

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND ALUMNI MAGAZINE | AUTUMN 2016

# Ingenio

## SPACE IN MIND

What it takes to be an astronaut

### WOMEN AND PROPERTY

Changing the landscape

### TAKING ISSUE ON REFUGEES



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**AUCKLAND**  
Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau  
NEW ZEALAND

## Ingenio

The University of Auckland  
Alumni magazine

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Distinguished Alumna Karen Willcox.

Photo Dean Carruthers.



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## Ingenio website

Check out our website [www.ingenio-magazine.com](http://www.ingenio-magazine.com)

If you're as happy to read *Ingenio* online as in print, we'll stop sending you the magazine and instead you'll receive an email each time the website is refreshed with the latest *Ingenio* content.

You can search articles, browse by topic, view videos and leave comments on the *Ingenio* website.



# MORE THAN A SKILLS SHOP

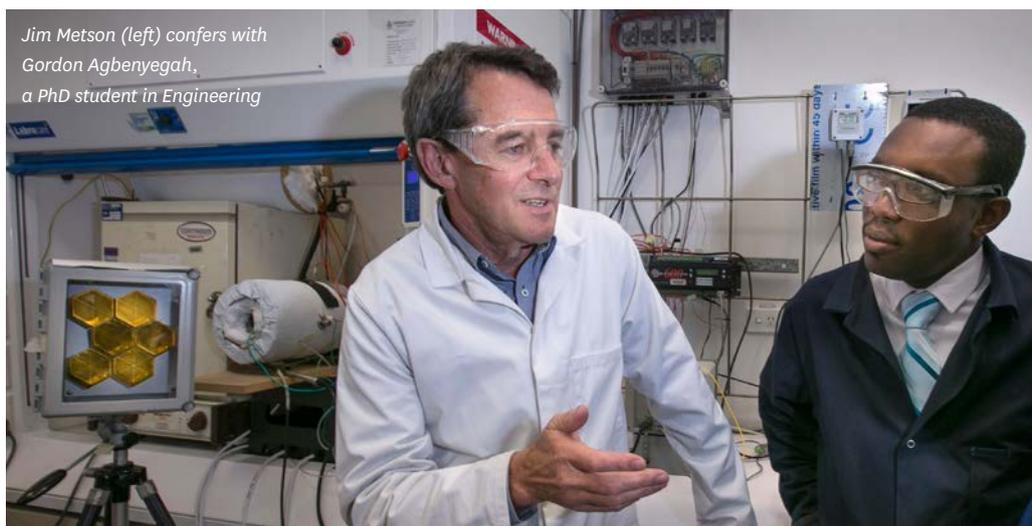
The 2015 annual report from Boston University has a stark cover featuring a half-full glass and the single word “Research”. While highlighting the University’s achievements, the report spends some time addressing the increasing uncertainty in the funding environment for research-led universities.

While our University might argue that our glass is doing a little better at least in relative terms, supporting research across a comprehensive range of disciplines is challenging. Leading universities typically spend more on research than they receive funding for, reflecting a commitment to social leadership and impact. Sustaining this support of research is thus a major challenge worldwide. As the Boston report highlights, philanthropy plays an increasingly important role in addressing this commitment. It is equally important to the University of Auckland as we chart the development pathway of this University.

It is difficult to find a perfect funding model that adequately supports and encourages excellence in both teaching and research. We know this from the number of countries who have reviewed, or are reviewing, the delivery of tertiary education. This includes the current review by the New Zealand Productivity Commission.

These reviews risk missing the critical integration of these functions in a research-rich environment that contributes to teaching that inspires and extends our students, undoubtedly the most important “product” of the University. Universities need to be more than a skills shop – they need to foster future generations of thinkers and innovators who will not only contribute to, but genuinely change society. The

*Jim Metson (left) confers with Gordon Agbenyegah, a PhD student in Engineering*



need for the research university was wonderfully captured at our recent Distinguished Alumni dinner. The achievements of this remarkable group, the diversity of pathways their lives have taken and the contributions they have made was inspiring.

Continuing to build our research performance is a major component of the strategic plan of the University. This is key to the direct contributions this research can make to the health, wellbeing and wealth of the nation, and to the quality of the research-led environment we can offer to all our students. Importantly, this impact lies across the full spectrum of our scholarship, again reflected in the diverse impacts of our alumni over many years.

We face interesting times where the expectations of what our universities should be are continually being reshaped. We must be fully engaged in this debate and strong advocates of the quality, breadth and freedom that leading universities are able to provide. We must also, however, be willing and able to point to the impacts of our research on our own society and beyond.

Both the Royal Society Science

Honours and the Prime Minister’s Science Awards last year provided a wealth of examples of these direct impacts of our work on the health, societal and economic wellbeing of the nation. Distinguished Professor Ian Reid was recognised for his work on metabolic bone diseases, Professor Margaret Hyland for her pioneering discoveries on the reduction of fluoride emissions produced by aluminium smelters, Dr Alex Taylor for his research into the evolution of intelligence, Professor Margaret Mutu for her contribution to indigenous rights and scholarship in New Zealand, Dr Michelle Dickinson for her work in raising public awareness of science in New Zealand and Professor Keith Petrie for his research into patients’ perception of illness and their impact on recovery.

These highly respected academics, with their research groups, continue a sustained record of success in these national honours. Long may this tradition continue.

*Professor Jim Metson  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)*

# AN ILLUMINATED ALUMNUS

Barry Brickell OBE  
1935 –2016

Tess Redgrave

**In Autumn 2006, the University photographer and I caught the Coromandel ferry down to Te Kouma harbour and spent the day talking with, and photographing, Barry Brickell for an *Ingenio* story.**

The renowned potter and rail enthusiast was delighted to be honoured by his alma mater but on our arrival confided that he hadn't always known what an alumnus was. "I used to think it was someone who was illuminated!"

In 1957, at the urging of his parents, Barry enrolled full-time at the University of Auckland and graduated with a BSc in Botany in 1960. But he wasn't a natural academic and it was the extra-curricular

activities – such as painting classes with Colin McCahon at Auckland Art Gallery – that helped forge his career.

While at University, Barry shared the rental of an old railway cottage in Newmarket and spent much of his spare time riding trains and studying railways and native plants. After botany lectures he told me he caught the 5.25pm fast train to Papakura. "I'd stand out on the open platform of the passenger carriage, right behind the engine – in those days you could – and listen as it gathered speed... A big powerful steam engine working full tilt just in front of you. It was fantastic ... like being on the edge of a volcano!"

After the *Ingenio* story came out (Autumn 06 edition), Barry sent me a one-page, hand-typed letter fastidiously pointing out my tiny errors - in his opinion. It must have been his way of saying he'd liked the story because a few months later he turned up at our office with one of his hand-crafted bowls.

Now he's gone, it's a gift I will always treasure from an unusual alumnus who was indeed – "illuminated".



Photo of Barry Brickell,  
Gil Hanly 1983

# TĀMAKI SALE SIGNALS CHANGES

The University's Tāmaki Campus has been sold to local property investment company Tāmaki Village Limited (TVL).

This was announced by the Vice Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon on 11 April.

He said the sale reflects how times are changing and how much the University needs to be highly connected to the city, drawing strength from it as well as creating great benefits for it.

"First, we depend absolutely on having very talented students and staff, people who are typically attracted to the many artistic, cultural, sporting and other opportunities that a great city has to offer. Second, many of our most able students are motivated to take conjoint degrees. Third, many of our most successful research groups are multidisciplinary ... if we are to enhance these strengths then co-location of our diverse faculties and large-scale research institutes close to the city centre, offers the best possible outcome."

The proceeds of the sale will go towards refurbishment and updating of the University's facilities, including upgrades to existing buildings and construction of new, high-quality buildings.

The University has now reduced its landholdings by 27 hectares since 2013, and will ultimately reduce its landholdings by a net 39 hectares.

Early days at Tāmaki: the Athletes Village was built for the 1990 Commonwealth Games. The University then acquired the buildings and established the Tāmaki campus in 1991.





## UNITY

*Maluna a'e o nā lāhui apau ke ola ke kanaka*  
"Above all nations is humanity"  
(Hawaiian proverb)

Let's talk about unity  
in London's Westminster Abbey

did you know there's a London in Kiribati?  
Ocean Island: South Pacific Sea.

We're connected by currents of humanity  
alliances, allegiances, histories

for the salt in the sea, like the salt in our blood  
like the dust of our bones, our return to mud

means while 53 flags fly for our countries  
they're stitched from the fabric of our unity

it's called the Va in Samoan philosophy  
what you do, affects me

what we do, affects the sea  
land, wildlife – take the honeybee

nature's model of unity  
pollinating from flower to seed

bees thrive in hives keeping their queen  
unity keeps them alive, keeps them buzzing

they're key to our fruit and veggie supplies  
but parasitic attacks and pesticides

threaten the bee, then you and me  
it's all connected – that's unity.

*There's a 'U' and an 'I' in unity  
costs the earth and yet it's free.*

My grandad's from Tuvalu and to be specific  
it's plop bang in the middle of the South Pacific

the smallest of our 53 commonwealth nations  
the largest in terms of reading vast constellations

ancestors were guided by sky and sea trails  
way before Columbus even hoisted his sails!

What we leave behind, matters to those who go before  
we face the future with our backs, sailing shore to shore

we're earning and saving for our common wealth  
a common strong body, a common good health

for the salt in the sea, like the salt in our blood  
like the dust of our bones, our return to mud

means saving the ocean, saving the bee  
means London's UK seeing London's Kiribati  
and sharing our thoughts over a cup of tea

*for there's a 'U' and an 'I' in unity  
costs the earth and yet it's free.*

**Selina Tusitala Marsh**

## SELINA IN LONDON TO VISIT THE QUEEN

“ There's a ‘U’ and an ‘I’ in Unity,  
it costs the earth and yet it's free ”

These were the lines that first came into the mind of alumna and senior lecturer Dr Selina Tusitala-Marsh in response to a request from the Commonwealth Education Trust to compose a poem to be performed in London's Westminster Abbey to an audience that included the Queen.

Those first lines sent Selina off on a journey exploring the theme of unity around the world through conservation and conversation. The result was a poem called “Unity”, which she performed on 14 March

at the annual Commonwealth Observance Service – and which she gave permission to be published on this page.

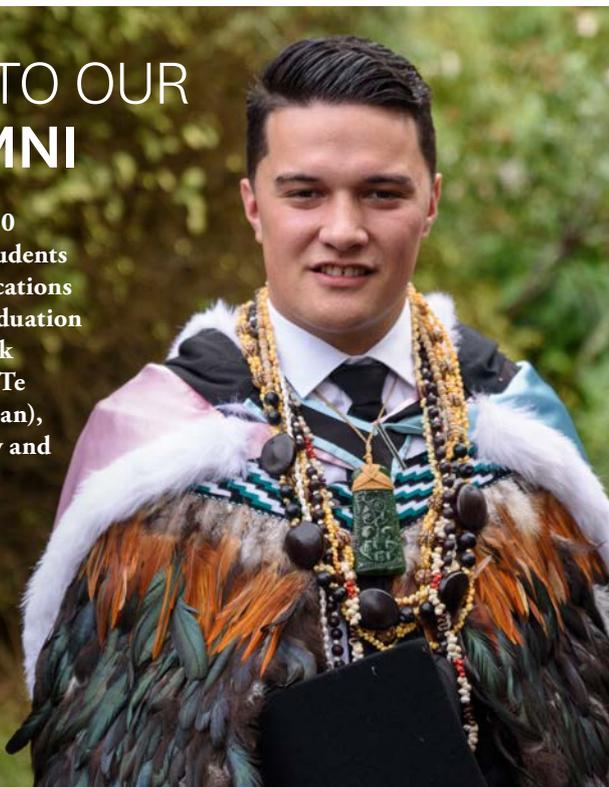
The Commonwealth Observance Service is the largest multi-faith celebration in Britain and this year's theme, “An Inclusive Commonwealth”, invited citizens to consider what it means to live in a diverse yet equitable, fair and tolerant international community.

After the reading Selina attended a function at Marlborough House where she met the Queen.

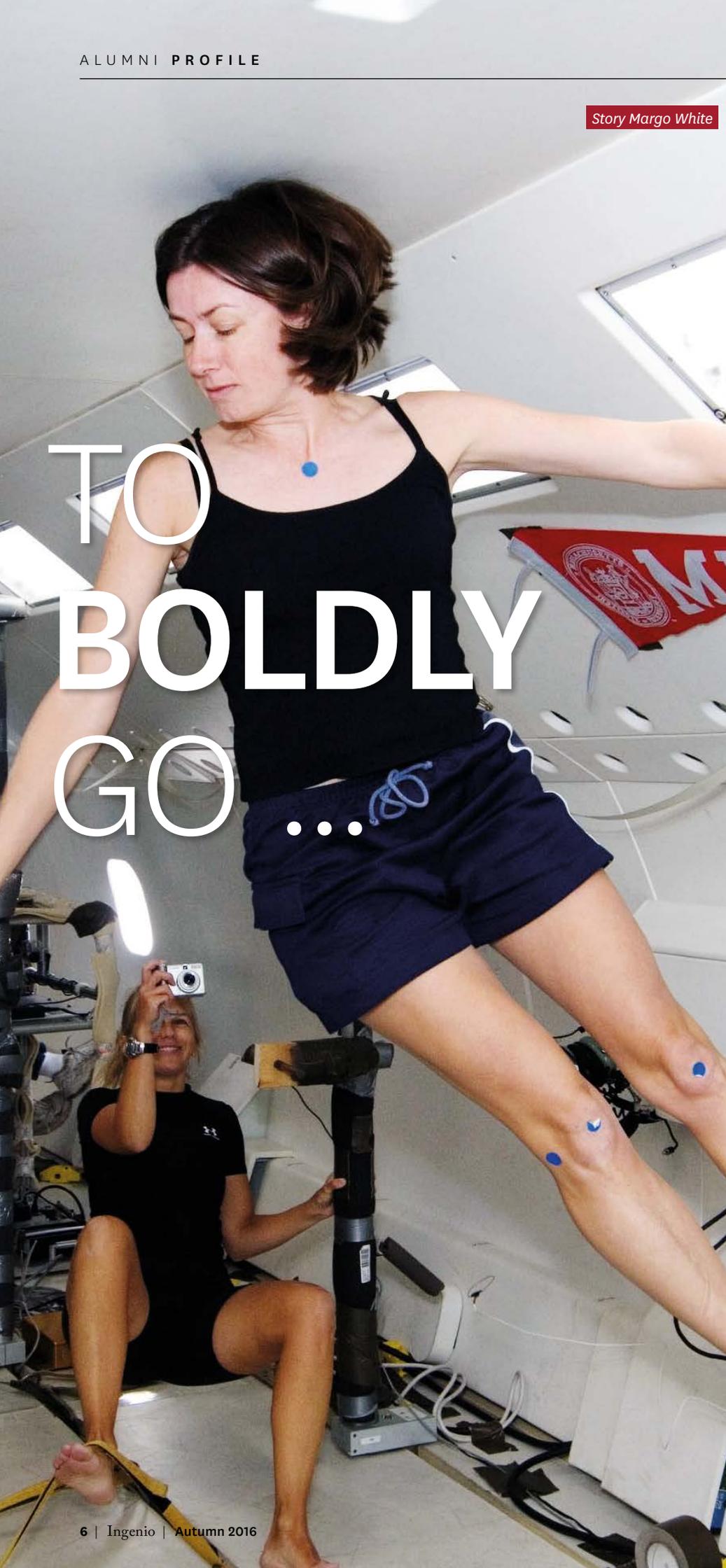
## WELCOME TO OUR NEW ALUMNI

Among the more than 6500 University of Auckland students who received their qualifications at this year's Autumn Graduation was Tyrone Tungatōa Hack (Ngāti Kahu, Ngāti Kuri, Te Aupouri, Te Rarawa, Niuean), who graduated with a Law and Arts conjoint degree.

Photo: Sampford Cathie



Story Margo White



# TO BOLDLY GO ...

Space might be a place where we can contemplate our place in the Universe, but few of us will have the opportunity to visit it.

Professor Karen Willcox has come close though, having made the shortlist for NASA's astronaut candidate programme twice, first in 2009 and then again in 2013. In both instances she was selected from thousands to make a list of around 50, and then went through the gruelling week of physical, psychological and intellectual examinations the selection process involves – in 2009, when she was five months pregnant. She didn't make the final cut (of only eight places) but never say never. She isn't, anyway.

Karen is Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where she is also co-director of the Center for Computational Engineering. She is currently on sabbatical and a visiting professor at the University of Auckland's Faculty of Engineering, where she got her Bachelor of Engineering degree before heading to MIT to complete her masters and PhD, and join the faculty staff. This year she has been presented with a University Distinguished Alumni Award, and has just put in her third application to become an astronaut. What if she got in?

She and the family would have to move to Houston, where she'd effectively have to go back to school and learn, among the myriad skills required of would-be astronauts, how to speak Russian. "And once you come through that you're a NASA employee and you're assigned to whatever role they need you to fill. It could be anything or anywhere." It could be Russia. And then she'd have to wait to be assigned to a mission, and once she was, there'd be more training and preparation. "So you're looking at ten years between being selected and heading into space."

This time, for the first time, she had to think long and hard about it. Her second child, Elara (named after the eighth largest moon of Jupiter), was born last year. Also last year she was granted funding for a new research direction in educational technology, in which she is drawing on technologies that help

pilots fly modern aircraft, to support postsecondary students struggling with disciplines such as maths and engineering.

The project is drawing on “fly-by-wire” technology, the complex system in an aircraft that provides information to the pilot. Piloting a complex modern aircraft isn’t unlike the requirements of teaching, says Karen, where teachers have finite attention but a large number of students. In theory the technology will enable teachers to guide students, as aeronautic systems enable a pilot to fly a plane. This might involve using accessible technologies, such as a smartphone app, which teachers can use to ask students questions, and which will give them real-time information on how well students are doing.

“So this time I really had to think about it, I have the two kids [along with Elara, there’s Pieter], I have a wonderful life here on earth. I love my job so much, and I have this new research direction, which is so exciting. So this was the first time I had to ask myself, ‘would I be prepared to leave all this behind, and then do all the training and waiting’, and at the end of the day, it was still a ‘yes’ ... so if NASA still want me, I still want to go.”

We met in a café in West Auckland, halfway between Massey, the West Auckland suburb in which Karen grew up, and her New Zealand base on the west coast beach, Muriwai. While here she is collaborating with Professor Andy Philpott at the School of Engineering Science on two projects; one funded by the Marsden Fund and the other by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) in the US. Both projects are an extension of the research Karen has done at MIT on the development of multifidelity formulations for design under uncertainty.

Which is what exactly? “So we’re looking at developing mathematical models that will help people make better decisions very early on in the design process. In the DARPA project, we’re specifically looking at aerospace systems, where the physics are really complicated and hard to model.

“When you’re thinking about designing future aircraft or spacecraft, you want to use new technologies but there are a lot of uncertainties associated with how the technologies will perform, or how things will go

together in the system. There are lots of different disciplines that come into play, like the aerodynamics, the structures, the propulsion, the weights, control, stability, the environment.

“So early on you have different groups working on different pieces of the puzzle. If you’re doing the structure and I’m doing the aerodynamics, you might say I can’t design the structure until you tell me what the aerodynamics are but I can’t design the aerodynamics until I know what the structure is. The key question is how you make good decisions so that, as you find out more, you haven’t locked yourself into a corner that prevents you from producing good designs.”

Alongside her research and her efforts to get into space, Karen has long been active in outreach activities, particularly those aimed at encouraging girls’ interest in science, mathematics and engineering.

## “IF NASA STILL WANT ME, I STILL WANT TO GO.”

“The statistics are a bit depressing. An enormous amount of attention was aimed at getting women into engineering in the 80s and 90s. In my [first-year] engineering science class there were seven women in a class of 30 to 35, and that was the first year they’d reached the 20 percent mark. And that was fantastic ... But if you look at the percentages today we’re still mid-to-low 20s. Maybe we’ve even slipped a little. So in the last 20 or 25 years, there’s been little progress.”

It’s a global rather than local issue. It’s hard to know exactly why, although the messaging directed at little girls and boys probably doesn’t help. All those throwaway remarks that reflect and reinforce our own assumptions – that, for instance, boys like maths and science and girls not so much. “We need to have awareness around this, that the little things we say or assume, all those little biases, add up, add up, add up.”

It could partly be about the way engineering is taught, which may appeal to a particular mentality. “Which is people like me: give me a maths problem

or a bunch of rules that a certain system obeys, and a piece of paper and a pencil and I love sitting down and figuring it out. But while I would always go to an equation before a picture, somebody else might like to pick up a pencil and sketch out ideas. So I think that some of the ways maths and science is taught is probably appealing to a certain kind of person, and that there are things we could be doing to maybe inspire a broader range of learners.”

It might be partly that engineering, as a discipline and a potential career, is not well understood. This is something she’s trying to rectify in the mindsets of children at the rural primary school in West Auckland where (as a volunteer parent) she is taking an extension class, one in which the children will design, build and launch a water rocket.

“So the first thing I said to the kids was ‘I’m an aerospace engineer, what does an engineer do?’ They all put their hands up and every single answer had the verb, ‘fix’ in it. Engineers fix mechanical things and aerospace engineers fix rockets or airplanes. That’s actually quite telling because yes, engineers do fix things, but when I say ‘fix something’ I think it means something is broken and you call somebody and they come with their toolbox.

“But engineers create. They design. They take results from science, they take technologies, and they create new things to make the world a better place. I think for any child, and especially young girls, the idea of creating something that is going to make people’s lives better is a much more inspiring career path than fixing something that is broken.”

Quite! And so far, both girls and boys in her classes couldn’t be more enthusiastic about the project she’s lined up for them. “These kids have really curious minds. They’ve stored up years of questions about rockets! They’re asking all kinds of questions, about the fins on rockets, the tails on aeroplanes. It’s giving them a bit of an insight that design is a principled activity, so we’re talking about some of the physics, some of the forces that act on a rocket and so forth ... and getting them thinking what engineers do, other than fix things.”

*Karen is one of our Distinguished Alumni for 2016. For information about the others, see pages 24-25.*

## RESPONDING TO THE REFUGEE CRISIS

As the world stands witness to the highest numbers of forced migrants since World War II, the Government and people of New Zealand have an important role in responding to this current crisis. New Zealand is recognised internationally for its refugee settlement programme. However, our annual refugee quota has not been increased from 750 people for nearly 30 years. We lag behind many other countries in terms of the number of refugees we resettle on a per capita basis (less than 1 person per 1000) placing us about 90th in the world. Over the last several months there have been days when more than 10,000 forced migrants have crossed into Europe – the equivalent number of refugees that New Zealand has settled over ten years.

It is time New Zealand increased its annual refugee quota to show leadership and solidarity as an international player and global partner in addressing people's lived experiences of persecution and injustice. As a country we were celebrated internationally as a beacon for human rights for resettling 150 Afghan asylum seekers in 2001. Many of these people and others who have sought asylum are now contributing meaningfully to New Zealand society.

There are multiple ways you can get involved. Volunteer with Red Cross, English Language Partners and various other organisations to welcome a newly arrived refugee background family and help them settle into New Zealand. Hire them for a job. Get to know some of our newest arrivals in your school or community – a sense of belonging is central to successful settlement. Donate your time, expertise and/or resources. And write to your local minister about your concerns.

Alongside the everyday commitments from the people of New Zealand to ensure its newest arrivals are able to make our country home, the New Zealand Government should show leadership by doubling the refugee quota and resourcing the sector accordingly. There is not one magic solution to the protracted situation in Syria and the many other places where people are forcibly displaced. However, to argue that we cannot take more refugees or that New Zealand has enough problems of its own are misguided

# How can NEW ZEALAND best support REFUGEES and ASYLUM SEEKERS?

Helen Borne asked three  
of our academics for their opinions.

*As Ingenio went to print, the Government was considering submissions recommending a review of New Zealand's refugee quota.  
Photo: Saskia Rysenbry*

critiques. We can make a difference and it is about establishing our priorities as a country.

#### Dr Jay Marlowe

Associate Professor  
Associate Dean (PBRF)  
School of Counselling,  
Human Services and Social Work  
Faculty of Education and Social Work

*Jay is a recent recipient of a Marsden grant. His research focuses on how resettled refugees practise transnational family and friendship through digital media.*

## CHANGING THE CONVERSATION

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees estimates that there are currently around 60 million people worldwide who have been forcibly displaced from their homes. In response to this situation, New Zealand is in the midst of a national discussion about whether we should raise the number of refugees we accept each year from 750 to 1500. It is an important conversation and the compassion behind the drive to raise the number of refugees we accept is admirable. But is this the conversation we should be having?

Under international law, the term “refugee” applies only to a small subset of people who have been forcibly displaced. It excludes people who have been forced to flee their homes because of natural disasters, many wars, famine, climate change and extreme poverty. It also excludes those who are internally displaced within their home countries. We are part of an international system that traps tens of millions of people in legal limbo with no hope of accessing refugee status or other forms of protection.

So what could New Zealand be doing? One option is to start a conversation with other countries about how we can move towards a borderless world. A borderless world is not necessarily a world where everyone is free to move between countries without regard for security and customs checks. Nor is it necessarily a world where everyone has full citizenship rights in all other countries. Rather, it looks more like a world where the relationship that exists between New Zealand and Australia — where citizens can move between states and stay with relative ease — is expanded and developed around the world. This would provide those fleeing their homes with the ability to access safety and rebuild their lives.

It would also, incidentally, enhance the global economy.

A borderless world is not something that is uncomplicated or that can be implemented overnight. It will take years of negotiations and will develop in a slow, piecemeal way. Until we start moving towards such a world though, we will remain be part of an international system that condemns millions of people to lives of permanent displacement.

#### Dr Anna Hood

Lecturer,  
Faculty of Law

*Anna’s research focuses on international law and security issues. She teaches Immigration and Refugee Law.*

## ARTS, CREATIVITY AND CULTURAL DISPLACEMENT

One month ago I was in central Finland observing arts workshops in a residence for asylum seekers. This particular residence housed more than 50 men, mostly from Iraq and Syria. The overt aim of the workshops was to teach Finnish language, using creative and embodied activities to engage and advance the language learning of the asylum seekers. The clear value of the workshops went well beyond language acquisition however, as the men (who had been mostly listless and clustered in small groups in corners of the residence) became deeply animated, excited about being “in the moment” and working creatively together. The value of such a communal and creative experience is harder to measure and report on than language acquisition. It can therefore be lost when designing and resourcing mechanisms for addressing the influx of refugees to a new location.

So how might such microcosmic moments from an arts workshop be recognised and amplified, to support refugees resettling within New Zealand?

From my experiences teaching arts in refugee camps across the Middle East, reaching such intercultural moments of creative expression can involve much negotiation. They can follow the sensitising moments, when individuals are navigating the expectations and boundaries of the new group of people that surround them. They come after the moments of representing identity, when individuals are revealing who they are, where they come from, and what that means to them. Ultimately, such intercultural creative moments only

emerge once people start to collaboratively create small arts or design products, then sit back and smile together at their creations. It is in such moments that newly mixed groups co-construct their identities and values, figure out what sort of creativity is valued in this shared context, and confidently understand how they might contribute to it and benefit from it. In doing so they let themselves move from being simply the learners and the carriers of a culture, to being the co-creators of a culture.

To more effectively support such moments of creative self-actualisation and cultural co-construction, the New Zealand Government would need to invest more in non-formal arts education through programmes such as Creative New Zealand’s Creative Communities Scheme. Within formal education, the Ministry of Education may more effectively engage arts within the curriculum to support acculturation, in alignment with UNESCO goals towards Education for Sustainable Development. In these ways, the applied use of arts may help refugees more effectively move from feeling isolated, to tolerated, to integrated, to celebrated, in New Zealand.

#### Associate Professor Nicholas Rowe

Dance Studies, Associate Dean  
(Postgraduate Engagement)  
National Institute of Creative Arts  
and Industries  
Associate Investigator, ArtsEqual,  
Academy of Finland

*From 2000-2008 Nicholas resided in the Occupied Palestinian Territories working in refugee camps on dance projects with local artists. He has published extensively on education and dance in diverse cultural contexts.*

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Our contributors’ views are intended as the beginning of a discussion. Visit our website [www.ingenio-magazine.com](http://www.ingenio-magazine.com) to continue the conversation. You can also comment on “Taking Issue” topics from previous issues, including charter schools, and euthanasia. Letters to the editor are also welcome. Please email to [ingenio@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:ingenio@auckland.ac.nz) or post to Ingenio, Communications and Marketing, Private Bag 92019, Auckland Mail Centre, Auckland 1142.

*The views expressed above reflect personal opinions and are not those of the University of Auckland.*

# R – THE ULTIMATE VIRUS

Professor Ross Ihaka is the statistical world's equivalent of a rock star. He tells Julie Middleton how a simple programming language he helped develop to assist undergraduate students in the 1990s went global – and is still growing.

## For most of us, R is the 18th letter of the alphabet or the rating of movies you won't allow the kids to watch.

But for many of the world's major companies, R is a must-have software package that has radically changed the way they mine data. Google employs R to calculate the return on investment in advertising campaigns, and Ford to improve the design of its vehicles. In New Zealand, ANZ uses R for credit-risk analysis and Air New Zealand for crunching customer data, and it's widely used in Government departments such as Statistics New Zealand, the Inland Revenue and the Department of Conservation.

R is taught in universities all over the world, including Stanford, Berkeley, Harvard, Oxford and Cambridge, and has spawned dozens of books.

Companies have built entire analytic platforms around it, and R developers are among the highest-paid. Microsoft is exploring how to incorporate R into some of its products.

No-one is more "stunned" at R's success than Associate Professor Ross Ihaka (Pākehā, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, Rangitāne) of the Department of Statistics. "When R was born in the early 1990s, I didn't really expect it would be used outside of the University of Auckland," says Ross, a quietly wry, self-confessed Westie. "There were certainly no thoughts of world domination."

But dominate R has, making Ross and his collaborator, Robert Gentleman, the statistical world's version of rock stars. Simply put, R allows people to wrangle lots of data at once. Its success lies in its user-friendly simplicity, coupled with power and versatility: people without major programming training find it easy to use.

Critically, R is open-source, which means it's free and anyone can develop add-ons, as long as they share the underpinning source code. And develop they do, enthusiastically. As of January this year, there were more than 7,800 plug-ins. For example, there's one that analyses speech patterns, another that's used in genome studies and, for fun, one that generates Sudoku puzzles. It is this extensive library that puts R ahead of its competitors; in the last year alone, there have been 150 million downloads of packages.

The story all began back in the early

1990s when the internet was in its infancy and computers at the University of Auckland were boxy Macintoshes with floppy disks. Ross had done his undergraduate degree at Auckland then his masters and PhD at Berkeley, returning to a lecturing post in the Department of Statistics. Undergraduate students were using what Ross calls "old and clunky programmes" for their data analysis, and he thought there had to be a better way.

So when Canadian colleague Robert Gentleman stopped Ross in the corridor one day and suggested they write some software together, he agreed. Neither were programming experts, but in 1991 they started tinkering – Ross calls it "playing games".

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**“ [HE] JOKES THAT HE ALSO USES R FOR CHALLENGES THAT OTHERS WOULD NOT – LIKE BUILDING A PUBLIC WEBSITE TO STORE HIS FAMILY'S RECIPE COLLECTION. ”**

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They eventually began creating "a basic structure that people could start plugging things into"; what emerged was a user-friendly tool for students to do data analysis and produce graphical models of that information. They called it R, after the initials of their first names. R quickly became the mainstay of statistics classes, with student grumbles the opportunity to make improvements. "Originally, our big ambition was to use it for teaching first-year classes – small, local things."

Ross and Robert never commercialised R "because we couldn't deliver any final product, but we could provide the means for other people to develop a final product". When overseas colleagues became interested, they made R available to all.

And that suits Ross, who says he's an "anarchist from way back": in fact, he has described R as proof of the success of the "rusting-hulk model of software development. If you went to a junkyard and hauled out an old junker and put

it by the road and stood there looking helpless, people, being do-it-yourself types, would step in and help you out, and after a couple of hours you'd have a pretty good car.

"So we cobbled this thing together and hung it out by the side of the internet, and after a few years we had a pretty good piece of software. But it's the contribution of lots of people." The 1996 paper that the pair wrote introducing R to the world has been cited a whopping 8,300 times, according to Google – the cut-through that academics dream of. The acknowledgements at the back of the paper thank "all our colleagues and students that were and still are our guinea pigs".

Hadley Wickham was one of those guinea pigs; he was doing his BSc in Statistics and Computer Science when he met R. "I still have the strongest memory of being baffled and surprised by the way that R worked," says Hadley, now based in the US, "and that initial surprise led me to dig very deeply into R over the course of my career." So deeply, in fact, that his highly successful company, which builds data science tools, is completely built on R. But Hadley, who is also an Adjunct Professor of Statistics at the University of Auckland, jokes that he also uses R for "challenges that others would not" – like building a public website to store his family's recipe collection. Yep, you can build websites with R, too.

Ross and Robert, who is now back in North America, weren't to know it then, but their timing was perfect. "With hindsight, you can see that here was a gap needing to be filled, and in a sense we came along at the perfect time," reflects Ross. "The internet was getting started, and free software was in the air, and people were beginning to think about contributing to free projects. We had no plans for world domination – we shared it with students, and it grew organically from there."

R is, then, the ultimate virus, replicating and changing itself with the devoted help of thousands of people. Ross says that that observing the global labour of love has tempered his cynicism.

"R changed my opinion of humanity to some extent, to see how people are really willing to freely give of themselves and produce something larger than themselves without any thought of personal glory. There's a lot of work with no recognition."

## LIGHTING UP THE CATWALK

**When two alumni of the University of Auckland, along with Associate-Professor Iain Anderson, formed a company called StretchSense in 2012, they knew the technology at the base of the enterprise would take them far.**

**B**ut neither Iain nor the two alumni, Dr Ben O'Brien and Dr Todd Gisby, could possibly have predicted that their company's products would contribute to the success of New York's fashion week.

The company was a spinout from the Biomimetics Lab at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute and is now a developer and global supplier of soft sensors. Perfect for measuring the complex movements of people and soft objects, the stretch sensor technology developed by the company (in collaboration with the University of Auckland) provides precision information in real-time. Stretch sensors can be worn on the body or integrated into clothing. When a user moves, the sensor stretches, transmitting motion information to an app.

And these are the attributes that made it possible to add a new dimension to New York's fashion week this year.

Models from the Chromat fashion house wore thin hand-wraps equipped with StretchSense's soft and stretchable sensors that responded to their bodies. As they squeezed their hands the accessory reacted to the pressure by sending a wireless signal to the garment, telling it to light up in specific places and thus providing a spectacle never seen before by those who attend this prestigious annual event.

StretchSense's technology, now being used by 140 customers in 22 countries, aims to create sensing technology that is easy for customers to integrate into their next generation of smart products. Stretch sensors are used to support new methods of high performance sports coaching, as well as for improving rehabilitation and health care.



For the models in motion and the sensors in action see: [chromat.co/blogs/news/](http://chromat.co/blogs/news/)



## EVOLUTION OF A BEAK

**F**amous for its intelligence, the New Caledonian crow is, after humans, the only other animal on earth that makes complex tools with features such as hooks. But why and how this sophisticated tool-making ability evolved has long puzzled scientists.

Now a new piece of the puzzle has fallen into place: a team of international researchers – including senior research fellow Dr Gavin Hunt from the University's School of Psychology – has discovered that this crow's bill is not only different from the bills of its close relatives, it may be unique in the bird world.

The team used shape analysis and CT scanning to compare the shape and structure of the New Caledonian crow's bill with some of its crow relatives and a woodpecker species, showing that the New Caledonian crow's bill is shorter, stouter and straighter than those of the others. The cutting edge of the upper bill is very straight, but it is upturned at the front of the lower bill, giving the birds a vice-like grip that enables them to efficiently guide the tool tip with sharp binocular vision as they use the tool to forage for food.

"We argue that the beak became specialised for tool manipulation once the birds began using tools," says Gavin, "and that this enhanced ability may have allowed the crows to make more complex tools.

"This provides some evidence that physical changes were evolutionarily selected to enhance tool skills and also suggests that New Caledonian crows have been evolving their tool use over possibly millions of years, as humans have."

To create the tools the crows strip the leaf blade from the stem of a leaf, then grip the stem and poke it into tree burrows, fishing for grubs and beetles. Clever moves include poking it into the burrows of large longhorn grubs so that it irritates the grub enough to make it clamp onto the end of the stick. The grub is then hooked out to make a nice meal.

# RANGITOTO'S ERUPTIVE PAST

Iconic Rangitoto Island, clearly visible from Auckland City, is far older and was active as a volcano much longer than was previously thought.

Associate Professor Phil Shane from the University's School of Environment led a team of researchers in a project over summer to drill up to 150m below the volcano's surface to investigate its volcanic past.

Sample cores were then analysed using radiocarbon dating technology, which showed the volcano is around 6000 years old.

"It was generally thought Rangitoto formed in one or two episodes about 500 to 550 years ago and was geologically a very young volcano, but the core samples show it began erupting far earlier, around 6000 years ago," says Phil.

Rangitoto is unusually large compared to other Auckland volcanoes. Phil suspects it may actually be a cluster of small volcanoes beneath one single, large volcanic edifice.

"That suggests the volcano was intermittently active over a much longer period and grew over time rather than forming in one short burst."

The traditional view was that a new volcano would probably form in a location that had not previously experienced an eruption. In contrast, activity at Rangitoto continued for thousands of years.

"The latest findings may have implications for hazard and risk planning," says Phil. "Future eruptions could occur at the volcano and if a new volcano forms, it could be active for a very long time."

The new results are published in the *Geological Society of America Bulletin*.



Drilling at Rangitoto



## POWERING FROM THE ROOFTOPS

Ever wondered how much power you could generate from the sunlight hitting your roof?

New geographical 3D computer modelling by Dr Kiti Suomalainen at the University's Business School gives the solar generating potential of the roofs of half a million homes in Auckland. And it turns out the top 20 places for solar energy are mostly cheap-to-mid-range neighbourhoods.

"A lot of the leafy suburbs aren't that good for solar, because they are leafy – the trees shade the rooftops," says Kiti. "Also, a lot of the older, more expensive suburbs are on hilly terrain, which can also reduce sunlight reaching the roofs."

The modelling suggests that if 250,000 houses had 36 sqm of solar rooftop panels, they could together meet Auckland Council's "low carbon" target of powering the equivalent of 176,565 homes with solar energy.

Kiti worked with Engineering lecturer

Dr Tony Downward to examine the consequences of solar uptake on the electricity market. They say the model could help target rooftop installation of solar panels where they would generate the most power and could also help avert the feared "death spiral" that can happen when a new, so-called "disruptive" technology threatens to cannibalise the market for an existing technology.

Says Tony: "In a year when the hydro lakes are full, 75-80 percent of our electricity is renewable, and when the country's last coal plant shuts down in 2018, there'll not be much non-renewable energy left in the electricity system."

"You don't want to build in solar in a way that will offset existing renewable generation technologies. This tool could help selectively promote the installation of solar in certain areas to reduce our reliance on non-renewable thermal plants."



# INSIGHTS *from* PRISON

Associate Professor Tracey McIntosh speaks with Judy Wilford about the insights she is gaining, with the help of former and current prisoners, into what she calls “the deep, dark well of violence in our society”.

*Tracey McIntosh (centre) and Stan Coster (right), with Dr Dominic Andrae, a research fellow who has co-authored publications with them.*

*Photo: Judy Wilford*

**W**hen Tracey McIntosh was talking recently to a group of young women in prison, she mentioned that she had never been hit by a man.

The women were incredulous. How could that be? How could any woman live a life without suffering violence? The significance of violence as a marker in relationships and the possibility of its absence was a shared learning experience in their broader exchange.

Tracey, a University of Auckland sociologist of Tuhoë descent who has, through a strong and substantial body of research, given insights into the sociology of death and the forces involved in genocide, is now examining the violence in our society.

To increase our understanding of this and to help reverse it, she is working with an unusual research team. The men and women who are collaborating (“not just participating”) in Tracey’s research have convictions for violent crimes. They themselves are drawing from their own

experience of the deep, dark well.

And this unique collaboration, Tracey believes, can help bring about sustainable systemic change that will not only reduce the social harm that comes as the price of violence, but will be effective in promoting “human flourishing” of a kind that can be found in unexpected places – including the secure wing of Mt Eden prison, as she has discovered.

“There’s one woman who came in as a young teenager,” says Tracey. “She is now undergoing the education that was interrupted in childhood – for many of these women schooling stopped at the age of eight or nine, certainly almost always by the age of 13. I look at her and see the huge growth she has achieved. I don’t want to trivialise her offending because it was about as serious as it can get. But my work is about finding out what could have been done to prevent it – and can still be done to help keep others from harm.

“It is an indictment on our society that the fulfilment of her potential is taking

place behind bars. And my greatest learning has been about the incredible waste of talent that these young women could have contributed.”

When a child grows up in a house of violence, as Tracey explains – as spectator or victim, or as both – they are desperate to find ways of protecting themselves from the violence and suffering – and one of the ways of doing that is to become perpetrators themselves.

For some of those Tracey is working with, the violence started in early childhood so they have no memory of any life without it. This includes some who are, or have been, in gangs, not because they joined them but because they were born into them. That the people she is working with have served, or are serving, custodial sentences makes them a uniquely valuable source of insights that she knows she cannot reach alone – and which can only be shared in a relationship of trust.

“These people are experts of their own condition,” says Tracey. “And if we are to

create sustainable systemic changes, we must recognise them as agents of change.

“How we invest today will really matter in terms of how our country’s future will play out.”

Tracey’s work is about breaking the cycles of what she calls “legacies of inequalities”, often related to the deprivation which has been one of the aftermaths of colonisation.

She has approached this task in two main ways, each of which supports and informs the other. One is when she works directly with people, helping them enhance their lives on an individual level by studying at school or university level or through creative writing.

The other is to seek, through her research, to understand the structures of the social system to devise ways of addressing the needs on a policy level.

Within the prison, Tracey works with women, individually or in groups, supporting them in their efforts to find ways of developing their potential, turning their lives around or – if that is not possible – trying to make a positive difference for their children or their whānau: “Their eyes light up at the thought of being able to make a difference for those coming after them.

“For me, the crime-punishment paradigm is often not useful in creating real possibilities of social change. What we need to do is address social harm – to find ways of prevention and early intervention.

“When I look at the women in prison the question I am asking myself is: ‘What are the things that caused social harm to them as children and young people?’

“And the questions I ask them are: ‘What was in abundance in your lives?’ and ‘What was scarce?’

“Some of these are around employment opportunities for their parents, access to support for their parents, for drug and alcohol counselling – and all these things around stigmatisation, about being in schools where they felt marginalised, often because of the way their parents lived.

“And I encourage them to think and speak about what helped them – who were the adults, what were the resources that helped them find value in their lives?”

As well as working with the women in prison, Tracey works with men who have served sentences and are now back in the community. Like some of the women many of these men have entered the

criminal justice system as young as 16, and often they’ve spent time in the youth system prior to that.

There are some stories of redemption, says Tracey, but these are rare. She mentions a number of people who have worked towards PhDs in prison and have come out with tools that can transform their lives. Among them is Dr Paul Wood who, in serving a life sentence, completed two degrees behind bars and then embarked on another: “Paul’s story speaks to the enormous gains that can be made through support and education. While he struggled in his first years in prison the encouragement of an older prisoner who supported him and started believing in him, got him involved in education. In prison he did his BA and his MA and the first half of his PhD, which he completed on release. Since

## “ HOW WE INVEST TODAY WILL REALLY MATTER IN TERMS OF HOW OUR COUNTRY’S FUTURE WILL PLAY OUT ”

release his work has been dedicated to helping people realise their capacity for positive change.”

Another fruitful collaboration – though not a story of redemption this time – has been with Stan Coster, who has spent most of his life in state care or in prison. Together he and Tracey have been able to analyse the influences on his life from multiple perspectives, each of which throws light on the other. This has resulted in academic papers and chapters published in journals and books. The most recent co-authorship with Stan and Dr Dominic Andrae, a research fellow at Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, was accepted for publication in *Critical Criminology*.

“From the time Stan was eight years old, the state was his parent. We were therefore able to look at his life on both a macro- and a micro-level.”, says Tracey.

On one level was his personal story – which he had long had a strong desire to tell. Another level was documented in hundreds of thousands of words drawn from government archives obtained

through the Official Information Act. These ranged from his reports from primary school to the documentation of his life in youth institutions and through his many periods of incarceration and probation, including psychological reports and transcripts from court proceedings.

Giving an over-arching structure to the reports and his own story are the evolving changes in government policy over more than 40 years. Often the contrast between the dry rationale for policy and the anguished account of a child who had experienced the effects of it was shocking.

By coincidence, Stan and Tracey were born in the same year, giving another potent source of parallels between two children, one growing up in a loving, stable home and the other in state care.

Some of the men Tracey is working with have a history of sexual violence. While acknowledging that this is a challenge for her, Tracey also sees her work with them as essential. “I have learned that it is absolutely necessary for me as a Māori and as a researcher to work with both our men and our women to face these issues of sexual violence. If I were to work only with women around these issues, I think there would be benefits but I don’t know that we would create a platform for change. We need to be working with men to understand what that trajectory for change would be like. How can that happen? Where will it come from? What will we need to change?”

“When people ask me: ‘What work are you doing?’ I say: ‘I’m doing human work’. And I think that means we can sit alongside people whose stories may not just trouble us but horrify us – and still we can engage and recognise each other as human beings.”

Tracey, with her academic colleagues, Associate Professor Janet Fanslow and Dr Pauline Gulliver from the Department of Social and Community Health, have been funded from MBIE – \$3 million over three years – to support their continuing work on family violence prevention.

“The work as a whole has no cut-off point,” she says. “It will not end in three years. But in these three years we can seek to find ways to make a difference and to limit social harm in our communities.”

 For more of Tracey’s story on video, see: [www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/tracey-mcintosh](http://www.arts.auckland.ac.nz/tracey-mcintosh)

# SHAKESPEARE *LIVES*

This year marks the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death.

It also marks the largest Shakespeare festival in Australasia, according to Miles Gregory, founder and artistic director of Pop-up Globe.

During the season of Pop-up Globe in Auckland, more than 70,000 people attended its eight full-scale Shakespeare performances in a season that was extended by popular demand almost as soon as it began. "We're not aware of any other drama event in Auckland's history that has attracted audiences of this size," says Miles.

Pop-up Globe is the first exact dimensional replica ever to be constructed of the second Globe Theatre in London, and audiences, which included many scholars and students from the University of Auckland, welcomed the first opportunity since 1642 to experience the dimensions of the theatre first hand.

We asked three people with University connections who played a part in the Pop-up Globe event to give their own personal comments on the continuing relevance of Shakespeare.



*A scene from Romeo and Juliet at the Pop-up Globe  
Photo: Peter Meechan*

## SHAKESPEARE'S GALLOPING FAME

**Professor Tom Bishop** is Head of English, Drama and Writing Studies at the University of Auckland. He is author of *Shakespeare and the Theatre of Wonder* (Cambridge, 1996), co-editor of the annual *Shakespearean International Yearbook*, and is currently working on a book on *Shakespeare's theatre games*. He conducted a seminar inside the *Pop-up Globe*, which explored the extraordinary structure of the *Globe* and what it could tell us about the way *Shakespeare's plays* were performed.

Shakespeare now – 400 years after his death? It seems contradictory for a world hurtling headlong into an increasingly grim future, driven by economic and political imperatives and ideologies indifferent, at worst inimical, to preservations of any kind. Yet Shakespeare's prestige has, it seems, never been higher, or more widely invested in – his floating head with its balding pate is probably better known globally than that of any other artist of the past. Why?

In part this galloping fame is merely contingent, of course. If the dominant world power of the age of colonial settlement had been Spain, as it nearly was, we would now be reading and recognising Calderon, or Ji Junxiang if it had been China. Even within the catalogue of poets in English available for coronation, the choice of Shakespeare has an element of the factitious, being largely created in the late eighteenth century. We should not underestimate the extent to which Shakespeare's contemporary dominance is the product of extrinsic circumstances that have little to do with his actual work.

Yet there are also perhaps intrinsic reasons for Shakespeare's position, and in particular two: his language and his action. The first was troublesome from the beginning, but also energising

Photo: Miles Gregory



and productive. Later commentators were divided between deploring and celebrating it, but the modern Anglophone world has embraced its intensity, its dynamism and its expressive pungency. It is the joy of actors and the vexation of poets in English everywhere.

But this does not explain the warmth with which Shakespeare has been embraced in non-Anglophone cultures, even in Germany (where “*unser Shakespeare*” - “our Shakespeare” - is a common term), Russia and Japan, once historic rivals of the British imperium. Or the avidity that greeted the invitation to theatre groups to send local language productions of all 37 Shakespeare plays to the London Globe in 2012. Or the success of the Globe's current touring production of *Hamlet*, which has visited 196 countries and been seen by over 100,000 people. Even setting aside extrinsic factors, which are no doubt present, these responses suggest a compelling vigour in the action and design of Shakespeare's plays that carries audiences along with them – even those whose access to their language is blocked. This is not so much a matter of a “universal” subject matter – medieval Danish dynastic chaos is hardly of general interest – but rather of the way an audience's experience of dramatic action is marshalled and directed, involved and complicated. Though Shakespeare has received boosts from various quarters by the history that swept him up, he was a superb craftsman of dramatic artefacts, and that mastery continues to win modern followers and fans around the world.

## TAKING THE FEAR OUT OF SHAKESPEARE

**Albert Walker**, 25, studied philosophy and psychology at the University of Auckland. He then did a Bachelor of Acting at Unitec and played *Pericles* in the University of Auckland's Summer Shakespeare 2014 production. He is currently one of three actors in *Ugly Shakespeare*, a Theatre-in-Education company touring Shakespeare and comedy to hundreds of school children around New Zealand.

I think Shakespeare is as relevant now as he ever was and ever will be. His stories deal with universal themes that transcend time. Whether it's the devastating, conflicting loss that Hamlet suffers or the intense, forbidden love that our famous lovers Romeo and Juliet go through, Shakespeare's themes relate to people of all generations.

In my experience no writer is as good at finding the simple core themes of human existence and exploring them in great, simple story lines. I think the only barrier is the language, which is often misunderstood and can become something to be feared, especially during high school, where to me it was taught in a stale and torturous way.

As an actor I have been lucky enough to work with Shakespeare many times and through this repetition have found how amazing he is at storytelling. His plays capture the truth of some huge situations and the language is beautiful. The more I understand it, the more compelling it is.

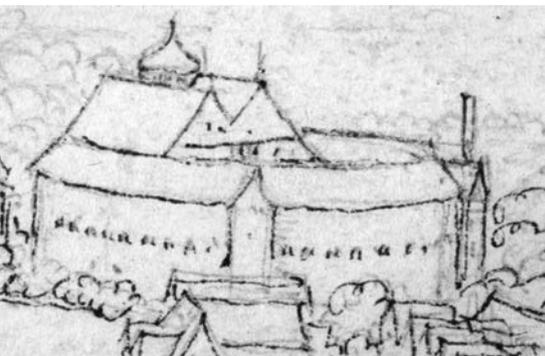
In working with the Ugly Shakespeare Company [which has been taking Shakespeare to New Zealand schools for 21 years], I have had the chance to look at Shakespeare in a fresh, new way. Our mission is to take the fear out of Shakespeare and make it fun and accessible for intermediate and secondary school students. I have seen it working first-hand, when we turn up to schools where the company has performed year after year and see the kids so excited to have us back.

We present real Shakespeare verse alongside relevant pop culture references, with slap-stick, easy-to-understand translations of the scenes. We make it fun and use the humour and jokes to lure them in and then hit them with Shakespeare and they love it. They also get to understand it better as we often juxtapose the Shakespeare with modern interpretations of the same scenes. We are doing *Othello* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

I think if Shakespeare were made fun for more people – to the point where their curiosity would lead them to broaden their minds and unlock the beauties of the style of his language – then more would discover and agree how timeless and masterful his stories are.

There is a reason Shakespeare is still so well-known and performed after all these years.

Top: The second Globe Theatre in London: Hollar's sketch, published 1647  
Bottom: The Pop-up Globe in Auckland  
Photo: Jessica Hogan



## THE LAST WORD

*Lisa Harrow is an acclaimed actress who trained at RADA (after spending her first year of tertiary study at the University of Auckland) and spent many years performing with the Royal Shakespeare Company. Lisa played Prospero at this year's season of The Tempest at the Pop-up Globe in Auckland.*

I think for an actor there's nothing more thrilling than standing on a stage and engaging fully in the fibre of your being – mental as well as physical – with some of the things Shakespeare wants us to say. It just vibrates through your body.

In his plays there are some heroic characters but most have feet of clay. There are some great leaders but most have failings. What he's able to do is be honest and fearless about what makes us tick. And exploring emotion is what makes me want to act. I don't want to be the bright light on the stage; I want to understand what naked raw emotion is: the joy, the anger, the pain, the happiness, the ecstasy, everything that makes us what we are.

I've heard of a project in America in which they are taking military veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and working with them on the Shakespeare plays in which soldiers and military leaders experience war and brutality, defeat and betrayal, victory and remorse. What's happening, they're finding, is that for these people who have never encountered a Shakespeare play in their lives, his words are giving them ways of getting to the grief that has been trapped inside them because they haven't been able to express it. There can be no greater argument for Shakespeare's continuing relevance than the power to heal someone who is so destroyed by his or her experience of the brutality of war and to help them find their humanity again and therefore find themselves.

I've never really studied Shakespeare; I've never done a course or read the literary criticism, because for me it's never been about that – it's about emotional



truth – it's about what's inside the consonants and vowels that he puts on the page. It's the feeling of the power of his language and the clarity and depth and perception with which he expresses what it's like to be human, with all our foibles.

Near the end of *The Tempest*, Prospero realises he is ready to renounce his previous all-consuming drive for revenge and embrace a different way of being human. His line, marking the turning point of the play, is: "The rarer action is in virtue than in vengeance." And, my God, if the world's leaders could just embrace that, how different the world would be. Now, in this time, we are taking revenge at all levels: against the poor, against those of different religions, against anyone different from ourselves. If the leaders of the world could instead embrace that phrase of Shakespeare's we wouldn't be at war, we'd be creating a healthier, peaceful world. Instead of tearing the world apart we'd be putting it together again.

I think it's interesting that in Shakespeare's last play and almost the last beat of the play, it's as if he were saying: "After all these things I've written and through all this time I've lived the one thing I've learned is that forgiveness is greater than vengeance."

At the end of *The Tempest* there are no bodies scattered on the stage. Everyone is reconciled - and Caliban gets the island back.

# RETIRING TO A DEVELOPING COUNTRY

Dr Claudia Bell from the University's Department of Sociology writes of her current research on the growing global mobility of western retirees.

**W**hile moving in later years to a warmer climate is not new, an intriguing expansion is the increasing popularity of relocation from western countries to poorer developing countries, for example in Southeast Asia. Retirees from Europe and Australia are finding affordable solutions to some of the problems associated with ageing by moving to Bali or Cambodia, for instance.

In making such a move, these individuals are inherently critics of their own culture, which they see as failing to provide for their needs in their later years. Simultaneously, they are in a position to take advantage of the relative poverty in the countries they move to.

John Madden's movies about the *Best Exotic Marigold Hotel* illustrate this phenomenon: ageing Brits (in that case) moving to Jaipur, India. Despite enormous cultural differences from home, India is their logical choice: in a former British colony, while their personal resources may be modest, some privilege must surely be derived from their citizenship of a powerful nation-state. Low rents and affordable local labour mean that their standard of living will increase. Engagement with local people is largely limited to a guest-servant relationship. My research on Bali (2012-14) found people in similar situations, settling into a lifestyle that would be inaccessible at home. For many, large houses, swimming pools and servants constituted a luxurious retirement. For others, a local homestay (living in a Balinese family compound) provided company and service.

In my more recent Cambodia-Malaysia fieldwork I compared conditions for senior long-term visitors in those countries (2015-16). A surprising



Photo: Sam Smith

discovery: retirees in their 60s, 70s or 80s, who have not settled anywhere at all. They are permanent transients, moving around various parts of Southeast Asia as they wish. All have become experts on the visa requirements of nearby countries; all know about the cheapest accommodation, restaurants, alcohol, buses and train fares. They tally this against the prerequisites to uplift their pensions from home, or, having relinquished that income, find other income: renting out their home somewhere; temporary house-sit or live-in situations; unofficial work such as language teaching; or dealing in items easily and profitably sold across borders – such as cars or motorbikes.

In Malaysia the government-operated programme “Make Malaysia my Second Home” aims to encourage international retiree residents as a practical economic strategy. But this project is rejected by these itinerants: its prerequisites to settle include sums of money in the bank, income and commitment. Someone explained that “it is great if you are rich and trying to escape Yemen, for example,

and want to live here forever. But if you want to be a free agent, you just do your own thing”. Most interviewees were single, a fair reflection of the demographic reality of this cohort. Singleness also means liberty to make significant life changes without having to negotiate with a partner.

As the global population ages, International Retirement Migration (IRM) is significant. Worldwide, more than a billion people will be 65 or older by the year 2030. Migration to a developing country is just one illustration of the transformation in ideas about what it means to age.

It is also a way of exacerbating some of the negative side effects of tourism. Like other tourists, these settlers and itinerants are there as consumers, with none of the obligations, responsibilities or concerns of citizenship. Almost no-one expressed any interest at all in their social or environmental impacts. IRM may be seen as another venue for Western entitlement: for dealing with ageing individuals' own so-called First World problems.

# UP IN THE LIFT

Alumna Lady Deborah Chambers QC has made a significant contribution to the evolution of relationship property and trusts law in New Zealand. Tess Redgrave charts her career.

**In February 1978 a young woman called Deb Tohill from Glenfield rocked up to the University of Auckland to enrol for a law degree. If she stood out in any way, it was probably because she was wearing a pair of hand-painted, green roman sandals with the backs cut off and a ripped white blouse bought at Cook Street markets, which she thought was “very cool”.**

The first in her immediate family to go to university, the young Deb was only in that enrolment line because “sick of the petty rules” at Carmel Catholic Girls College on the North Shore, she and a friend had waggged school for a day and managed, against their parents’ wishes, to get themselves enrolled at the hip, alternative Auckland Metropolitan College.

“It really opened my horizons,” says Deb. “It was teachers there who said to me: ‘Go to university’”.

Soon the roman sandals were replaced with a scooter and a punk haircut and the young Deb was immersing herself in student politics. She spent a year as the Women’s Rights Officer on the Student Union executive; was President of University Feminists; was on the Law School’s Student Committee; and during the 1981 SpringBok tour marched up and down Queen Street every week, attended weekend rallies and lapped up protest speeches on campus.

“And I would do it all again,” she says.

“I hated Muldoon being in power and I became much more aware of Māori issues during the tour.”

Zoom forward 35-odd years and that committed young hippy protester still exists – she is just working, and dressing, at another level.

Lady Deborah Chambers QC, as her title is now, is one of New Zealand’s leading trust litigation and relationship property lawyers.

She has steered some of our most contentious divorce cases through the courts, putting forward pioneering arguments that have changed our legal landscape.

She is also renowned for dealing with rich-listers where millions of divorce dollars are at stake. For her efforts she is sometimes given the moniker “Divorce Queen” or the less flattering “Deb Shark,” in reference to the fact her clients are said to pay \$1,000 per hour.

In online publication *Law Fuel*, Deb is ranked 34 among New Zealand’s 50 most powerful and influential lawyers and is praised for “rising to the top of her profession, earning respect and privilege, without forgetting her origins or sense of a commitment to justice”.

As well as her court work, she writes opinion pieces in the *NZ Herald*, often taking up the cause of women’s equity. She is a member and past president of the Auckland Women Lawyers Association, is a member of the Law School’s Innovation and Development Fund Campaign Committee and continues to be fiercely

loyal and supportive to her alma mater.

“Law School made a huge difference to my life,” she says. “It was like I got in a lift and up I went. It was social mobility.

“I’ve had a much more interesting and a much more privileged life as a result of getting that Law degree so I am very keen it remains a top school and that you can succeed there whether you are from Otara or Takapuna.”

too have come up in the lift to the 22nd floor of the Lumley Building rising above Auckland’s Shortland Street.

Here Deb’s magnificent office embraces Tāmaki Makaurau’s shimmering harbour.

Deb sits opposite me at her polished oval table. She is dressed in a smart grey trouser suit and fawn shirt, a Louis Vuitton bracelet shiny on her wrist, her long, now-blonde silky hair tamed around her shoulders. Soon we are laughing about a photo of her dressed as Madonna for the 2014 Law School Reunion Dinner (she was the reunion’s chairperson). “I do admire Madonna in many ways,” she laughs.

Before we can get down to business her phone “woofs”. “Hello gorgeous,” she says, speaking briefly to her daughter Zelda who is 21. Zelda is in her last year of an engineering degree at Auckland and is living at home in Remuera. Deb’s other daughter Caitlin from her first marriage to Charles Hollings is in her second year as a judge’s clerk in Auckland High Court. There are also two stepsons from Deb’s second marriage to Supreme Court Judge Sir Rob Chambers and readers will know she has been under the spotlight herself in court recently with one challenging the terms of his inheritance.

But we don’t talk about that, we talk about Rob, an esteemed judge and University alumnus who died suddenly three years ago, aged 59, of a brain aneurism. They “loved each other utterly” Chief Justice Dame Sian Elias said in a public tribute to Rob.

“It’s been two and half years of greyness,” Deb tells me.

She has done many things to ease her way through the grief: wore black for a year; went to a cognitive therapist because she kept replaying over and over in her mind that moment she got the catastrophic news; redecorated her office. Now she is honouring him by funding the establishment of a mooting competition at the Law School, named in his memory.

“A wonderful opportunity for our



Photo: Dean Carruthers

first-year students to learn more about courtroom advocacy in an area in which Lady Deborah and Sir Robert both excelled,” says Law School Dean Professor Andrew Stockley.

Deb Tohill graduated from the University with a conjoint degree in Arts and Law in 1983. She worked as a general civil lawyer and then did criminal prosecution work both in New Zealand and in Scotland. When she married Charles Hollings in 1986 she continued to work as she brought up their two children, sometimes working from home, getting help from her mother and employing an au pair.

“Law careers are still based on men who physically don’t have babies,” she comments. “The dropout rate for women five years in from graduation is huge.”

Sometimes she pops up to the Law School and lectures on this topic: “My advice to young women lawyers is ‘you can do it ... you just have to do things differently. And you have to plan.’”

In 1996 Deb began to specialise in relationship and property law, her background in criminal prosecution proving invaluable when she needed to be adversarial and cross-examine, and her civil background helping her understand companies, trusts and evaluation evidence – often key components of the complex divorce cases she was taking on.

As her work in relationship and property law developed, she found herself acting for traditional wives who, despite supposed equality under the 1976 Matrimonial Property Act, were being plunged into poverty after divorce because they were left with a much diminished earning capacity.

“Two of the cases I am proudest of are *Z v Z* and *M v B*,” she tells me. “Both were about traditional wives whose husbands were highly successful professionals who were keeping their earning capacity, which was enormous, and if the wives only got half of the existing assets, they were being plunged off into poverty. You have to have a pretty big sum of capital before you can live on that. For a long time, for traditional wives in marriages that led to divorce, it was just a disaster. And to some extent it still is because if a husband and wife agree that the wife will stay at home, and run the domestic side of things, when they separate the economic consequences fall entirely on the wife’s shoulders.”

In both *Z v Z* and *M v B*, Deb argued that enhanced earning capacity

by one partner in the marriage should be recognised as property and divided equally. At the time this helped secure her funds for her clients. But her arguments had a much bigger impact, going on to fuel changes to the Property Relationships Act in 2001 to include earning capacity provisions.

“With *Z & Z*, Deb ignited the conversation around the definition of property and whether it should properly be extended to include other types of property like, enhanced earning capacity,” says Barrister Ross Knight, who was counsel for the husband in *Z v Z*.

“That work has had a profound impact over the last 20 years on the development of relationship property law.”

Family Court Judge Tony Lendrum, who in the past was counsel opposing Deb in Family and High Court cases, says that she stands out in her Family Law practice for “always pushing for decisions based on true gender equality division”.

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## “WOMEN SHOULD BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT LOSING THEIR EARNING CAPACITY.”

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In 2007 Deb became a Queen’s Counsel. That same year she joined Bankside Chambers which was founded in 1990 and is today home to 28 barristers, including 12 Queen’s Counsel.

The biggest case she has run since and just won in the Supreme Court is the very public eight-year wrangle to divide the \$28 million estate between Melanie and Mark Clayton. In March, the Supreme Court ruled in the appellant’s favour accepting Deb’s arguments that personal powers within a trust can be property and should be divided.

“I put my heart and soul into that case,” she says. “A lot of property that should’ve been relationship property went into trusts, which the husband was running. This is an area generally that has led to serious unfairness for women.”

It is early days post *Clayton v Clayton*. Ross Knight, who is reporting on the case for the Law Society’s LawTalk, predicts

the result will change the landscape of trust law in New Zealand.

“*Clayton v Clayton* offers now a methodology for valuing personally held powers (of a spouse) in a trust deed,” says Ross. “In my view this decision further pushes the boundary of what is (relationship) property.”

“Women should be very careful about losing their earning capacity,” says Deb.

“I always say maybe take up to five years out to have children but absolutely no more ... because unless you’re really loaded you could just get hammered financially when a husband walks out or dies. And then you’ve got no security whatsoever.”

But while 60 percent of Deb’s clients are women she sees a lot of men in her work. “They may want the best deal they can get and that’s my job as well. Often men are having problems maintaining relationships with their children. Wives, partners are blocking them. And that’s sad and terrible. Often he’s got the cheque book and she has the kids.”

So what has all this taught her about marriage?

“I started off by saying to clients ‘look, try and make your marriage work’ but as life has trotted along I’ve realised this was ridiculous. I had all these people coming along saying ‘I am so much happier, my only regret is I should have left him five years earlier’ and that they’d stayed in too long and it had got bitter, twisted and nasty and horrible. So now I’m much more — and I suppose with Robsy dying — more likely to say ‘Look if you’re not happy life’s too short, get on and get divorced. Do it as amicably as possible, do it in a way that doesn’t destroy your relationships and your children’...”

“People come in here and they reveal their life to you. They rapidly give you their financial, emotional and sexual history.” She laughs heartily as she has often throughout our interview. “It’s very interesting hearing the way people live their lives and how they’ve done it. I enjoy that very, very much.”

It’s a bright late summer’s evening as Deb and I finish talking. We stand up and go to one of her windows. “Look there,” she points, “the Wednesday night races are getting underway.”

We watch sails fanning out towards the wind on the water below. And then Deborah Chambers QC is accompanying me out through her office and reception area and down the corridor to where the lift is waiting.



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# Our Distinguished ALUMNI



*Our Distinguished Alumni 2016: Graeme Wheeler, Divya Dhar, David Williams, Karen Willcox and David Mitchell*



*The University's School of Music, designed by David Mitchell*

At the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Dinner, held this year on 11 March, Alumni Orator, Associate Professor Allan Badley (Head of the School of Music and winner of a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003) delivered his tributes. These are published below in a shortened form (with the exception of his tribute to Professor Karen Willcox, who is the subject of a full alumni profile on page 6).

## OUTSTANDING BREADTH OF KNOWLEDGE

Two of David Mitchell's designs have received NZIA Enduring Architecture Awards, one of which occupies a prominent position on the University's City Campus. Painted in a variety of shades of yellow it is Symonds Street's tribute to Nero's Golden House and, like that building of renown, a good deal of fiddling goes on within. I speak of the University's School of Music, frequently visited and admired.

Described by his colleagues as engaging, astute, analytical and creative, with an outstanding breadth of knowledge, David is also the author of one of our most important books on architecture: *The Elegant Shed: New Zealand Architecture since 1945*, which

inspired the commissioning of a six-part television series.

A keen yachtsman who has sailed in some of the world's most exotic waters, David has been influenced in his work by much of what he has seen ... His fascination with the architectural traditions of the Pacific was apparent in "Last, loneliest, loveliest", New Zealand's first ever exhibition at the Venice Biennale of Architecture, of which he was appointed Creative Director.

## BURNING TO ACHIEVE

**B**y the time our Young Alumna of the Year, Dr Divya Dhar, entered the University's Medical School her mind was focused on issues beyond those connected solely with her academic work. Her social enterprise business idea on improving cultural understanding won the University's Spark Aspire Entrepreneurship Challenge in 2005. Her concern about the impact of climate change was an influential factor in the New Zealand Medical Students' Association's decision to join the Climate and Health Council Coalition. Divya wrote a policy for the New Zealand Medical Students' Association to combat the growing problem of doctor drain. This proved very successful and was adopted by the Government as a sensible means of encouraging young doctors to work in areas of need.

Divya's understanding of the value in building alliances between medical students and humanitarian organisations led her to set up the P3 Foundation which aims to empower young people to end extreme poverty in the Asia-Pacific region within a generation. In the blink of eye, P3 grew to be the largest youth-for-youth non-profit organisation engaged in international development in New Zealand. It's hardly surprising that in 2010 Divya was named inaugural Young New Zealander of the Year.

Divya left New Zealand as a Fulbright Scholar after practising as a physician for two years. She completed an MBA in Healthcare Management at the University of Pennsylvania, a masters in Public Administration at the Harvard Kennedy School and, in 2013, co-founded Seratis, a patient-centric mobile communication platform.



Above: Dr Divya Dhar with a family in Costa Rica she was helping to build a house for as part of her humanitarian efforts.

## DISTINGUISHED CAREER

**I**n 1973 when the young Graeme Wheeler graduated from the University of Auckland with a shiny new Master of Commerce in Economics, he could never have believed that one day, small rectangular pieces of paper bearing his facsimile signature would change hands for up to \$100 a time. The directorship of the Reserve Bank may have lain far in the future but Graeme's appointment in 1973 as an adviser to the New Zealand Treasury marked the beginning of a distinguished career.

As if working for a government department whose cable address – "Galvanize" – was not stimulating enough, Graeme continued to find excitement in the sporting realm, playing as a right hand batsman and right arm medium pace bowler in Wellington's victorious Shell Trophy team in 1981-82. In 1984 he was posted to Paris as Economic and Financial Counsellor to the New Zealand Delegation to the OECD. Returning to The Treasury in 1990 to take up the position of Director of Macroeconomic Policy, he remained in Wellington for a further seven years.

Graeme's work with the OECD made him an obvious candidate for a senior position at the World Bank which he took up in 1997. In his final four years there (2006-2010), he was Managing Director of Operations, effectively 2iC to the president.

## IMPRESSIVE INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION

**A**fter completing his Bachelor of Laws at the University's School of Law in 1965, David Williams undertook postgraduate study at Harvard Law School, where he completed a Master of Laws.

For 18 years he was a litigation partner at Russell McVeagh, moving to the Independent Bar in 1987, the year he was appointed Queen's Counsel. From 1992-94 he was a judge of the High Court of New Zealand but then returned to the Bar to specialise in cases involving arbitration. It is in the fields of commercial and investment treaty arbitration that David has carved out his impressive international reputation.

Since his departure from the High Court of New Zealand in 1994, David has undertaken judicial service in several jurisdictions including the Cook Islands where he is president of the Court of Appeal.

In 2010 David was appointed an honorary professor at the University of Auckland School of Law.



For the full speeches on video, see:  
[www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz)

# CARING FOR THE NATION'S EYE HEALTH

Charles McGhee, the Maurice Paykel Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Auckland, has been at the forefront of some of the most innovative surgical treatments for eye disease. Margo White reports.



**In 2010, Professor Charles McGhee performed New Zealand's first laboratory-cultured stem cell operations on patients with damaged corneas.**

**T**his involves taking stem cells from a patient's opposite, healthy eye (or from the eye of a close relative). These cells are cultured in the laboratory on an amniotic membrane for three weeks, and the resulting tissue is implanted into the eye.

"We've performed two or three cases in the last 12 months," says Charles. "One was a woman who was blind in one eye – with which she can now see well enough to drive a car. That involved removal of scar tissue, cataract surgery, a corneal transplant and a stem cell transplant, so it was protracted surgery, but she's delighted."

Charles and his team also work on growing whole human corneas from stem cells. Unsurprisingly this is a worldwide goal. "Internationally people are throwing millions and millions of dollars at blindness due to corneal disease. In New Zealand we're running on the smell of an oily rag ... so we're still a few years away from transplanting anything into humans. However, a lot has been achieved by our group of a dozen researchers, and we now have a patented corneal scaffold and have also grown the three human cell layers that make up the cornea in our laboratory."

Not that he's complaining about running on the smell of an oily rag; his research has been well supported by the philanthropic dollar. Besides: "If you look at some of these incredibly well-funded groups overseas, they are often less productive than modestly-funded centres in New Zealand. Indeed, when you see these enormous budgets in the US, sometimes with limited results, you wonder if they have gold-plated laboratory taps?"

Charles was a Professor of Ophthalmology in Dundee, Scotland, when he was phoned by Sir Peter Gluckman (then Dean of the University of Auckland Medical School) about a post in Auckland. This was back in 1998, and initially Charles wasn't particularly interested in relocating his family. However he was persuaded to visit, with his Australian wife, to explore the academic opportunities and the "warmer" climate. In the end he was given an offer (supported by

major donors, Maurice Paykel and Bruce Hadden) that he simply couldn't refuse. "I said I needed X, Y and Z for the clinical and laboratory research, and that I wanted to relocate my core team. Much to my surprise and pleasure, Peter Gluckman said 'yes' to all of my requests so I moved the entire team the following year."

His own research is focused on, among other things, corneal diseases such as keratoconus. This is a condition in which the cornea (the clear front surface of the eye) becomes cone-shaped, which results in blurred vision and sometimes, if untreated, blindness. The condition is unusually common in New Zealand, particularly among Māori and Pasifika people.

In mild to moderate cases keratoconus can be treated with spectacles or contact lenses; however, in advanced cases (20 percent) corneal transplants are needed. However, Charles and his team, in conjunction with Auckland District Health Board, have introduced a new way of treating the problem in the public sector, called corneal collagen cross-

linking, or CXL. This is a relatively simple procedure in which the cornea is soaked in riboflavin (Vitamin B2) and is exposed to a dose of UVA light. This causes the collagen fibrils to cross-link over the ensuing months, strengthening the cornea. His team has found that this treatment stops disease progression in 90 percent of cases, and may actually improve vision in a substantial number.

Since taking up the Chair of Ophthalmology in 1999, Charles has built the ophthalmology group from five staff to around 60 staff and research students. He also co-founded and is Director of the University-based New Zealand National Eye Centre, which brings together ophthalmologists, optometrists and vision scientists to collaborate on teaching, research and treatment of eye diseases. It makes sense to take a multi-disciplinary approach to understanding and caring for the nation's eyesight, he says. "There are less than 120 ophthalmologists in the entire country, but more than 600 optometrists, so if we work together we can maximise our work force both in the

clinical and research sense."

One of the benefits of working in New Zealand, due to the prevalence and complexity of local eye disease, is that there are opportunities to research, perform and refine novel surgical treatments, he says. "But you always have to remember that the person taking the risk in innovative surgery is not the surgeon but the patient. The worst thing that could happen to any patient is that they don't regain, or even lose, vision. Therefore informed consent is absolutely crucial and while I'd say that we are certainly at 'the cutting edge' we avoid procedures at the absolute tip of the curve, where the greatest risk lies.

"In this respect, I get phoned about once a month by someone who's been offered this incredible surgery by someone elsewhere in the world who is 'the only surgeon in the world that can do this miracle surgery'.

"And you have to say to the patient, there is probably a good reason there's only one surgeon in the world who is doing that procedure ... if it sounds too good to be true then it probably is."

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# OFF TO HAWAII

There was great excitement at Takapuna Beach in Auckland on 12 March when the University's Faculty of Engineering team claimed the title in the Great Waka Ama Race, earning an all-expenses paid trip to Hawaii to compete at an international race.

The gruelling competition saw five teams paddle five kilometres from Takapuna Beach to Rangitoto Island. Four of the six team members ran a return eight kilometres to the Rangitoto summit before descending and paddling back to the beach.

Finishing the race in just over one hour and 42 minutes, the Engineering crew was ahead of Science by only two minutes, with Law and Ngā Taiira Māori finishing less than four minutes after that. Education and Social work took fifth spot after a tough race and an unfortunate capsizing.

The winning team will paddle 18 miles over open water in the Queen Lili'uokalani Canoe Race, the world's largest outrigger canoe race, to be held in Kona, Hawaii in September.



To watch the competitors in action, see [www.auckland.ac.nz/wakaama](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/wakaama)

*A hug of congratulations for Shan Peters and Josie Stevens  
Photo: Andrew Lau*

# RANGINUI WALKER

## 1932 – 2016

**On 29 February 2016 Emeritus Professor Ranginui Walker passed away at the age of 83.**

Many thousands from throughout the country descended on Ōrākei marae during his tangihanga. They came to pay tribute to a man who had fought for almost five decades to lift the burden of colonialism and marginalisation off Māori. He was one of Māoridom's most influential academic leaders and an advocate for Māori rights and social justice. He was dedicated to forging a pathway to the future which recognised Māori as tangata whenua – the first people of this land, a pathway that would deliver the peace and prosperity for all that was promised in the 1840 Tiriti o Waitangi.

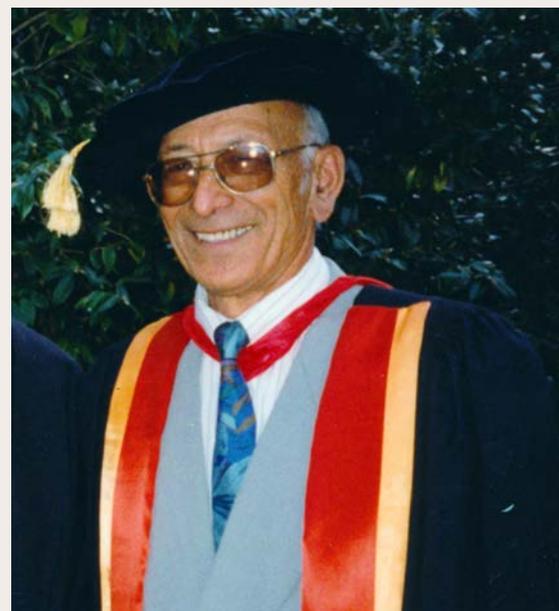
Ranginui was born in 1932 into the iwi of Whakatōhea of Ōpōtiki. He was educated at St Peter's Māori College in Northcote, Auckland Teachers' College and the University of Auckland, where he completed a PhD in Anthropology in 1970. He took a lectureship in Māori Studies and Sociology in the Centre for Continuing Education in 1969 and in the same year became the secretary of the Auckland District Māori Council. In 1973 he became the chair of the Council, a position he held for 17 years. This and his membership of the New Zealand Māori Council from 1970 to 1990 alongside his university research afforded him the necessary insights and clarity of thinking to repeatedly challenge government policy and practices that were devastating Māori communities. Through the Centre for Continuing Education and in conjunction with the New Zealand Māori Council he organised numerous Māori leadership seminars and conferences in areas ranging from educational development, fisheries, farming and land use to Māori representation, devolution and electoral reform, and training seminars for Māori wardens and Māori language teachers. However the most important was the Young Māori Leadership conference of 1970, which led to the establishment of Ngā Tamatoa, a group of mainly

urban and educated Māori that operated to promote Māori rights, fight racial discrimination and confront injustices perpetrated by the New Zealand government against Māori.

Ranginui's position in the University allowed him to give Māori a public voice. It was a voice that told a truth that many did not want to hear. The media demonised him and others who spoke out for Māori rights. But Ranginui did not shy away from using that same media to express Māori concerns, writing regular columns on Māori current affairs for the *New Zealand Listener* from 1972 to 1990. He was serious about his responsibility to inform all New Zealanders of the history of the country and the abrogation of the human and treaty rights of Māori that continue to this day. For Ranginui, it was only with this knowledge and understanding that the country could start to move along the pathway towards lasting peace, friendship and reconciliation.

He served on a range of organisations in trying to achieve this, including the National Advisory Committee on Māori Education, the Auckland Regional Committee of the Historic Places Trust, the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust and the World Council of Indigenous Peoples which laid the groundwork for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. He also chaired the Ōrākei Marae Trust Board in its early days and ensured that the tāngata whenua, Ngāti Whātua ki Ōrākei, had the control of their marae restored to them.

In 1986 he moved into the Department of Māori Studies and was the professor and head of department from 1993 until he retired in 1997. There he wrote his best known book *Ka Whawhai Tonu Matou: Struggle Without End* (1990), the prescribed text for his big stage I class. He completed another five books, *Nga Tau Tohetohe: The Years of Anger* (1987), *Ngā Pepa a Ranginui: The Walker Papers* (1997), *He Tipua: The Life and Times of Sir Apirana Ngata* (2001), *Ōpōtiki Mai Tawhiti* (2007), and *Paki Harrison: Tōhunga Whakairo: The story of a master carver* (2008). He was working on a book on the development of the three Wānanga when he passed away. He also wrote numerous papers and chapters in books and in 2007 was awarded Te Tohu o te Māramatanga research excellence award by Ngā Pae o



te Māramatanga, a Centre of Research Excellence at the University of Auckland. In 2009 he received the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in Non-Fiction and in 2012 a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Auckland.

Ranginui's tireless dedication to Māori rights was recognised when he was appointed a Distinguished Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2001. He had earlier turned down a knighthood which he saw as a colonial award. In 2003 he was appointed to the Waitangi Tribunal and was one of the members who delivered the watershed He Whakaputanga me Te Tiriti – the Declaration and the Treaty report in 2014 which found that Ngāpuhi did not cede sovereignty to the British Crown in 1840. He was still sitting on Tribunal hearings three months before his death. Deirdre, his wife of more than 60 years, was his constant companion especially after they both retired from teaching. Their three children trained at the University of Auckland with Michael now Professor of Biological Sciences, Stuart an anaesthetist and Wendy a paediatrician.

Ranginui will be sorely missed. E te matua, Ranginui, he tōtara whakaruruhau koe i te tini me te mano. Takahia atu te ara wairua kia hoki atu ki Hawaikinui, ki Hawaikiroa, ki Hawaikipāpāmao, Te Hono i Wairua. E kore ō tapuwae i te one o maumahara e mukua e te tai o wareware.

**Professor Margaret Mutu**  
(Ngāti Kahu, Te Rarawa and Ngāti Whātua)

If Peter Cullinane got knocked down by a bus tomorrow, you can guarantee the headlines wouldn't be about the tragic death of one of New Zealand's best-known advertising names; a man in the C-suite of one of the world's top ad agencies.

They probably wouldn't mention the stellar career of a college drop-out who ended up with an MBA and a master's degree (both from the University of Auckland), plus one of those super-tough short-course MBAs from Harvard where you work 23 hours a day.

You wouldn't hear about Saatchi & Saatchi, Assignment, Antipodes Water, SkyCity, or STW – all companies he is (or was) involved with.

# FROM AD MAN to MILK MAN

Story Nikki Mandow

Instead, it's a good guess the headlines would reflect Peter's recently-acquired, near-celebrity status as the guy that made chocolate milk a must-have purchase – the Hermès bag of the dairy aisle.

The story of Lewis Road Creamery is now the stuff of urban legend. The company was launched in 2011 after Peter, out shopping for ingredients for his trademark ham baguette lunch, wondered why he was living in a land of 6.7 million dairy cows and eating Danish butter. He set off to make and sell butter like he remembered it from his childhood in Wellington. This was a process that involved sourcing organic milk, finding a contract manufacturer, designing packaging – but, ironically, didn't involve advertising.

After Lewis Road butter came milk, but the company remained niche until the now-famous chocolate milk was launched in late 2014. For no reason even Peter can fathom, Lewis Road chocolate milk saw normal people becoming unhinged over their weekly shop at the supermarkets. There were rip-offs in cafés and schools, even a secondary market on Trade Me.

Lewis Road now has 50 percent of the organic milk market and leads the flavoured milk category with 33 percent. It launched coffee and vanilla milk in September, four flavours of ice cream in February this year, and – in an unexpected move away from dairy – kibbled grain bread in October. There are plans for at least another three new products by the end of the year.

If you are looking for the stereotypical ad man, Peter Cullinane isn't it. His parents were children of the depression: both families lost farms in the 1930s and Peter's dad, despite being a bomber pilot during the war, was an innately cautious man. His hard work ethic rubbed off on his son: at the time Peter was doing his masters degrees he was also running an ad agency and a dairy company and was on the board of SkyCity and Antipodes Water (where he was a founding shareholder). He hasn't got much time for people complaining about being too busy.

At school he wondered about the diplomatic corp, but a friend of the family offered a job in advertising – and Peter loved it. The ad industry may be in the doldrums today, but in the 1970s it was the equivalent of the world of tech start-ups now. It was new, exciting – and very lucrative; kids barely out of school uniforms were making big money and

driving fast cars. A 19-year-old Peter found himself running the advertising account for the Air Force (a large piece of business in those days); less than five years later he was running the Wellington arm of up-and-coming agency Mackay King, at that time led by the legendary Terry King.

And he was good at it. By the time Mackay King was bought by Saatchi's in 1988, the agency was the second biggest in the country.

It was the high life, but for Peter advertising isn't a glamour, lies and spin job, Mad Men-style. When he returned home from New York after the 9/11 bombings in 2001, he co-founded a new glitz-free advertising company, Assignment. The agency didn't pitch for accounts, didn't enter awards and didn't talk to the media.

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## “ IN MY JOB I USE ALL OF THE BRAIN CELLS I'VE GOT, AND I THINK LOTS OF PEOPLE DON'T. ”

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Assignment's initial line-up included two of the great creative brains of the time – Kim Thorp and Howard Greive – but the agency pushed a policy of “commercial clarity”.

“It's not enough to have great ideas,” Peter wrote in the Assignment bible, *The Good Suiting Guide*. “They need to be presented in a way where they are shown to maximum advantage. Where's the rationale, strategy, competitive analysis? Where's the work another agency wouldn't bother to have done...”

“If there is no measure of campaign effectiveness, there should not have been any campaign investment. You have an obligation to be a steward of your clients' expenditure. Make sure you know what success looks like.”

He says that what appeals to him is the intellectual nature of advertising – the process by which a team made up of creative and strategic thinkers takes a client problem and comes up with a solution.

“You get exposed to an extraordinary number of different challenges and they are all of a cerebral nature. You are going

from one situation to another utterly different situation – and that might happen six times in a day. You learn to make big leaps very quickly and that's what keeps you on top of your game.

“My view is that in my job I use all of the brain cells I've got, and I think lots of people don't.”

In 2010, it was the desire to keep his brain cells active that led to Peter (then 56 and involved in four companies) to go back to university. It bugged him that having dropped out of Victoria University as a teenager, he didn't have a degree.

You might think that after running a New York-based agency with 130 offices in 70 countries and over 6000 employees, he wouldn't have much to learn from a masters degree. You'd be wrong: “I was completely out of my comfort zone. I'd run a lot of businesses, but suddenly I was faced with putting academic rigour behind it. It was very challenging. It was fantastic.”

Peter went straight from his MBA to a Master of Management (and got straight 'A's all the way through).

In particular, the University of Auckland classes and research work gave Peter the chance to develop his ideas about leadership. He says most business theory focuses around leaders versus followers, but his experience in ad agencies has put him into contact with people who were neither leaders nor followers but independents, mavericks. Advertising creatives like his friend Kim Thorp, for example. And what about university professors, airline pilots, hospital specialists, artisans. The more Peter researched these “independents”, the more he wondered whether half the people he knew didn't fall into that category.

“Most people in leadership positions like to think of the people under them as followers, but in so many cases they are just doing the job that they like to do. Take university professors. They can't do the job unless they are part of the academic structure, but they aren't following anyone. Or television news editors. Or airline pilots. They are in charge when they step on the plane, and they are theoretically answerable to people in the company, but often they actually think management are complete losers.”

If and when he does his PhD, that's the topic Peter is going to explore. Right now, however, he hasn't got time. He's got a supermarket-worth of brands to disrupt. So he'd just better steer clear of any buses.

# AROUND *the* GLOBE



## AROMAS ACROSS BORDERS

Clorinda di Tommaso (BA 2002, GradDipTransStuds 2003, MA 2005) lives in the UK with her husband Simon and her small son Leopoldo.

### Where are you living and what are you doing?

I'm living in London and I'm Country Manager for the UK division of a company called Intertrade Group, which is at the forefront in the distribution, production and brand strategy of Art Perfume brands. In addition, we have a retail concept called Avery Perfume Gallery. Our portfolio consists of brands that have a strong creative identity and very high-quality ingredients, and we work with leading retailers all over the world.

### What do you love about living there?

Though based in the UK I'm also looking after some of the Scandinavian countries, I am very lucky to be able to travel to Scandinavia and other parts of Europe quite frequently – and always to the nicest parts.

I love my job because I get to meet really interesting and creative people with amazing dreams, and introduce their concepts to the retail world. I also love that my job involves all areas of the business – which keeps me on my toes.

### Is your study at Auckland important to what you do now?

I did an Arts degree at Auckland, with a major in Italian and minor in French, followed by a translation diploma and a masters in Italian (cinema). My study has helped me a lot as most of the brands have stories inspired by the arts and culture.

There is a storytelling aspect to the product and also an intellectual side. The company is Italian so I speak Italian every day and often also assist with translation.

Another important influence as I was growing up was Auckland's multicultural identity. This has helped me a lot in my professional life as I meet with people from all different backgrounds. I believe New Zealand's diversity really helps us to learn new ways of resolving problems, and to be ready to tackle any challenge while maintaining respect for others.

I've learned in my work that I don't and can't know everything. There's always something new to learn.

In June, it'll be six years since I joined Intertrade. My new challenge is learning how to blend career and motherhood!

*Photo above: At a perfume installation at Saatchi Gallery and pregnant with Leopoldo, now a beautiful one and a half year-old.*

## WINDS OF CHANGE

Alumnus Ashley Vandermeer (BEng, 2007) lives in Thailand with his wife Emma, and children Arlo and Beatrix.

### Where are you living and what are you doing?

I work in the head office of a Thai wind farm developer in Bangkok. I'm in project management and have two main tasks. The first is to manage design and construction of a 60MW wind farm. The second is to work within a team developing and contracting a 500MW consortium of five wind farms.

This company also has 200MW of wind farms in operation and is the first to build a really large wind-farm in Thailand. I'm involved in buying the new technology, always trying to ensure that we obtain the best and most recent models. That's a very interesting part of the job: learning about the new technologies and their capabilities. Our aim is to break new ground by building the biggest turbines in the world.

### What do you love about living in Bangkok?

I like things that are exciting and crazy and different, and that certainly describes Bangkok. It's a hectic city – with lots and lots of people doing different things in the same space.

I like it because it's so very different from anything I've seen before. I have never had the experience of living as part of a minority group in a place where I didn't speak the language – and I'd never lived in a city this hot: though we're lucky that we have an apartment that's high up, so we can open both sides and get a breeze right through.

Also, this is a very exciting place to work in the wind industry. It's growing fast now but needs to get even bigger because the region needs power and at the same time there's an urgent need to reduce dependence on coal.

### Is your study at Auckland important to what you do now?

Engineering is what got me here. It's because I've developed the thought processes of engineering that I understand what's happening across the projects and sites. I'm not necessarily thinking of specifics like how to scale the thickness of a beam but all the time I have to think in engineering terms.

At Auckland I also worked with the FSAE team [of students developing a small Formula-style race car for entry in an international competition]. When I look back I see that I learned a lot about how to deal with people and push the interests I need to advance. The skills I use as a project manager are in organisation and communication: these I laid the base for in the FSAE.



Ashley with Arlo and Emma in Bangkok.

## FRUITFUL SUMMER

Lucy Cowie, who is both an alumna (BA 2015) and a current masters student in Psychology, writes of her visit to an “untouched” country.



### Where did you go and what did you do there?

I spent three weeks over the summer break teaching Psychology at Dagon University in Myanmar. I was part of a four-person teaching team made up of students from the University of Hong Kong and the University of Auckland. We taught around 60 second- to fifth-year students a range of topics from Freud to biopsychology. We were the first group to participate in this programme and were funded by the University of Auckland's Psychology Department alongside the University of Hong Kong. The project aimed to foster relationships between the Universities of Auckland, Hong Kong and Dagon while also exposing students from these universities to new experiences and perspectives.

### What did you love about being there?

Being at Dagon University was an incredibly warm and touching experience. Our students were eager to learn and friendly, taking us to play badminton and showing us around the campus and surrounding areas in their own time. The Psychology Department staff were kind and generous hosts who made sure we were well cared for. Thanks to them, we had four massive meals a day of delicious traditional foods and never had to ask for a thing. We were also able to travel every weekend. Bagan was my favourite of any place I've visited, with over 2,200 breathtaking ancient temples, and the horizon filled with hot air balloons at every sunrise and sunset. It was the people who made the experience so wonderful, and I would encourage anyone to visit the country while it is still relatively untouched by intensive tourism.

Also in a professional sense, I was able to gain so much from Myanmar: valuable experience creating teaching materials for, and teaching in, an environment which is well-removed from the University of Auckland; the chance to build lasting relationships with the other students from the Universities of Auckland and Hong Kong, and with the students and the teaching staff at Dagon; and the opportunity to spend some time exploring a beautiful country. These experiences have strengthened my interest in continuing on in Psychology, as I was able to see just one of the many places the discipline can take us to.

### How was your study at Auckland important to what you did?

The University offered me a number of opportunities to develop my skills as a teacher and a budding psychological researcher. I have been lucky enough to receive two Summer Research Scholarships which have allowed me to become involved with a number of research groups both within psychology and in relevant disciplines. The width and diversity of my education in Psychology has assisted me greatly in my teaching both at the University of Auckland and the University of Dagon.

*If you have a story that you think would fit in well to this page, please send the answers to the questions along with an interesting or evocative high-resolution photo to [ingenio@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:ingenio@auckland.ac.nz)*

## ALUMNI AND FRIENDS EVENTS

We host alumni and friends networking functions and special events throughout the year in New Zealand and all over the world. Our events are a great opportunity to reconnect and refresh networks. In many cases, you'll also have the opportunity to hear the latest University news and hear about the latest research and innovations taking place on campus.\*

### ALUMNI AND FRIENDS RECEPTIONS

MONTH 2016	EVENT
May 26	Christchurch
June 28	Kuala Lumpur
June 29	Singapore
July 25	Melbourne
July 26	Sydney
September 29	San Francisco
October 4	New York
October 6	Boston
October 13 (date TBC)	London, TBC
November 15 (date TBC)	Hong Kong, TBC
November 23	Hamilton
November 24	Wellington

### SPECIAL EVENTS

MONTH 2016	EVENT
June 3-4	Auckland MBChB 2016 Reunion
July 5	UoA Society Salon Series 1
July 23	Ski Club Reunion Dinner
August 13	Auckland Pharmacy 10 Year Reunion
September 7	Fast Forward 2016: Mayoral Debate
September 27	Spring Graduation
October (date TBC)	UoA Society Salon Series 2
October 26	Golden Graduates Luncheon
December 6	UoA Society AGM and Christmas Function

\*unless stated, events are based in Auckland

## UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND SKI CLUB REUNION

This year the University of Auckland Ski Club is celebrating its 50th anniversary. To celebrate it is planning a formal reunion dinner in Auckland in July and a reunion weekend at the lodge in October. Register your interest at:  
[www.uasc.co.nz](http://www.uasc.co.nz)

## WANT A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND?

The University of Auckland Society is a unique group of alumni and friends. Society members are advocates of the University who are actively engaged in furthering its best interests. Members receive invitations to a variety of University and Society events and receive special discounts.

Join the University of Auckland Society at  
[www.society.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.society.auckland.ac.nz)



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[www.twitter.com/AucklandAlumni](http://www.twitter.com/AucklandAlumni)

## Update your details now and BE IN TO WIN AN APPLE IPHONE

Go in the draw to win an Apple iPhone 6 16GB, if you update your details by 31 July 2016 – there are five to win!

As life progresses we hope you remain an engaged part of our respected alumni community. We would love to hear where you are and what you are up to. Please update your details to keep in touch for more information about alumni news. To ensure you receive an invitation to an event in your area, please visit [www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/update](http://www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/update) and update your details.





## CELEBRATING SUCCESS: 2017 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATIONS **NOW OPEN**

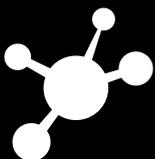
Help us celebrate our distinguished alumni by nominating those who have made a positive impact on the world. Up to six awards are presented each year to honour our alumni who have made outstanding contributions through their different achievements to their professions, their communities and globally. The Young Alumnus/Alumna of the Year award recognises alumni 35 years or under who have already demonstrated outstanding achievement in their career. The awards will be presented at the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner in March 2017 in Auckland.

"I think it's very important for universities to celebrate their alumni as I know when I was a student I was looking at people who had gone before me to try and figure out what paths I could take. You have no idea what the world can hold for you or what paths you could follow. As soon as you can see someone who has created their own journey it gives you the feeling that 'I can do my own journey too.'" – Dr Divya Dhar, Young Alumna of the Year (Medical and Health Sciences), doctor and social justice campaigner.

To complete an online nomination please visit:

[www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/daa](http://www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/daa) by 30 June 2016.

## INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI NETWORKS



With over 174,000 alumni living in 147 countries our alumni networks bring together groups of alumni living all over the world. Our networks are run by Volunteer Alumni Coordinators (VACs) who help alumni remain connected with the active life of the University.

If you live outside of New Zealand and would like to network with local alumni, we encourage you to make contact with the VAC in your area. Their details can be found on our website. If there isn't an existing alumni network where you are, you may want to start one and consider being the VAC for your area. Contact us at [alumni@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:alumni@auckland.ac.nz) for further information.

## VOLUNTEER PROFILE – ERICA CHAN IN NEW YORK CITY

Our Volunteer Alumni Coordinator (VAC) in New York is Erica Chan, who would love to hear from alumni based in NYC. Erica completed a Bachelor of Architecture with Honours in 2009. In the years that have followed, her degree has taken her to the other side of the world, and she now works as a project manager in New York City. She began her career in Hong Kong before moving to New York, where she now manages a variety of projects for a real estate developer. Erica remembers her student days exploring the Architecture Library. She would spend hours alternating between the library and the photography darkroom, working determinedly on her coursework.

Erica has a "work hard, play hard" philosophy on life. She emphasises that friends were central to her university experience. "Build your friendships with fellow classmates," she says, "They will become your lifetime friends."

Erica's personal life is underpinned by a sense of adventure. She loves to go snowboarding and can often be found ice-skating in New York's outdoor rinks. One of her favourite things about the city is the accessibility of famous cultural venues and events. She says there is never a shortage of new experiences to be had.



Story *Linda Tyler*

Photos: *Godfrey Boehnke*

# BRIGHT FUTURES

Last year, when President Barack Obama told employees at a manufacturing plant that “folks can make a lot more potentially with skilled manufacturing or the trades than they might with an art history degree,” the outcry was loud, immediate and worldwide.

**H**is words went unheeded by University of Auckland Art History students John Mutambu and Emma Jameson, who completed the honours paper Art Writing and Curatorial Practice in 2014 and who have both now landed prestigious curatorial positions in Auckland art institutions.

What Obama probably doesn't realise is that while he has been leading the free world, art museums internationally have been experiencing a boom in attendances. More than 40 million people have visited the Tate Modern since it opened in May 2000, for example, and it generates an estimated £100 million in economic benefits to London annually.

The local equivalent is the revamped Auckland Art Gallery where 100,000 people poured through the rotating doors in the first month after it reopened in October 2011. More visitors means more demand for programmes and staff to care for and interpret collections, and current Art History masters student Emma Jameson has already landed the permanent job of her dreams there. Her position as Assistant Mackelvie Curator is mentored by Senior Curator Mary Kisler. Emma will be researching and exhibiting the many precious European art treasures left to the city by James Tannock Mackelvie (1824-1880) and the 1500 prints bequeathed by Dr Walter Auburn in 1982.



*Emma Jameson*



*John Mutambu*

Despite hedging her bets with law papers in the early stages of her degree, Emma quickly discovered her passion for art history during a Summer Scholarship investigating the collections of Charles I and II. Her work towards a double major in art history and Italian helped her gain an internship at the Peggy Guggenheim Museum in Venice, which developed her skills in public speaking – with presentations to other interns and the public on the paintings and sculptures of the modern masters.

Emma's second major in Italian has also been essential for her masters research on Italian Jewish art which was held in the synagogue in Conegliano in Italy and removed to Jerusalem after WWII. During her curatorial honours course, she successfully applied for the Artists' Alliance internship to write art criticism for John Hurrell's EyeContact website, learning the discipline of writing to deadline.

A Marylyn Mayo internship at the Auckland Art Gallery introduced her to ways of applying her research skills to actual art works, deriving dates for undated art works by closely

examining written and visual evidence in the works themselves. A career in curatorship beckoned: she began work in the Mackelvie collection in February and will complete her masters thesis in January next year. "I feel that in Art History at Auckland, students develop strong writing skills, learn to do in-depth research and work collaboratively. This is perfect preparation for the gallery and museum world," Emma says.

Unlike Emma, John Mutambu persevered with law, and aims to complete his last few law papers in early 2017 once he has finished his current role at Artspace. He was also a Peggy Guggenheim intern in Venice, but rather than being drawn to historical art and objects in collections, he has always wanted to work with artists and be a contemporary curator. He volunteered at Gus Fisher Gallery during his undergraduate years and as part of a group project with the honours class he interviewed Korean-born, New Zealand artist Hye Rim Lee about her avatar figure TOKI who appears in the artist's animated films. His text was published in the catalogue and he forged an

ongoing relationship with the artist.

Successfully applying for the highly sought-after Artspace internship, funded by arts patron Dame Jenny Gibbs, has given John the opportunity to work with senior artists such as photographer Fiona Clark, whose work features as part of *The Bill*, an exhibition celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the Homosexual Law Reform Bill being passed into law in 1986.

With no collection and a small team, John is quickly learning all aspects of art gallery management from installation to loan documentation, and relishing the opportunity to introduce exhibitions to the visiting public. He is also working towards curating his first exhibition, which will be presented to the public at the end of his internship year. "I feel strongly that my education as an art historian has prepared me to do a variety of things, and I am interested in working in ways that are politically, socially, and economically-charged," he says.

Both are flourishing in their new roles, and will be worth watching out for in the future.

# Someday, we may be able to stop serious osteoarthritis from developing.

**"Studying for a PhD has allowed me to be at the forefront of something I'm really passionate about. I'm excited to think that my research can help to shape the future."**

Marco is using population-based modelling to investigate the joint at the base of the thumb. By combining many strands of information, he's hoping to discover differences between the sexes, and what effect these differences may have on the cartilage stresses leading to osteoarthritis.

**Marco Schneider**

BE(Hons) in Biomedical Engineering  
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From left: Professor James Gusella, Professor Marcy MacDonald, Dr Jessie Jacobsen and Professor Russell Snell.

## GENETIC SCIENTISTS PRESENT DISCOVERIES

**Two renowned genetic scientists from the Center for Human Genetic Research at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School visited Auckland as Freemasons Travelling Scholars in March.**

**T**hey presented their latest research into the role of genetics in the development of human conditions such as Huntington's disease and Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The visitors were here at the invitation of the University's Centre for Brain Research (CBR), whose staff expressed pleasure at the value of the visit.

"Having Professors James Gusella and Marcy MacDonald here is extremely valuable both to us as collaborators and to the wider scientific and clinical communities," says Professor Russell Snell.

Rutherford Fellow Dr Jessie Jacobsen at the University of Auckland agrees: "They are pre-eminent human geneticists who have had very significant success in uncovering the causes of many human disorders. Their contributions to medicine through their research have provided insight into many conditions, which has had direct positive benefits for patients and their families."

The two visiting professors were part of an international collaboration which, in 1993, discovered the gene mutation that causes Huntington's disease. It took 10 years of "hard slog" to locate the exact gene. Marcy explains that it was like finding a single letter in a large library – first isolating a few books, then looking for the right page, then the word and eventually the letter.

Their work now is in trying to find the genes and the drug targets that could slow down the symptoms of the disease. Close to 10,000 people worldwide – patients, caregivers and neurologists –

have participated in their research.

While Huntington's disease is primarily caused by one gene, Autism Spectrum Disorder is caused by a large number of single genes or genes working together, says Jessie. She and other members of the CBR have formed the Minds for Minds research network to try to understand the genetic causes of Autism Spectrum Disorder in the New Zealand population, in order to help with diagnosis and contribute to the development of treatment options for those who want them.

The CBR, Minds for Minds and the Freemasons hosted a public lecture with the Freemasons Travelling Scholars at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences on 22 March.



You can listen to a Radio NZ interview with Professor James Gusella, Professor Marcy MacDonald and Dr Jessie Jacobsen, which was broadcast on Sunday 20 March. Please visit [www.radionz.co.nz](http://www.radionz.co.nz)

## BEQUEST SUPPORTS DOCTORAL STUDENT IN HISTORY

**P**hD student Lucy Mackintosh is writing a cultural history of Auckland's public landscapes, with the support of a Myra and Eric McCormick Scholarship in History.

Lucy says that urban landscapes are not just valuable for their natural features, but are also rich repositories of the past.

"My research aims to demonstrate

the importance of cultural and historic landscapes for understanding the long, rich and diverse histories that continue to shape our communities today."

The scholarship has allowed her to study full-time at the University.

"It is also an honour to be the recipient of an award established by a scholar whose broad, multi-disciplinary approach to arts and literature I greatly admire," she says.

The Myra and Eric McCormick Scholarship in History was made possible through a gift from the estate of Eric McCormick, who was one of New Zealand's most distinguished writers and scholars from 1940 until his death in 1995. He was the major authority on Frances Hodgkins, and also wrote biographies of Alexander Turnbull, Charles Armitage Brown and Omai.

After completing his Master of Arts in English and Latin in 1928, Eric embarked on a colourful career, including spending time as a research student at Cambridge University, serving in the NZEF during the Second World War, being Chief War Archivist from 1945-47 and spending two decades as an Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of History at the University of Auckland from 1965-1985. He established a close and mutually-valued connection with the department during this period.

Eric lived with his sister, Myra, who was a public health nurse, for 50 years.

The Myra and Eric McCormick Scholarship in History is regularly awarded to a PhD student undertaking a topic in New Zealand history and is valued at \$10,000 per annum for three years. Eric left a gift in his will that funds the scholarship in perpetuity.



Lucy Mackintosh

Find out more about the Myra and Eric McCormick Scholarship in History by visiting: [www.givingtoauckland.org.nz](http://www.givingtoauckland.org.nz) and [www.auckland.ac.nz/scholarships](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/scholarships)

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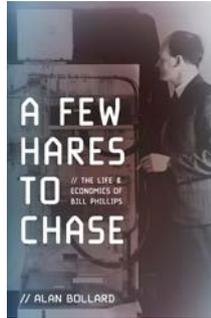
MAHANA



The compelling feature film *Mahana* has lots of connections with the University of Auckland. The novel on which it is based is *Bulibasha: King of the Gypsies*, written by acclaimed writer Witi Ihimaera, who was formerly a professor in the English Department. Producer Robin Scholes is an alumna (BA, 1969); and the film’s composers are both graduates from the School of Music: Mahuia Bridgeman-Cooper (BMus 1999) and Tama Waipara (BMus Hons 1998).

Directed by Lee Tamahori, and starring Temuera Morrison, Nancy Brunning and young newcomer Akuhata Keefe, *Mahana* is an intense and passionate drama set within a close-knit family on the east coast of the North Island in the 1960s.

A FEW HARES TO CHASE



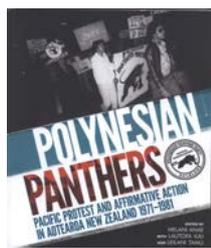
Subtitled *The life and economics of Bill Phillips*, this is a definitive biography of an extraordinary New Zealander, written by another extraordinarily successful New Zealander, alumnus Alan

Bollard (BA 1972, MA 1974, PhD 1977)

Alan is executive director of the APEC Secretariat in Singapore, a former governor of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand and is writer of 25 books and monographs.

In this book he attempts to answer the question: How did an electrician from New Zealand with a few mediocre grades in sociology write the second most cited economics article in the world, build the MONIAC – a revolutionary computing machine – and rise to become one of the world’s leading economists?

POLYNESIAN PANTHERS



This book provides the first record of the Pacific rights and social activist movement in New Zealand, told by those who were there.

It was a revolt against the entrenched stigma of racism and discrimination that Pacific Islanders faced trying to integrate into a New Zealand way of life.

Collecting together interviews, memoirs, poetry and newspaper articles as well as critical analysis, *Polynesian Panthers* is an edgy, hard-hitting account of an important period in New Zealand’s social and cultural evolution.

The book, published by Huia Press, was edited by Dr Melani Anae, senior lecturer in Pacific Studies at the University of Auckland, with Lautofa Iuli and Leilani Tamu.

MĀORI AND PĀKEHĀ HISTORIES



Alumna Tamsin Hanley is so passionate about sharing New Zealand history she mortgaged her house to fund the writing of six books about our past.

She spent four years writing the six volumes, called *A Critical Guide to Māori and Pākehā Histories*. She was inspired to write the books after teaching primary school students for 25 years and finding the curriculum failed to reflect the accurate story of events for both Māori and Pākehā. Tamsin left teaching to complete her MA thesis, titled “Preparing students for a bicultural relationship: Pakeha primary teachers and the history of Aotearoa.”

VIVID: THE PAUL HARTIGAN STORY



According to Graeme Beattie, an experienced judge of New Zealand’s book awards, *Vivid: the Paul Hartigan story* “must rank as the most spectacular book published in New

Zealand in 1915”.

And the work of the artist - dazzling, playful and seriously “vivid” – is certainly reflected in the quality of the book.

*Vivid*, written by alumnus Don Abbott and published by RF Books, surveys the career of Paul Hartigan, who has created some of New Zealand’s best-known public sculptures, including Colony, the neon work which illuminates the foyer of the University’s School of Engineering, clearly in view to the people of Auckland as they pass along Symonds Street.



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