops, public lectures and a symposium on writing matters: Writing, voice lessons and why truth and trust matter more than ever in the age of the internet.

Lynn is Professor Emerita at the University of Connecticut.

Steven Hughes

The University of Auckland is hosting Steven Hughes from Colorado to develop excellence in coastal engineering education.

Steven is Senior Research Scientist at Colorado State University. Steven spent 30 years with the U.S Army Corps of Engineer’s Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory.

Jill McCracken

The New Zealand Prostitutes’ Collective is hosting Jill McCracken from Florida to collaborate with and train researchers looking into the impact of sex work legislation on violence and trafficking.

Jill is Assistant Professor in the Department of Visual and Verbal Arts at the University of South Florida.

Chris Chunting Mi

The University of Auckland is hosting Chris Chunting Mi from California to deliver lectures and advise on wireless power transfer technology for engineering education.

Chris is Professor and Chair in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at San Diego State University. He is also Adjunct Professor at the University of California.

Roger Narayan

The University of Otago is hosting Roger Narayan from North Carolina to collaborate on bioink development for 3D bioprinting.

Roger is Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Charles Webel

The University of Otago is hosting Charles Webel from California to contribute to the curriculum of peace, conflict and terrorism-related programmes and hold public lectures.

Charles is Professor of Peace Studies at Chapman University and Professor of International Relations at the University of New York in Prague, Czech Republic.

Above: Cara Lembo (Page 11) and Erin Houlihan (Page 10) at Mt. Aspiring National Park.
Other Awards and Fellowships
Fulbright New Zealand administers other awards and fellowships for exchange between New Zealand and the US, on behalf of various partner organisations.

Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowships in Public Policy
These fellowships, offered by the Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowships Board and funded by various New Zealand government agencies, are for outstanding mid-career US professionals to research and gain first-hand experience of public policy in New Zealand for seven months.
Two fellowships were granted this year.

Jeff Mosley
Jeff Mosley from Silver Spring, Maryland will research how community-based organisations access varying forms of financial capital to deliver affordable housing with the Ministry of Social Development and Community Housing Aotearoa.
Jeff is the Director of Training and Technical Assistance at the Housing Assistance Council in Washington, DC.

Michael Wolking
Michael Wolking from Grosse Pointe, Michigan is researching the role of technology in developing 21st century skills with the Ministry of Education and Network for Learning.
Mike is a Senior Strategist at Education Elements in Washington, DC.

New Zealand Harkness Fellowship
New Zealand Harkness Fellowships are for emerging New Zealand leaders in any field of study or vocation (excluding health care policy and practice) to study or research in the US for between eight and twelve weeks. One award is offered annually to a person who is currently employed in a public sector organisation in New Zealand.
One fellowship was granted this year.

Joseph Beaglehole
Joseph Beaglehole from Wellington will spend three months in New York researching new tools for addressing the challenges of rapid urbanisation.
Joseph is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Ministry for the Environment in Wellington.

Above: Jeff Mosley (page 22) met Wellington Mayor Justin Lester at the Waitangi Day Waterfront Celebrations.
Above: Rez Gardi (page 8) participated in ‘Transplanted: Refugee Portraits of New Zealand’ at the The Portrait Gallery of New Zealand in Wellington. The gallery ran from October 27 to November 5 2017 and showcased the story behind refugees in New Zealand. Rez was born in a United Nations refugee camp in Pakistan as her Kurdish family escaped persecution in their home land of Kurdistan. At the age of six, Rez and her family settled in New Zealand. She recently became one of New Zealand’s first Kurdish female lawyers, and was honored as Young New Zealander of the Year in 2017.