A STAR

Alumna Julie Maxton is at the helm of the British Royal Society

Greening the University
Pita Sharples’ right-hand man
In this issue

University news
Helping earthquake victims 4
Practical PhDs 6

Features
Our star 8
A green university 10
Pita Sharples’ right-hand man 14
Taking issue 16
Marine education 18
Distinguished Alumni Awards 20
Outstanding alumni 22
Early Māori writing 24

Regular sections
Staff profile 26
Opinion 28
Alumni achievers 29
Alumni news 30
Alumni Noticeboard 31
Obituary 33
Career Development 34
Sport 36
Books 37
Art 39

Cover photo
Alumna Julie Maxton by Kathryn Robinson

Ingenio is printed on 100% recycled, elemental chlorine-free paper, using soy-based ink.

Copyright
Articles reflect personal opinions and are not those of The University of Auckland. No parts of this publication may be reproduced without prior consent of The University of Auckland. All rights reserved. ©The University of Auckland 2011

Cover photo
Drawing of kites by Titeri, 1818.
Auckland City Libraries, Sir George Grey Special Collections.

Ingenio – The University of Auckland alumni magazine

Autumn 2011
ISSN 1176-211X

Editor: Tess Redgrave
Contributing editor: Helen Borne
Editorial advice and proof reading: Bill Williams
Design and production: Mustika McGrath, Rachel Jones
Photography: Godfrey Boehnke, Kathryn Robinson
Illustration page 35: Anna Crichton
Advertising manager: Don Wilson
Proof reading: Christina Pallock, Treema Brown

Editorial contact details
Ingenio
Communications and Marketing
The University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019
Auckland 1142, New Zealand
Level 10, Fisher Building
18 Waterloo Quadrant, Auckland
Telephone: +64 9 373 7599 ext 84149
Facsimile: +64 9 373 7947
Email: ingenio@auckland.ac.nz
www.auckland.ac.nz/ingenio

How alumni keep in touch
To ensure that you continue to receive Ingenio, and to subscribe to @auckland, the University’s email newsletter for alumni and friends, please update your details at:
www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/update
Alumni Relations Office
The University of Auckland
19A Princes Street, Private Bag 92019
Auckland 1142, New Zealand
Telephone: +64 9 923 4653
Email: alumni@auckland.ac.nz
www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz

Brian Gartside, born 1941, Platter 1975, stoneware.

Drawing of kites by Titeri, 1818.
Auckland City Libraries, Sir George Grey Special Collections.
From the Vice-Chancellor

Comparing investment in education and rugby

In a year when New Zealand hosts the Rugby World Cup, it is interesting to compare our nation’s attitude to rugby and to its universities. Among those interested in the game, experts or otherwise, there is an inherent assumption the All Blacks will win pretty well every game. Indeed, it is a national day of mourning when we lose the Rugby World Cup – not that it will happen this year!

By contrast, our national attitude to universities seems to be, in the words of one commentator: “We’re a small country and we can’t expect to have world class universities”. I must say that I find this extraordinary. Yes, we are a small country. But we expect to have a world-beating rugby team. And we expect to have world class middle distance runners. And a world class yacht design capability, and world class heart surgeons. On all those grounds, I fail to see why we would not expect to have world class universities – not Harvard, perhaps, but certainly universities in the world’s top 30 as some of our Australian counterparts are.

Yet the way we treat our universities, their staff and students is clearly not one that reflects an expectation of or support for excellence. During the last 20 years we have, as a nation, doubled the number of students attending university, allowed universities’ income (and therefore expenditure) per student to fall in real terms, and overseen a running down of universities’ buildings and plant, which they must fund themselves from falling student revenues. As a result, we will have to spend about a billion dollars over the next decade at this University alone to bring our campuses up to a reasonable international standard.

Consequent upon these policies, our expenditure per student is today about two-thirds that of Australian and UK universities, and less than half that of public universities in the United States. And not surprisingly, there is a strong relationship between the level of investment in universities and their quality. Thus while New Zealanders claim to want excellent universities for their children to attend, the reality is that for the last 20 years the New Zealand electorate has expressed a wish for cheap accessible education over quality education. Governments respond, as we know, to the wishes of the electorate. Thus we are running the quality of our institutions down even as other countries – notably the tiger economies of Asia – invest at unprecedented levels to increase the quality and world rankings of their university systems.

The parallel approach in rugby would be to: markedly increase the size of the All Black squad; fail to increase the investment in training accordingly; charge the players fees to be All Blacks; force them to seek outside work to pay the fees; saddle them with interest-free loans; and then have the loans attract interest when they are abroad, which would encourage them to join overseas clubs, just as many of our graduates have departed for lives offshore! I know of no-one who would expect New Zealand to achieve at world class level in rugby – or indeed any sport – by continually reducing our investment per player. It surely follows that the same is true for our universities.

The question to be asked in this year of elections and the Rugby World Cup is why we seem to have lower aspirations for the education of our children than we do for our national sport and what we as a nation are going to do about it. The answer, particularly now that massive public investment will be required to support the rebuilding of Christchurch, must surely be a greatly enhanced private investment in our universities – by students and their families, by business and by donors. For without that increased private investment, New Zealand will not achieve the great universities that it needs and deserves.

What do you think? Respond to this editorial by emailing the editor: ingenio@auckland.ac.nz

Stuart McCutcheon
We arranged two days of work and within an hour of arriving in Christchurch we were in a school. Dr Nicholas Rowe from NICAI ran dance workshops and I ran drama classes. On our first day we each taught three classes with children aged between six and 11. We also modelled our approach to about 20 teachers who worked alongside us.

“In my first class, with Year Two and Three students, I told just the first line of a story: “There was a girl who, when she got out of bed, tripped, and tore her cloth of dreams”.

“Questioned about the story, the seven- and eight-year-olds said that if you tear a dream cloth, your dreams disappear. I was told solemnly that is the saddest thing that can happen to anyone. I asked the children if they could help the girl in the story. They eagerly agreed, and so as a group we made a new cloth of dreams (on a very large piece of cloth and with fabric crayons).

“The children drew many different dreams on the cloth. A young girl who had lost close family during the quake drew herself flying on a unicorn through the land of everything that is good. Her teacher told me it was the first time in three days back at school she had seen her living in the moment, totally absorbed by the possibilities of something new.

“To help the girl even more in the story we became dream makers. We drew up the ingredients for good dreams. Once we had decided what we needed we poured them into a pretend bowl (one student decided it needed to be a cloud bowl to hold all the things necessary when your dreams are torn up). We stood around the cloud bowl and put in joy, love, and belief (which they decided was heavy so we had to roll that in).

“One girl offered a ‘teaspoonful of light in the darkest tunnel’. I asked her how we would put it in. She said: ‘We can sprinkle it in and then the light can go through everything else’. As she sprinkled it in, everyone, without asking, leaned into the bowl. We could all see the light.

“Finally, we made our own personal cloths of dreams (pretend ones of course because it was drama after all) and folded them lots of times to make them small enough to put them in our pockets.

“As one eight-year-old whose family home was destroyed told me: ‘It’s lucky you have your own personal cloth, you never know when you might need to use it’.

“The next day we worked through a series of workshops with 70 teachers from across Christchurch. We made cloths of dreams with the teachers, danced to reclaim our space and we talked about how the arts would help young people’s transition back into classrooms.

“Teachers were reminded that the arts are a tool to heal, to imagine new possibilities and are central to education.”

We’ve recently launched a new online version of Ingenio. Head to www.ingenio-magazine.com to view the new site.

Previously, issues of Ingenio were only available online as PDF documents. These are great for printing but have limitations for onscreen reading. We hope you’ll agree that the new website is a big improvement on the previous format, as you can now search articles, browse by topic, view videos and leave comments. The new website was created to offer an attractive online alternative to the print version. If you’re as happy to read Ingenio on line as in print, you can help us to keep our costs down by requesting to receive the online version of Ingenio only. 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.
The ŠKODA Superb Wagon is New Zealand’s most awarded large car of the year.

- AA Motoring Excellence Awards Large Car of the Year
- AMI New Zealand Autocar Magazine Medium/Large Car of the Year
- New Zealand Company Vehicle Magazine Large Business Car of the Year

To judge the Superb Wagon for yourself, call 0800 4 ŠKODA to book a test drive at your nearest ŠKODA dealer.

www.skoda.co.nz

ŠKODA Superb Wagon from $48,500 plus on road costs
PhD research at Auckland Museum

Research by University of Auckland PhD graduate and current research fellow in the History Department, Dr Gabielle Fortune, forms the basis of a new exhibition on war brides at Auckland Museum.

Mr. Jones’ Wives: World War II Brides of New Zealand Servicemen tells war brides’ stories from the love letters that kept romance alive during the uncertain days of war, to the voyage out onboard “bride ships” and the experience of settling in a new land far from home.

Between 1942 and 1948, about 3,700 women (and 1,000 children) from 37 different countries came to New Zealand to start married life.

Internationally tens of thousands of war brides relocated as a result of marriage to foreign servicemen during the war.

The exhibition title Mr Jones’ Wives comes from the Minister of Defence at the time whose name was Frederick Jones and who was charged with overseeing the war brides’ immigration.

Gabrielle developed an interest in the war service of New Zealand in the twentieth century whilst working at Auckland Museum. Her PhD thesis was entitled “Mr Jones’ Wives: World War II War Brides of New Zealand Servicemen”. It was completed in 2005 and was the result of four years research in New Zealand, Australia, Britain and Canada.

Mr Jones’ Wives: World War II War Brides of New Zealand Servicemen is on at the Auckland Museum, Pictorial Gallery, until September 4.

University Council

The election for graduate representatives on the University Council in September enables alumni to influence their alma mater’s future.

The terms of two representatives, Dr Ian Parton and the Hon Justice Lyn Stevens, expire then, necessitating a Court of Convocation election. (The term of the third representative, Kate Sutton, runs until 2013.)

Nominations for the two positions will be sought in August. Please watch @ auckland for details or visit www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/alumni/af-benefits-and-services.

Council has 18 members — a mixture of lay, staff, student and graduate representatives variously appointed, elected and holding office ex officio.

The ability to choose three members gives alumni important influence in setting the University’s strategy and direction.

Alumni keen to be involved in their University’s governance should put themselves forward. Equally they might consider nominating fellow alumni with the enthusiasm, ideas and commitment to make a worthwhile contribution to Council.

Nearly 100,000 alumni will be eligible to vote in the election.

Please contact advancement@auckland.ac.nz with any inquiries about the nomination process or the forthcoming election.

New Dean of Law

Dr Stockley is the new dean of the Faculty of Law. Andrew holds a BA in History and Political Science and an LLB from Victoria University of Wellington, a BA (First Class Honours) in History from Canterbury, and a PhD in History from Cambridge. His doctoral thesis was on Britain and France at the Birth of America (dealing with the European powers and the Peace of 1783).

Andrew’s speciality is constitutional law and he has written widely on the role of the Crown, judicial independence, proportional representation, and eighteenth century political and diplomatic history.
Practical PhDs

Postgraduate research is no longer simply about a written thesis, thanks to the introduction last year of the PhD with Creative Practice Component.

For Nuala Gregory, an Associate Professor and artist at Elam School of Fine Arts and Deputy Dean at the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries (NICAI), the incorporation of creative practice into a PhD is an exciting opportunity. As an internationally-recognised artist, Nuala was always drawn to the university environment. Upon completing a postgraduate diploma, Nuala accepted a role at Elam, where she discovered she also loved to teach. Last year, Nuala decided to embark on a PhD with Creative Practice as a part-time student because, she says, it provides an ideal way to approach her own painting practice as a programme of research, and to integrate it into academic study at the highest level.

“Enrolling in this PhD has helped to open up new lines of inquiry in my work, and to plan for future projects. This year, my study will take me to Ireland, Europe and Mexico for research and to exhibit my own work.

I’m greatly enjoying the discipline of thinking and writing about my practice in a scholarly context. And I’m already looking forward to completing the degree so I can supervise future PhD candidates,” says Nuala.

www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/cs-pg-doc-creative-practice

The University will be holding free presentations on postgraduate studies from 16-20 May 2011, register online at: www.auckland.ac.nz/postgradweek

---

creative careers in academia

Find out how postgraduate study can lead to a rewarding career as an academic.

www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/academia
Our star

Alumna Dr Julie Maxton (PhD Law 1991) is the new executive director of the Royal Society of London. While on holiday in New Zealand in February she spoke with Tess Redgrave.

Alumna Julie Maxton’s CV reads like a victory march for feminism: first female law professor at The University Auckland in 1993; first female Dean of Law at Auckland in 2000; first female Registrar in the history of the University of Oxford in 2006, and now the first female Executive Director of the 350-year-old Royal Society of London.

Yet ask this unassuming lawyer turned high-flying administrator what the driving force has been behind her spectacular career trajectory, and this is her response:

“I like seeing things work in the best way that they can,” she says as a distinctive Scottish burr rolls off her tongue. “It’s hugely satisfying to take something that hasn’t been working to its potential, and to make it better, and then to move on and perhaps take another port and make that better…”

There is something incredibly refreshing about 55-year-old Julie Maxton. For all the hallowed halls her feet must have trodden in recent years she arrives at our interview warm, approachable, and as ready to draw the interviewer out as to be interviewed. I learn later this is one of the great qualities of Julie: her ability to work alongside all sorts of people and get them working alongside her.

“Julie always demonstrates considerable wisdom and clear thinking, and operates with great integrity,” says Chancellor of the University of Oxford, the Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes. “She manages to be both decisive and infectious laughter,” says Professor of the law, good judgment, a strong sense of ethical behaviour, a great sense of humour and infectious laughter,” says Professor of History, Raewyn Dalziel who was Acting Vice-Chancellor at the University while Julie was Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

Intriguingly, and a continuing source of mirth for Julie, is that when she first arrived at Oxford her new job didn’t appear to exist. “I looked at the organisational chart, it was large and extensive, but it didn’t show a registrar anywhere at all!”

But that was the least of her concerns. In May 2006 she walked through the gates at Oxford and into a battle over John Hood’s proposed reforms – notably bringing in outsiders to Oxford’s governing council.

She also found an administrative system that had “been under considerable stress for a variety of reasons”. It was operating in a climate of under-funding, increased student numbers, increased regulation and data demands. “In particular Oxford had endeavoured to implement two enterprise-wide computer systems and neither had gone well,” she explains. “My first task was to try and put both of them (one was for finance, the other students) on the rails as it were and then move to other systems: the HR system, the research grants and accounts systems – all of those needed attention.

“Over the last five years with colleagues I’ve moved around from one to the other and we’ve tried to improve all the processing systems. In doing so we’ve endeavoured to make things more transparent because in my view an administration should be transparent to the people it serves: the academics and the researchers. Especially in respect to budgeting, we set up committee structures whereby all the administrative budgets could be challenged by academics.

“My draft as Registrar was to keep the administration as efficient as possible, as lean as possible, and with as light a touch as possible,” she concludes.

When I suggest the role of registrar might lack the glamour of academia, Julie laughs. “Often as a Registrar at Oxford I’d go around to the colleges for dinner and sit down and people would ask ‘well who are you?’ And I’d say the Registrar and they’d say: ‘Oh I didn’t know we had a registrar….what does the registrar do?’

“I remember I had pause for thought when I first arrived and realised my role was as a kind of a shepherd,” she adds. “I came at the end of every graduation procession and had to make sure that the procession got in to wherever it was going with everybody there. So with every graduation I would come right at the back and the doors would close and there was always a slight frisson as to whether the doors would close with me inside or outside.”

According to Lord Patten the post of Registrar at the University of Oxford “is much closer to that of Provost at an American university than to the traditional legal job at many other British universities and Julie fulfilled the role with huge professional dedication”.

His colleague Sir Peter North, former principal of Oxford’s Jesus College, goes further heralding Julie as “a model registrar”. “During Julie’s watch Oxford shaved seven million pounds off its administration budget - a feat she is quick to share with her Auckland colleague John Hood. “He supported me in what I was doing with the administration, so all of that is his legacy too.”

Speaking of John Hood’s controversial vice-chancellorship she says he “identified some significant issues in respect to the governance of Oxford and perhaps the means of resolving them will come to pass but Oxford will change at its own pace and in the future”.

Julie Maxton never intended to have a cerebral career. Born in Scotland and sent to boarding school in Edinburgh while her father was posted abroad as an education officer.
in the British Army, her first love was sport. As a schoolgirl she represented Scotland in lacrosse and hockey.

“I really wanted to do PE when I left school but my father said ‘you can’t be doing forward rolls at 35’.”

So instead she won a scholarship to University College in London where she gained an LLB (Hons) and was admitted to the bar at Middle Temple. When the chance came to travel and work in New Zealand - home of her sweetheart and future husband Jim Carson - she took it teaching law and gaining a first-class masters degree at Canterbury University. She was 29 when Jim, by then the New Zealand Army Band’s director of music, got a job at Auckland Grammar School and she became a lecturer at The University of Auckland. While sharing the upbringing of their son James who has just graduated from Auckland with a BA/BCom, Julie pursued a PhD on contempt of court exploring the ultimate enforcement of New Zealand’s legal system.

By 1993 she had a chair in Commercial Law, was combining teaching with research into equity and commercial obligations, taking part in travelling seminars for the Law Society and doing opinion and intermittent court appearances as junior counsel.

“And then I was asked to be Dean of Law,” she remembers. “I didn’t want to do it at the time but I’d been asked and said yes and I take the view if you do decide to do something then you should do it to the best of your ability.”

It was a turning point. Unlike many academics who will do their time as a Head of Department, Dean or Deputy Vice-Chancellor before returning to academia, for Julie the Deanship surprisingly became the springboard for a whole new career path. Now its latest turn has landed her in the role of administrative head of the globe’s oldest scientific academy in continuous existence: the Royal Society of London.

“It is a bit of a departure for me but actually I think it will be fun,” she says. “We’ll be looking with other funders at how best we can fund science, support young scientists, how best we can represent science to Government, how best we can use the talent of the science fellows for Science outreach in schools. It’s very exciting.”

The Royal Society is a fellowship of the world’s most eminent scientists with some 1500 fellows and foreign members and more than 70 Nobel laureates. “It’s just had its 350th anniversary so I don’t think I’ll have to organise the next one,” jokes Julie.

Life will be exciting for Julie in London. She’ll be living in a flat that comes with the job right in the heart of the West End between the Mall and Pall Mall. She’ll probably work exceptionally long hours as she did in Oxford but there’ll be time for a run - at least eight kilometres - every morning (“my thinking time”); she’s remaining on the Oxford Rugby Committee and will continue membership of “a little legal group at Oxford that is examining issues of healthcare and medicine and the legal queries that arise”.

Science books are stacking up on her beside table too. Titles like The World Without Ice by Henry Pollack and Fermat’s Last Theorem by Simon Singh.

“My draft as Registrar was to keep the administration as efficient as possible, as lean as possible, and with as light a touch as possible”
Greening the University

Lesley Stone is working hard with dedicated teams across the University to lighten its footprint on the Earth. Judy Wilford reports.

"If you spent your salary at a million times faster than you earned it, it would be gone two and a half seconds into the first day of the month," said a recent visitor to The University of Auckland, Professor Hans Müller-Steinhagen, Rector of the University of Dresden and former Chair of the Institute of Technical Thermodynamics of the German Aerospace Centre.

"In the world we are now using oil, gas and coal one million times faster than it is naturally replenished. There is no question that we will run out of it, whether in 50 or 100 years. If we persist at our present rate we will run out in two generations."

This is a highly disquieting parallel, evoking an image of heedless headlong squandering of our precious heritage, as if it were left to us as ours to consume rather than as a trust for future generations. Reckless consumption of the Earth’s resources is simply not fair to those who follow.

This sense of a need for social justice is part of what drives Dr Lesley Stone, the University’s Sustainability and Environmental Coordinator. The other part is a fascination for, and expertise in, systems.

Ecosystems, says Lesley, are the ultimate systems. Everything is linked with everything else. The whole thrust of work in sustainability is about making sure these systems can continue in a healthy balance and with their own momentum.

"The University’s task is immense," says Peter Fehl, Director of Property Services. As indeed it is: lighting up the lives of 40,000 students, heating or cooling the rooms in which they learn, powering mega-computers and conserving optimum temperatures for cutting-edge research on state-of-the-art equipment: the University is not just a powerhouse of knowledge but a consumer (and custodian) of the Earth’s precious resources.

Add to that the need for daily disposal of the detritus of sometimes more than 40,000 lunches; for keeping a conserving eye on the reams of paper needed for lecture notes and...
Our precious resources
When Lesley took up this position in 2006, she found the University already had a strong tradition in water and energy saving and monitoring. Built quietly and efficiently over three decades through the work of Energy Manager Denis Agate and others in the Property Services team.

A mechanical engineer by training, Denis joined the University in 1980 with a mandate to save energy in the wake of huge oil price rises that had shocked the world.

The University’s original expectation was that he would save ten percent of the costs. “It soon became clear to me,” says Denis, “that the water savings could reach 75 percent.” That estimate was not far wrong.

Over the years Denis’s efforts have brought about changes that mean the 40,000 students currently attending the University are using less water in total than the 10,000 enrolled in 1979 (see graph 1). “If we had left the same systems in place that were operating in 1979, we would be paying three and a half times more for water: $1.1 million more per year,” he says.

Some quite large changes were brought about through what Denis called “minor improvements”, such as changing the automatic flushing system in the men’s urinals to one that turned on only when it sensed movement and creating closed circuits to allow re-use of water used to cool such systems as X-ray machines, laser and distillation apparatus.

Savings on water for the University’s gardens were achieved at first through simple means such as setting up systems to water at night and later through installing computerised monitoring of the water dispersed on the gardens so as to avoid being charged for water wasted.

The latest and most sophisticated technique for saving water in the gardens is an intelligent computerised system – developed by alumni from The University of Auckland and now being tested and refined at Tāmaki Innovation Campus. Upon receiving data from sensors on how dry the various areas are and combining this with other information, the system makes decisions on which parts of the grounds need water, and can turn on the water at relevant spots. It can even inform the operators whether or not the football grounds are too sodden to play on.

For energy, major savings came with the replacement of the huge central boilers that used to heat the water from natural gas and then pipe it around the University (losing a lot of heat along the way). The gas is now piped around the University to small, local boilers serving individual buildings or parts of buildings.

The greatest advances in savings, says Denis, came with the advent of computers, which enabled the development of a Building Management System (BMS).

This allows for centralised control of energy delivery, and for intelligence to be built into the system to make major reductions in the number of plant operation by allowing for information about seasons, temperatures, space occupancy, times of day, daylight savings and dates of University closure and can deliver energy much more precisely to where it is needed, for example when a single lecture theatre is in use at an unusual hour.

Though energy use overall has risen over the last 30 years, partly as a result of the increasing use of computers, the increase has started to level off over the past four years and there has been a strong reduction per square metre of floor space and per equivalent fulltime student (see graph 1).

Power of persuasion
Attitude change is also an essential part of the picture. Lesley and the team succeeded in saving $320,000 in energy use in 2008 just by encouraging people to turn lights and machinery off when not needed. Their efforts won the University a national award from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority.
Cutting down on waste

Sustainability, as Lesley points out, is not just about energy.

One of her first challenges when she started in the position was with a mountain of waste – not just the discarded bottles, cans and food scraps produced every day by around 45,000 people, but also by the excess usage of essential office supplies such as paper.

Lesley has some evocative images to offer here as well. The wheelie bins of solid waste being sent to landfill by the University, if stood side by side, would have stretched all the way from Auckland City to the airport and most of the way back. And the reams of paper consumed by the University each year would, if piled one upon the other, have reached more than 23 times the height of Auckland’s Sky Tower.

Now these figures are much reduced (down to 18 Sky Towers for the paper) through a programme of reduction and re-use, including IT managers around the University setting defaults on photocopiers and printers so that they print double-sided. (For the latest figures on waste reduction, see graph 2).

Lesley’s work on waste began with a look at what comprised it. “We took eight tonnes of the University’s waste, had it dumped on a concrete pad and took a one-tonne sample from it,” says Lesley. “We found that 22 percent of the waste stream by weight was bottles and cans, with another 12 percent paper, so we set about finding effective ways to get them out of the waste stream in both the common areas and offices.”

The result after two years of work and trialling was a set of internal and external bins that enable bottles, cans, paper and cardboard to be separated in all the main common areas, and in increasing numbers of departments and units.

For offices, a system of very small desktop cubes for non-recyclable waste and trays for paper is now being used by most staff and is helping reduce office waste by up to 40 percent.

“There was a lot of scepticism initially about the little back boxes,” said Peter Fehl. “But after a while it reversed itself, people were asking for the black boxes and were quite indignant if they didn’t have one.”

With recycling systems now in place for paper, cardboard, glass, bottles, cans, some plastics, polystyrene, toner cartridges, computers and computer equipment, staff who have been working with Lesley are full of praise for her efforts.

“Since Lesley came on the scene there has been a total refocusing of activities across waste and the use of resources,” says Kieran Pollard, Campus Services Manager. “Her focus is deep and she works so quietly. We are a whole team but Lesley has galvanised us. She’s a driving force and a shining light.”

Also giving a boost to reducing paper use are the moves of senior management towards using less paper and producing and storing documents in electronic form. Same major University committees with high membership and large agendas are moving into electronic access, with members able to log in to the committee’s site and consult electronic agendas. Voting is also now done online, saving on paper.

Says University Registrar, Tim Grieve: “What we want is for staff to make a change from reaching for a file to clicking on one”.

Building for the future

The University’s commitment to sustainability extends into its capital plan for building and refurbishments.

“We incorporate a strong green brief to our consultants,” says Peter Fehl, “particularly in regard to heating, cooling and light, which are all tied to energy efficiency. We also try to make buildings as adaptable as possible to meet new pedagogical and research demands as times change.”

A positive example of environmentally-sound construction is the recently completed Thomas Building extension, purpose-built for Biological Sciences. Its approach to energy is multi-pronged, with heating from small efficient local boilers; occupancy sensors that switch off lights and air-conditioning when there’s no sign of life; lighting that turns off in the presence of natural light, and central and external lighting controlled by the BMS.

Its “engine room” for energy, sited on the roof, is highly efficient providing cold water for air-conditioning and for maintaining sea-water at a stable temperature for marine research. If the central power should be lost, a generator turns on to maintain essential services.

Insulation, timber, floor coverings, walls and joinery all have lower environmental impact than standard types. The building’s steel and concrete have high recycled content, and its outside “envelope” is designed to minimise heat gain and loss. Foot traffic is promoted by providing just one central lift and the use of public transport is encouraged through the decision not to provide car parks.

Fact sheet

Water

Water use has decreased in absolute terms from 390 million litres in 2009 to less than 380 million litres in 2008. This amounts to a 19% decrease, despite a three-fold increase in student numbers from around 12,000 to 40,000. In terms of equivalent full-time students (EFTS), consumption has reduced by 73% per student.

Since 2000, the University has installed new “ring” mains for water (and gas) across the City Campus, eliminating leaks from corroded pipes and rationalising supply lines to individual buildings, and fitted “revenue” and “check” metres to monitor water use in all buildings.

Energy

Though energy use has almost doubled in absolute terms from 1980 to 2009, student numbers more than tripled in this time. Energy use per student (EFTS) has actually decreased by 44% since 1980. Total consumption has started to level off over the past few years, and in 2009 we actually used less energy than we had the previous year.

Combined utilities

If the University was consuming utilities (electricity, gas, water and steam) at the same rate as in 1980, then the University would now be paying $10 million more per annum. Accumulated savings now exceed $150 million.

Waste

In 2008, 16.5% of the University’s total waste that was previously sent to landfill was recovered for recycling, but this figure has continued to improve. In 2010 to the end of July, this figure had risen to 34.7%.

July 2010 was a record month for recycling, with 38% of the resources that would otherwise have been sent to landfill, recovered.
Staying down to earth
A staunch supporter of sustainable practices for the University’s outside spaces is Stanley Jones, the University’s Grounds and Precincts Manager.

“Nothing goes out of the University’s gardens,” says Stanley. Twigs, branches, uprooted plants and dead flowers, the leaves that fall and lie in all their organic abundance in autumn; the aim is to use all those to feed back into the cycle of growth in all the University’s grounds.

The circles of mulch to be seen around the trees in the heritage gardens of Old Government House are not only feeding the soil and enriching the growth of trees but also locking the moisture in, adding to the saving of water resources. “Mulching also means you don’t have to spray for weeds,” says Stanley, who tries not to use pesticides except where totally necessary.

“We keep our whole approach environmentally friendly, which is a help to some of the University’s activities. For example, researchers from the School of Biological Sciences are conducting research on bees, which are very vulnerable to insecticides, and are under threat worldwide. We try to make a safe haven in the city centre for birds and bees.”

What Stanley might have added is the very salient fact that wild bees have now all but disappeared from the Auckland CBD, probably as a result of the highly destructive Varroa mite. The only bees now pollinating the Auckland CBD’s flowers are probably those that belong to the University.

Fulfilling the vision
Last summer the University took an active step towards becoming a “living laboratory” for sustainability with a project that has added momentum to the highly successful savings on energy.

The aim was to enhance the data on energy use and make it available in a highly accessible form.

A third-year student of Engineering Science worked over summer to create a model of energy and water use by mapping the relationships between the University’s 2000 energy and water meters and the different buildings and parts of buildings whose electricity, gas, steam, heat and water use they measure.

A student of Electrical and Computer Engineering then worked with the resulting map to create a graphical interface that allows easy access to the different segments of data. A click of a box on a screen can now give information on all of the meters in any particular building making it easier to find out what energy is being used, where, and for what purpose.

The project has also automated data processing and will enable more detailed and timely information to be provided to the users of the power, and to respond quickly if something should go wrong. It is also likely to be of use in other complex institutions.

Two more sustainability projects have just received approval. One, to be carried out by a doctoral student of Planning, is to obtain baseline data on the modes of transport staff and students use to travel to the University, and their reasons for making the choices that they do.

The other, with a masters student of Environmental Science, is to calculate the carbon uptake and storage of 436 trees on the City Campus, to look at the feasibility of using the gardens to help offset travel-related carbon emissions.

All these projects are right in harmony with the vision of using the University as a “living laboratory” to gain new knowledge it can then contribute to other universities and to the wider world.
Alumnus Chris Tooley is a key player in the Māori party’s Parliamentary team. Bill Williams tracks him down between sessions.

For a self-confessed “B student” at school in South Auckland, Chris Tooley (MA in Education 2001) has made a remarkable journey through academia to a key role in Wellington.

As Chief Political Adviser to the Māori Party Co-Leader, the Hon Dr Pita Sharples, the Cambridge PhD graduate grapples daily with the multiple challenges facing a busy Cabinet Minister and member of Parliament.

The fact that this iconic figure in Māoridom is Chris’s uncle as well as his boss gives their relationship a special dynamic. “Being familiar with Pita’s view of the world I know what he will automatically think on a particular policy and understand the general tack he will want to take.”

As with Pita, Chris’s tribal affiliation is Ngati Kahungunu, his family hailing originally from the small settlement of Takapau in central Hawke’s Bay — where his parents now live — although he spent his first 20 years in Papatoetoe.

At Papatoetoe High School, where he became head boy, he admits he was “not an A grade student”, being “more of a sports person” competing in “all sports under the sun”. The 400 metres was his main event and he also ran in longer distances up to cross-country. His prowess on the track earned him a selection in the New Zealand Junior Athletics Team in his final year at school.

Chris’s parents were teachers who both worked their way up to become school principals. Motivated by their success he duly enrolled in 1995 in the Bachelor of Education (majoring in Physical Education) offered by Massey University at the then Auckland College of Education.

For him “the penny dropped” in his third year when, keen to make his degree “well rounded”, he took papers in psychology, sociology, and Māori language and culture.

His intellectual horizons suitably broadened he undertook “a big piece of research” the following year into the lack of Māori content in the school physical education curriculum. “I interviewed around 30 people — officials, policy advisers, politicians — trying to find out who decided what went into the curriculum.”

He discovered that while Māori content was recommended it was too much of a “political hot potato” to include. “The attitude was ‘you don’t need to worry about Māori content’ and so it got dumped.”

This prompted Chris to think “how to bring about change at the wider national level”. He embarked on a masters in education at Auckland where the tutelage of such prominent Māori educationalists as Graham and Linda Smith, Margie Hohepa, Kuni Jenkins, Leonie Pihama and Pita Sharples (then a visiting associate professor) provided further insights and focus.

His thesis topic was “Māori education policy in the new millennium: Political rationality and government mechanisms”. “This involved tracking down forms of power, who exercises that power and who makes decisions around Māori education policy. I looked at such forms of self-determination as Kahanga Reo and Kura Kaupapa Māori, and the different ways it was happening.”

Being part of New Zealand’s youth delegation to the United Nations and involvement in international summits on such issues as education, racism, and indigenous affairs, proved formative experiences while
Chris was undertaking his MA.

There followed a stint as a researcher at the University’s then International Research Institute for Māori and Indigenous Education and a two-month course at the governance academy at the United Nations University in Tokyo.

After applying for various scholarships to fund doctoral study overseas Chris gained one of the first Gates Scholarships to the University of Cambridge. These were established in 2000 to support outstanding graduate students from outside Britain with a massive US$210 donation from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Between 80 and 100 Gates Scholarships are awarded each year.

Chris was shortlisted and gained his scholarship after a “quite intimidating” interview with none other than the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gordon Johnson. Starting in October 2002 he spent nearly four years on his PhD on the ethics of self-determination.

It was “a beast of a PhD”, he says, not only because of the vast amount of work required but the number of disciplines he had to traverse. Ranging across political philosophy, politics and international law he started with Plato and progressed to such influential modern thinkers as Paulo Freire, Michel Foucault and Charles Taylor.

What was his thesis all about? “Every time someone asks me about my PhD, I explain it in a totally different way,” he admits with characteristic candour. “I mapped the whole spectrum of self-determination, and the fundamental contradictions between what it was trying to achieve and what the international law system did not provide.”

Drawing on indigenous politics in general, he looked at how their particular struggles had used philosophical and legal tools available to them “while maintaining some form of cultural authenticity”.

He was seeking a model which enables oppressed people “to mobilise themselves in a particular way to achieve their goals. Once I had my model up and running I applied it to the struggle in Palestine”.

Back in Auckland Chris joined Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, the National Institute of Research Excellence for Māori Development and Advancement based at the University, as postdoctoral research fellow in Politics. He lectured to Political Studies students, mainly in international relations and political philosophy, as well as editing AlterNative, Ngā Pae’s international journal of indigenous peoples.

During 2008 he began effectively doing two jobs, the second voluntary and unpaid. This was as campaign manager for Pita Sharples in his campaign for re-election as MP for Tamaki Makaurau, a demanding commitment that obliged him to perform his Ngā Pae and Political Studies duties late into the night and the early hours.

One month after the general election he was phoned by Pita, by now in a co-operative arrangement with the new National Government. Their conversation went like this:

Pita: “I want you to be my political adviser.”

Chris: “What does that mean?”

Pita: “I don’t know (laughter).”

Chris: “OK.”

“There is no job description,” confirms Chris. “I do anything the Minister wants me to do.” His daunting brief extends across Pita’s ministerial (Māori Affairs), associate ministerial (Corrections, Education), parliamentary, party (Co-Leader and caucus) and electorate duties.

Policy work is generated by departments and officials, he explains. “My role is to act as Pita’s minder and make sure he gets the right political advice, is well prepared and understands the whole lay of the land on every issue that comes in front of him.

“It’s pretty full-on,” says Chris who is “unlikely to get any change out of ten hour days” with much longer hours on Cabinet days, when the House is sitting and when he and Pita travel around the country for the day. At the same time it is “great fun. You get to traverse everything”.

He relishes “being on the front line, being a part of what the Māori Party is doing” and negotiating on policy with ACT and National.

“There’s many a late night when we sit across from Ministers and the PM, and it’s pretty free and frank. We don’t get all we want but we take it to them and we definitely push our case.”

As to the future, Chris has no preconceived notion of what he — or Pita Sharples and the Māori Party — will be doing post the general election in November.

“The main point is that we want to be in the best position pressing the case for Māori. We’ll be prepared to go with National or Labour if we are invited and if it’s what Māori want. Some of our policies are completely different from theirs so there is never going to be a perfect fit.”

Chris prefers not to look too far ahead in career terms, his destiny closely intertwined with Pita’s at this stage. “I never thought I would work in Parliament. I am really only here because Pita invited me. I’m going to be here as long as he is here. When he leaves I will leave.”
Disaster control

How would Auckland cope with an extreme natural event? And what are our University researchers doing to lower the risk of disasters?

In the wake of the string of recent natural disasters, Helen Borne asked three of our University academics for their views on how Auckland would fare if potential disaster struck, and to tell us about research at the University that is helping to mitigate the impact of extreme natural events.

Earthquake-prone buildings

If the aftershock earthquake of 22 February 2011 had instead hit Auckland in the middle of a working day then we would probably have seen even greater damage to heritage buildings than happened in Christchurch. Auckland has the largest stock of old brick buildings in the country, and these buildings have been consistently shown to collapse in large earthquakes. Many of the buildings in locations such as Upper Queen Street, Ponsonby Road and Jervois Road, Mt Eden village and Devonport would have been badly damaged and the lives of people occupying those buildings during the earthquake would have been at risk.

The response to such an event would also be more difficult to coordinate as Christchurch has a central precinct where most of these heritage buildings are located, whereas in Auckland these buildings are more widely distributed. Instead of a central cordon that is easy to control, it would likely be necessary to have many parts of Auckland under police or military control to avoid looting and an influx of “earthquake tourists”.

However, Auckland does not have the same extent of liquefiable soils and so the damage to water pipes and the large volume of sediment in Christchurch streets after the earthquake would not be observed in Auckland.

Auckland’s tectonic setting, located a considerable distance from the primary fault line running through the South Island, through Wellington, Tāupo and then out past White Island, is such that an earthquake like that of 22 February is extremely unlikely here. But, what if?

A research team from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, working with collaborators at the University of Canterbury, has been performing research since mid-2004 to develop seismic retrofit solutions to improve the performance of buildings in earthquakes. Experimental testing has been performed in the laboratory using reconstructed test elements that simulate parts of earthquake-prone buildings, supplemented by field testing of actual structures that were either being demolished or were having parts removed due to renovations. At The University of Auckland the project has addressed old brick and steel buildings, the performance of building foundations and how to incentivise and finance seismic retrofits.

On 22 February three members of staff from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering were in the Christchurch central city delivering a seminar on how to strengthen earthquake-risk buildings. Thankfully, all those attending and presenting the seminar were unharmed in the earthquake.

Volcanic risks

Although it might surprise some people, Auckland could be hit by an extreme natural event, such as a large magnitude earthquake, a big tsunami, or even a volcanic eruption. Although the likelihood of such events is low, Auckland must be prepared.

Of all the countries I have worked in and visited, New Zealand has the strongest and most integrated natural hazards/civil defence/emergency management community, and this, combined with the genuine willingness of your average Kiwi to help others, means that Auckland would probably cope relatively well. Like Christchurch, most of our new buildings would survive an earthquake, thanks to robust building codes. Old buildings, however, might collapse and kill people.

In the event of an eruption in the Auckland volcanic field, a circular area of about 3-4km in diameter is likely to be completely destroyed by explosions, scoria falls and lava flows, and activity may last for many months. Of course, how well we cope with that would depend on where it happens and how much warning we get. Disruption to business through direct impacts of an extreme natural event as well as enforced evacuations would have a massive effect on Auckland’s economy.

Researchers from the School of Environment and the Institute of Earth Science and Engineering (Iese) are involved in a seven-year research project called devora, aimed at determining volcanic risk in Auckland. This joint GNS Science-University of Auckland project, funded mainly through the earthquake Commission and the Auckland Council, is tackling the challenge of a future volcanic eruption in our city. We are investigating the
Tsunami impacts

Auckland and Northland could suffer from tsunami impacts, but current reports suggest that a tsunami affecting Auckland would most likely be generated from distant earthquakes, most notably from Chile.

In 2010 an 8.8 magnitude earthquake in Chile generated surges and sea level changes in New Zealand. If a larger earthquake occurred off the coast of Chile, an earthquake-generated tsunami could affect low-lying properties, infrastructure and developments around Auckland.

In 2009 the Auckland regional council contracted NIWA to conduct a tsunami inundation study which showed there are tsunami risks to the Auckland coastline and the Auckland CBD. The report concluded that, along with inundation of coastal strips, "several low-lying coastal roads including the Northern motorway just north of the Harbour Bridge, the Northwestern motorway over the causeway between Point Chevalier and Te Atatu, and Tamaki Drive by Hobsons Bay are also at risk of inundation". The report also suggested that a less likely, but potentially more significant earthquake generating tsunami could come from the Tonga-Kermadec Trench: A tsunami generated from an earthquake there could arrive in Auckland much faster and cause more damage.

Large-scale death and destruction from a tsunami hitting Auckland, of the scale recently seen in Japan, is unlikely. Moderate to severe damage and destruction to property and infrastructure, but on a reasonably wide scale, is more likely. People living in Auckland are relatively well protected from death by a tsunami because, unlike in an earthquake, there will be warnings and time to evacuate.

People living in low-lying areas need to understand the tsunami risk they face, listen to tsunami warnings issued and follow instructions for evacuation if need be (which usually involves leaving their properties and moving to higher, safer ground).

Over the last five years the post-disaster reconstruction research group at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering has been gathering research data about recovery and reconstruction from tsunami and other natural disasters: from earthquakes in China, a retrospective study on the Napier earthquake, recent tsunamis in Sri Lanka, Banda Aceh, and Samoa, bushfire recovery in Australia and hurricane recovery in New Orleans. The team is now consolidating these research findings to help planning for recovery and reconstruction in Christchurch, which will face many similar reconstruction problems as those seen in past disasters. Current problems being addressed are: recovery slow-down due to building code changes; cost escalation of rebuilding resources; inadequately trained and skilled workforce, and the inability to incorporate "build back better" practices (a term coined following the 2004 Asian tsunami).
In June this year, the marine campus redevelopment at Leigh, north of Auckland, will open.

It is almost 50 years since the laboratory above Goat Island Marine Reserve (which its staff was instrumental in establishing as the world’s first no-take ocean reserve) became the hub of marine science at The University of Auckland. Time and the unforgiving coastal environment took their inevitable toll on the campus and its buildings – a serviceable mix of bach and camping ground architecture. The research work done there was another matter: it was as sophisticated as the surroundings were basic. But appearances do matter, even in academic and scientific circles.

“In terms of being taken seriously, the sort of facilities we had before were pretty substandard,” says Professor John Montgomery, the laboratory director, explaining the reason behind the refurbishment of the basic structure and workspace. Of equal importance has been the addition to the complex of an interpretive centre, the Edith Winstone Blackwell Centre, which will be open to the general public.

“The interpretive centre will be a really positive shop front for the Science Faculty. It is a local example of a relationship that you can see clearly overseas. For instance, the marine laboratory of Stanford University, Hopkins Marine Station, is right next door to the Monterey Aquarium, and that juxtaposition is used extensively to broker public awareness of what science is doing.”

That the interpretive centre exists to fulfil this role is thanks to one of the University’s single largest acts of philanthropy – a gift of $4.6 million from the Edith Winstone Blackwell Foundation. The gift launched the public fundraising campaign to transform the marine campus. The trustees recognised the benefit to present and future generations of a better knowledge and appreciation of the country’s coastal and marine environment. It was a project they knew the woman who had established the foundation, Edith Winstone Blackwell, would wholeheartedly support.

“Edith Winstone Blackwell was a woman with a passionate belief in the power of education and of learning throughout life,” says her great-nephew Philip Winstone. Born in 1877, the daughter of well-known businessman, George Winstone, Edith was one of the first girls to attend Auckland Grammar School for boys before there was a comparable school for girls and among the first women in Auckland to drive a car. She believed those who had money should support those with less and established her charitable foundation in 1950.

The centre is designed to display the marine life found in the waters off the beach below and in the surrounding coast, gulf islands and offshore islands such as the Poor Window on marine science

The University has a state-of-the-art marine science campus and interpretive centre at Leigh thanks to some generous donors. Louise Callan charts its development.
Knights Islands. In addition to interpreting marine life, the centre will show its value to a vibrant and healthy ecology, tourist sector, recreational and commercial fishing, and regional economy. Other displays will explore the nature of science itself and highlight the work being done in the new science centre building across the courtyard. It will add another perspective to school educational programmes to Goat Island Reserve which the campus has supported in the past and which John Montgomery hopes to expand in the future.

Philip Winstone represented the Winstone Foundation on the strategy group formed to oversee, promote and fundraise for the now re-named South Pacific Centre for Marine Science (SPCMS). The group is chaired by Chris Mace and the other members are Richard Didsbury, Peter Maire, and Professor Grant Guilford, Dean of Science, and John Montgomery for the University.

Almost immediately after the campaign was launched it received two leadership gifts: $600,000 from Owen G Glenn towards the establishment of a new Chair in Marine Science and $125,000 from Brian and Suzanne Service in support of the role of marine science in helping to conserve the health of the world’s oceans. The gift from Owen Glenn enabled SPCMS to establish another staff position and employ Associate Professor Andrew Jeffs whose research and teaching are mainly in the area of aquaculture and in particular rock lobster and sea cucumbers.

John Montgomery believes the activity around the whole project – the science building, interpretive centre and a new accommodation block for students on field courses and short term facilities for postgraduate students working in the laboratories – has generated more than the usual interest in the postdoctorate area. SPCMS currently has five postdoctorate fellows and three of the five came out of the marine campus’s increased profile as a result of the redevelopment. As well as funding for their research from bodies such as the Marie Curie EU fund, New Zealand’s Marsden Fund and the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science, one of the fellows is being directly supported by a new privately funded fellowship. This donor-funded project is to look at where fish larvae from the Goat Island Marine Reserve end up using genetic profiling from within the reserve and surrounding areas. Postdoctoral fellow, Agnès Le Port, collected over a hundred samples during the annual Leigh fishing competition in March and said reactions were really positive when people heard what she was working on.

"Some of the people who have lived and fished in the area then began to talk about the changes they had seen in the last 20 to 30 years. Retired commercial fishermen in particular said they knew there had been a reduction in the size and number of fish caught because they had seen it happen during their time. They were some of the most supportive of the project."

The project, which will run for three years, will evaluate the extent to which marine reserves can enhance fisheries through the export of fish larvae, particularly snapper. “If the waters beyond the reserve are being seeded with large amounts of larvae originating from its protected population, this added benefit from marine reserves will add support for their being used as a fisheries management tool.”

Tabea Salewski is the first recipient of another new scholarship, the Scott Family Foundation PhD Scholarship in Marine Science. A graduate of the Universities of Cologne and Bremen, she is 18 months into a study of the feeding ecology of pavore which, according to existing literature, are said to be strictly herbivorous. However, early research shows that their gut contains significant animal material.

“Looking at New Zealand, it will be important to choose areas in which the country can achieve world class results and I think marine science is clearly one.

“It would not have been possible to undertake this work without a scholarship,” she says. The scholarship donors, Andrew and Rhonda Scott, are both alumni who believe that a world class university has huge ancillary benefits for Auckland and the country as a whole. “I did an MBA at Stanford and the whole Silicon Valley phenomenon is a great example of how universities and private enterprise can work together to create a thriving local economy that attracts capital and world class talent," explains Andrew. “Looking at New Zealand, it will be important to choose areas in which the country can achieve world class results and I think marine science is clearly one.”
The red carpet was out – along with the black umbrellas – and the University’s 16th Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner was under way.

“Vice-Chancellor; the mayor of Bro’town, who made downtown and aroundtown Browntown; already distinguished, future distinguished, and far-from-extinguished alumni; other amazing Auckland allies, academics, acolytes, allies and associates...” began Already Distinguished Professor Brian Boyd, the Alumni Orator, as the six winners received their awards in front of around 500 guests.

1. Irene Fisher 2. Jane Dyke and MP John Boscawen 3. Alison Rowe, Dr Allan Deed and Pamela Deed 4. University Chancellor Roger France and newly appointed Pro-Chancellor Dr Ian Parson 5. Professor John Montgomery and Lea Paykel 6. 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award winner the Hon Mike Rann with Ralph Hall (left), Grace Stacey Jacobs and Max Harris, all students from the Department of Political Studies who have been awarded internship placements in the Office of the South Australian Premier 7. The Director of External Relations and Master of Ceremonies, John Taylor 8. Dr Manuka Henare, Associate Dean Māori and Pacific Development in the Business School, gave a mihi 9. Guests enjoyed the performance from The University of Auckland Chamber Choir, conducted by Associate Professor Karen Grylls 10. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, used the Rugby World Cup 2011 theme to draw some witty but hard-hitting comparisons between the nation’s attitude to its national sport and to its universities. (See editorial page 3) 11. Mayor Len Brown, a Law and Arts alumnus, talked about Auckland’s need for innovation, citing...
examples of “extraordinary” innovation that he’d seen earlier in the day from UniServices 12. Distinguished Professor Brian Boyd, the Alumni Orator 13. Young Alumna of the Year Dr Claire French is presented with her medal by Judge David Abbott and Dame Cath Tizard, President and Patron of The University of Auckland Society, respectively 14. Justin Brown, Rick Fala and Pauline Van der Wiel 15. Dr Iain Sharp and Joy MacKenzie 16. The Alumni Marquee, in the grounds of Old Government House, provided an elegant haven in the torrential rain of 4 March

See overleaf for biographies of the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award winners
The 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award winners are:

RT HON SIR PETER BLANCHARD KNZM, LLB 1966, LLM 1968, LLM HARV. 1969, has been a judge of the Supreme Court, New Zealand’s final court of appeal, since 2004. He was a partner in Auckland law firm Simpson Grierson and director of several listed companies until his appointment to the High Court in 1992, and then to the Court of Appeal in 1996. He was a member of the Law Commission from 1990 to 1994, and was appointed a Privy Councillor in 1998.

DR GREG BRICK BSC 1974, MBCHB 1977, FRACS, is Senior Orthopaedic Surgeon at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, and Assistant Clinical Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Harvard Medical School. He has been cited in "America’s Top Doctors" for many years and has been listed in Boston Magazine as one of Boston’s best orthopaedic surgeons. In 2004 Greg and his wife, Jane, established the Brick Family Scholarship to provide annually a full tuition scholarship for an undergraduate at The University of Auckland School of Medicine.

JEANETTE FITZSIMONS CNZM, BA 1965, DIPCHG, was the Co-Leader of the Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand from 1995 to 2009 and a member of Parliament from 1996 to 2010. She has contributed widely to public awareness and understanding of genetic engineering, climate change, sustainability, and energy, and continues to be active on environmental issues. Jeanette was a lecturer in The University of Auckland’s Department of Planning, jointly running the Environmental Studies paper and developing a new course in Energy Studies for Planners.

HON MIKE RANN CNZM, BA 1974, MA 1976, became South Australia’s 44th Premier after the State election in March 2002 and was re-elected with an increased majority in March 2006. In March 2010 the Rann Labor Government was elected for a third term. Mike is also Minister for Economic Development, Social Inclusion, the Arts, Sustainability and Climate Change. In 2009 he was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Australia-New Zealand relations.

The 2011 Young Alumna of the Year is:

DR CLAIRE FRENCH BSC OTAGO 2002, PGDIPFORENSIC 2005, PHD 2009, was the Supreme Winner and “Science in our Society” Category Winner in the 2006 MacDiarmid Young Scientist of the Year Awards for developing a new cell identification technique that could help to solve sex crimes. She was also Overall Winner in The University of Auckland’s Chiasma i-volve Entrepreneurial Challenge with this research in 2007. Claire worked for more than two years as a patent executive at AJ Park Patent Attorneys, Auckland, advising clients within the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. In 2011 she returned to fulltime study at Otago, this time to pursue a medical degree.
That was a big question to put to our six Distinguished Alumni at a panel discussion the morning after the awards presentation. To be fair, though, they did get to chew it over ahead of time. What would our six high achievers choose to reveal about themselves and their aspirations? Did they have a burning desire to ride a Harley Davidson along the Great Wall of China? Would they be tempted by sky diving or dining in the finest restaurants in the world? Far from the hedonistic indulgences of the characters of Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman in the movie *The Bucket List*, our distinguished Alumni were – not surprisingly – altruistic in their approach. Their goals were suitably ambitious – “become the best in the world at something”; highly technical in some cases – “find a cure for Diffuse Pigmented Villonodular Synovitis of the Knee”; enduring – “increase gender and ethnic diversity on the Bench”; audacious – “turn New Zealand into the ‘business ideas’ capital of the world”; inspirational – “make real books more interesting than Facebook”; far-reaching – “communicate to New Zealanders the urgency of action on climate change and the need to leave our coal in the ground”; and bold – “plant a billion trees”.

That’s not to say that our DAs don’t have a sense of fun or adventure. Dr Claire French, bored one evening and keen to find something new to fill her “spare time”, came across a website about riding rickshaws across India. Always up for a physical and mental challenge, and seemingly not daunted at the prospect of traversing a chunk of a subcontinent, Claire was quick to add this to her list. The fact that she would be raising money for people in need in India gave the idea added appeal. In a similar vein, Mike Rann is determined to complete a fundraiser bike ride for “cancer voices”, a goal which he says terrifies him “much more than anything that’s ever happened in politics.”

Possibly the most intriguing part of the bucket list discussion was the Q&A at the end - the unexpected. What is meant by the common good, one man in the audience asked, and how relevant is it in 2011? Our panel, all practitioners of working for the common good, didn’t disappoint with insightful comments. Jeanette Fitzsimons talked of recognition that as part of humanity we’re all in this together. “There can’t in the end be wins for part of humanity if there are corresponding huge losses for other parts. That will come back to bite everybody.”

Helen Borne

The Bucket List session, along with all of the discussions and presentations from the Auckland Live! event on 5 March, can be viewed via the Alumni and Friends website www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz, in the photo galleries and videos section.

Researchers from Auckland UniServices Ltd added interest to the Auckland Live! programme with their expertise and displays of innovative technologies such as Charlie the healthcare robot from the Robotics Research Group. The Yacht Research Unit, Wine Science, Telemedicine, the Centre for Advanced MRI, the Graphics Group, Inductive Power Transfer, and The Hive were all there.
Giving voice to early Māori writing

What were the first educational encounters between Pākehā and Māori like? Answering this question has taken two University alumna on a unique academic journey. Rose Yukich tells their story.
that existed historically between Māori and European use of ink and paper and its significance from their research into the earliest Māori dramatic departure from the usual academic landscape.

The exhibition comprises 18 archival images from their research into the earliest Māori drawings of Tuai and Titeri, two young men from the Bay of Islands who visited Australia and England in 1818, and became important teachers of English missionaries headed for New Zealand.

Supported by a Marsden Fund grant, Kuni and Alison’s main goal initially was to present their research only in book and article form, but the idea of an exhibition soon took on a life of its own. While the book is due out later this year through Huia Publishers, the exhibition is already up and running with the help of sponsorship from Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga (the National Institute of Research Excellence for Māori Development and Advancement, based at The University of Auckland).

Safely transported inside three custom-built crates, the exhibition had its first public showing last October at the week-long Ngāpuhi Wātangi Tribunal hearings in the coastal community of Te Tii. Hundreds of people (mainly Māori) from school children to kaumātua were able to get up close, touch and interact with the images.

“For Kuni and me, it was a priority to take these images out of the archives and back to the descendants, to the people of the hapū whose stories they represent, but who don’t usually have access to them,” says Alison.

Requests have since flowed in and Alison and Kuni have travelled with the images to Northland marae and other venues. The collection has also been hosted by the University’s Waipapa Marae, Auckland City Library and Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi, dividing the inspiration to pursue their current research begun with Kuni’s doctorate, completed in 2000, which Alison supervised.

It was the absolute beauty and power of those marks on the page, and the sense of boys having produced these objects with their own hands almost 200 years ago, with such passion, enthusiasm and engagement. Their story had to be told.

Kuni credits Alison with being the driving force behind taking her work out of its PhD covers into the wider world. Alison describes their continuing academic collaboration as mutually dependent: “I do the writing and Kuni has the ideas. I couldn’t write without her ideas. We have different ways of approaching the world. Although we conceived as a story with illustrations, the images have now become much more powerful. The book expands upon the material featured in the exhibition and charts how Māori progressively engaged with the written word from Cook’s arrival right through to 1825, the date of the first known independently-written Māori text. With the exhibition in demand and work on the book almost over, there is, says Alison, more to come.

“We are really in the middle of the project. There are just so many aspects of the story still to be told, and we are just part way through telling them.”
Creating a revolution

When Geoff Whitcher is asked why he’s so passionate about student innovation, his eyes flick automatically to one of several plaques on his office wall. There at the back – in an unassuming black frame leaning against the semi-gloss – is a certificate headed “Chiasma”... the University of Auckland student entrepreneurial body that supports enterprising spirit amongst biotech students.

“This award,” the words underneath read, “is presented to Geoff Whitcher for helping us be the best that we can be and for his vision, support and encouragement towards creating a biotech enterprise revolution in The University of Auckland.”

“Well,” Geoff says slowly, his eyes moving back to the stack of work piled up on his desk, “the students are a big part of it. I love the opportunity I have to assist and watch them go, sharing their success and keeping in touch. They become like family to me.”

That’s a sentiment that Geoff’s wife Helen would attest to. The former Fletcher Challenge executive, who established the $1.6 billion Placemakers building materials chain, reckons he works 60 hours a week on a job that was meant to last just two years but has now stretched out to a decade.

It was meant to be, he says cheerfully, a gradual and gentle descent into eventual retirement.

These days, around 20 of those hours are spent on Spark students and plenty of dollars are spent on phoning his successes around the world at ungodly hours. He uses his fingers to count the “best of the best”.

There’s Alex Dunayev, a Fulbright Scholar at Stanford; Fady Mishriki, who has launched a successful international start-up high tech company from his Spark entry; and Manoj Patel, a medical doctor of Indian heritage who is now a Fulbright Scholar at Harvard chasing a masters degree in business administration.

Don’t forget to mention Vinny Kumar, a member of OneBeep team that came third in the Microsoft Imagine Cup last year, he says, or Bowen Pan, a local “made-good” success story who’s been snapped up by Trade Me.

When former Vice Chancellor Dr John Hood asked Geoff to take on the position of Business School Commercial Director more than ten years ago, he knew his 30 years in international companies, corporate governance and equity-raising would come in handy. Little did he know how difficult the role would initially be.

“I found academics didn’t understand or trust business, and business thought academia did not understand the real world in which they operated,” he remembers. “A major change in attitude was called for, but it wasn’t an easy task.”

“The Business School had very little visibility...in fact, it was a loose conglomeration of different departments in seven different buildings. It had no heart, no soul and no presence.”

In the wings were murmurings of a new Business School to create a bold stylistic centre for business learning in the city – an idea that Geoff knew could help to cultivate a knowledge-based economy to “reverse the remorseless three decades of decline in New Zealand’s economic performance relative to other countries”.

As the idea of the Owen G Glenn Building started to formulate and solidify, Geoff travelled to some key regions that were hot-beds of innovation to glean ideas for creating a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship in New Zealand. At Cambridge, in 2002, he saw a student-led programme designed to foster entrepreneurship that he thought was just right for Auckland.

“I saw in that idea a way to create a platform for an eco-system that would drive innovation and entrepreneurship,” he says. “It showed me that it wasn’t enough just to come up with a business idea – you had to encourage, nurture and fund it as well. So you had to have incubators and you had to tap into (angel) funding – at the time, the only angels we had in Auckland were in heaven!"

“You had to take those students and staff – people from business and non-business faculties – with the kernel of an idea, and motivate them to dream the possibilities. You weren’t just developing ideas, you were also developing the people behind them.”

“What New Zealand also needed was an eco-system that produced people who were business-savy, innovative, action-oriented and hadn’t lost that Kiwi “can-do” attitude,
Geoff says, “It’s good to be able to say now that the successes spurned by that belief include Spark, Chiasma, The ICEHOUSE, ICE ANGELS, internships and graduate employment opportunities, executive MBA consulting projects, and access to and for University researchers.

“We’ve united business with students and academics by bringing in companies with real-life issues that students can help to solve. It’s a win-win for everyone – the companies get the benefit of sharp fresh minds, and the students get real-time real-life problems to consider.

“In many ways, this University has been a pioneer in New Zealand in this field.”

Geoff doesn’t blink as he reels off the achievements of Spark, arguably his favoured initiative. In eight years, the student-led entrepreneurial competition that offers prizes valued at more than $125,000 each year has fostered the creation of more than 75 start-up companies which have raised more than $50 million-plus in funding, creating around 230 jobs and between them selling products in 22 countries.

“The kids probably get sick of me saying it, but I always tell them to be the best they can be ….entrepreneurship is not a state of mind, it’s an activity,” he says with a smile.

What makes a frown appear is a concern that people are not realising how close to “the tipping point” New Zealand is coming as a result of these initiatives and many others occurring around New Zealand.

While the University and others have been zipping along a trajectory towards the establishment of a national innovation and entrepreneurial eco-system (in just ten years when it has taken other countries 40 years to achieve the same results), Geoff is afraid that many policy-makers don’t realise this and are slowly losing confidence in the Kiwi ability to turn our country’s situation around.

“We have made huge progress,” Geoff says, “and I think somewhere in the next year or two, we will have reached the tipping point where the value of the many programmes which have led to the establishment of high-growth companies and the creation of the new breed of graduates will be very apparent.

“It’s critical, however, that New Zealand’s policy-makers don’t lose their nerve now. Our success is still not totally visible, but it’s so close.”

Geoff’s proudest achievement is the introduction of the idea of integrated eco-systems that actually work. “But I must confess,” he says, “that we did not realise initially how long the process would take. Now, when you look at what had to be accomplished, it’s actually been a huge achievement in a pretty quick time frame by international standards.”

It’s hard to imagine an organising committee or student photo without the face of Geoff Whitcher - the Business School’s 2009 Distinguished Contribution award-winner – in it, surrounded by students. In a thesis a few years ago, a medical PhD graduate described him as a true mentor, “really a co-supervisor through my entire PhD, giving me not only a vision for this, but a vision for life”.

That student, Priv Bradoo, went onto Harvard with a US$100,000 Fulbright Scholarship that Geoff helped her to win. She is now based in San Francisco working on establishing her own start-up company, and he’s as proud of her as if she were his own flesh and blood.

“I have been involved, with many others, in the development of innovation and entrepreneurship at this University,” says Geoff, “and the momentum is really starting to build. I’ve been on the bow of a supertanker, and I’ve had a fantastic time. Considering I was only expecting to stay two years, I think I’ve been very privileged.”

**enjoy an evening at the 1987 former All Blacks team fundraising dinner**

WITH ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO THE JOHN DRAKE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
SUPPORTING TALENTED RUGBY PLAYERS STUDYING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
FEATURING A LIVE PANEL DISCUSSION BY FORMER ALL BLACKS GREATS:
SIR BRIAN LOCKORE, SEAN FITZPATRICK, GRANT FOX AND DAVID KIRK
TUESDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2011, AUCKLAND RACING CLUB, GREENLANE AUCKLAND

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:**
www.1987-rugby-reunion-dinner.com
Measuring national happiness

For the past eight years I have been working in the Himalayan country of Bhutan, where the government aims to maximise Gross National Happiness (GNH) and not GNP. At the core of what the Bhutanese call “GNH thinking” is the belief that the global system has become aimlessly destructive as we have forgotten that economy is only a means to an end and not an end in itself. For the Bhutanese, economic activity is legitimate only when it contributes to spreading harmony and happiness.

In the Mahayana Buddhism that underlies GNH thinking, feeling good and being good cannot be as mindlessly separated as they are in contemporary consumer culture. In a GNP-dominated world the personal happiness we seek is fleeting, disconnected and immediate. In a GNH world, true happiness is stable, connected and accomplished.

Two classic Bhutanese paintings might help portray the difference.

The first appears on a monastery wall hidden by a silk curtain and it is a scene of 20 depraved figures in a burned out world. The figures are yidag or “hungry ghosts” and all have grossly swollen bellies, long knotted necks and pain-filled faces. The yidag suffer from appetites that can never be quenched and their world is a desolate destruction. They suffer their self-perpetuated pains in a miserable hell devoid of compassion or comfort.

The second painting is on open display and adorns countless Bhutanese buildings. It shows the four friends - an elephant, a monkey, a rabbit and a peacock. They stand together in an animal pyramid to pick fruit from a large spreading tree. They worked together to tend the tree as it grew from seed and now they cooperate to harvest the fruits of their labours. The scene is harmonious and happy.

These pictures are morally symbolic of the poles of our human potential and how we can choose to be in the world. For the Bhutanese, the first is the inevitable end-point of a GNP mentality that demands constantly inflating appetites. To relentlessly grow GNP we have to shape a human consciousness that is self-absorbed, destructive and greedy for more. The four friends on the other hand represent an alternative view of a happier world where self-restraint, compassion and collaboration allow all to thrive.

GNH then is far from being a flippant idealism. It stands for transforming oblivious greed into a mature concern for the whole. It is about reuniting being good and feeling good. It requires restraining our insatiable desires in the name of helping ourselves and others. Given the trajectory of material overshoot in our current world, only the most deluded would cling to cultivating more greed as the road to future harmony. From the perspective of coming generations and from the evidence we have on a wide range of fronts, clinging to GNP as an ultimate end represents a fundamentalist insanity.

The difference between GNH and GNP thinking symbolises not only the surface difference between two measures of progress but also the profound choice we have to make as to how we conceive of ourselves as human beings. In the cynical models that drive economic expansion we exist as necessarily selfish and competitive beings. In GNH thinking we have the potential to realize humane self-restraint and collaboration. If we choose to remain beholden to the former view we sentence our children to a miserable world of conflict and mounting misery as the arithmetic of growing populations, increasing consumption and declining resources undo their future thriving. If we choose to embrace the more positive vision held by the Bhutanese we open doors to a remarkable renaissance but it will take all the maturity we can muster to do this.

So, which picture would you rather be in - the world of the yidag or the world of the four friends? Would you rather your children be in a GNP world or a GNH world?

Ross MacDonald is a lecturer in business ethics and social responsibility in the Business School’s Department of Management and International Business. He is currently contracted to the Bhutan government to train tertiary teachers as part of the “Educating for Happiness” initiative.
Alumni achievers

JON ALTMAN (MA 1977) visited the University in March to speak on “Alternate development for difference: refiguring Aboriginal/state relations on the Indigenous estate in Australia”. Jon is a research professor in anthropology at the Australian National University, Canberra. Initially trained as a development economist at The University of Auckland, he has undertaken research on indigenous development in Australia since 1976.

YVETTE AUDAIN (BMUS 2000, GRADUATE DIP IN TEACHING 2006) is an accomplished musician and composer whose latest work Eulogy will be performed by the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra on 11 May as part of the Auckland Readers and Writers Festival. Yvette’s other recent commissions include Three Auckland Nocturnes which was premiered by the Auckland Mandolinata Orchestra at the 2008 FAME International Festival in Sydney, and Walking Bach which premiered in Auckland, in January this year.

JILL CARTER-HANSEN (BFA 1986) has been selected for the inaugural exhibition at the new Manly Library in Sydney. The exhibition accompanies the launching of its ARTIST'S BOOKS COLLECTION. See Jill’s website www.visionaryimages.com.au

RICHARD HIGGINS (BA/BCom 2011), will take up a Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford in October 2011. There he plans to spend two years studying for a Master of Philosophy in Development Studies, specialising in foreign investment in developing countries. Deeply interested in how business can solve the problems of poor, vulnerable countries he is keen to gain the social and historical perspective that the course provides.

CHRISTINE RUBIE-DAVIES (BA 1975, MED 1999 – TEACHER EDUCATION, PHD 2004 – EDUCATION) has been elected a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science (US). Her colleague Michael Corballis is the only other fellow from The University of Auckland. Christine won a Marsden Fast Start grant last year to evaluate whether teacher expectations for students can be raised experimentally and then sustained. Her study will measure the effects of raised teacher expectations on student academic and social outcomes.

JAMES DEAKER (BE FIRST CLASS HONOURS 1994, ME 1995) is the new Vice-President of Data Solutions and Insights at Yahoo, in Sunnyvale, California. James has been living in the US for the last 15 years, where he completed Masters and PhD degrees at Stanford University in Engineering-Economic Systems and Operations Research. He had a variety of different roles at San Francisco-based software company, Rapt Inc, including Vice President of Advisory Services, before Rapt was acquired by Microsoft in April 2008.

PROFESSOR DIGBY MACDONALD (BSC 1965, MSC 1966) was inducted into the "Docteur Honoris Causa" by l’Institut National des Sciences Appliquées (the National Institute of Applied Sciences, INSA) in Lyon, France on 27 January, 2011. The award was made for Digby’s work on passivity and for defining how we may have a metals-based civilisation based on the reactive metals.

PAPA’ALI’I DR SEMISI MAIA’I (MMEDSC 2003) witnessed the realisation of four decades of work last year when his Samoan-English, English-Samoan dictionary, Tusi’upu Samoa, was finally launched at Te Papa. When Semisi joined a West Auckland clinic in 1968, Samoans and other Pacific Islanders soon learned that a Samoan-speaking doctor was practising in Auckland and gathered to see him for their medical needs. Semisi noticed that language difficulties were causing medical misunderstandings for his patients. After years of personal translations and note-taking, he finally embarked on a comprehensive dictionary for a language that "needs to be kept alive”.

DANIEL ROBERTSON BE (HONS), BCOM 2009) is the founder and director of Fishpond (New Zealand’s biggest online bookstore www.fishpond.com). Daniel was named Young entrepreneur of the year in the 2010 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year competition.

KIRK WOOLLER (BARCH 1995, MARCH 1997) recently became the first New Zealander to graduate with a PhD from the Architectural Association (AA) in London. His doctoral dissertation shows how the diminishing role of judgment in today’s “innovative” architectural publications is changing the criteria for innovation in ways that run counter to the 150 years of architectural knowledge production. Kirk lives in Chicago and is a founding director of Remake Architecture (remakearch.com).

If you would like your contemporaries to know what you are up to, email the editor: ingenio@auckland.ac.nz
Alumni profile

Waikato alumna Dame Jocelyn Fish (BA, 1952) is a regular guest at our annual Golden Graduates Luncheons and Hamilton Alumni and Friends Receptions. Our next Hamilton alumni event will be held on 20 July. A teacher by training, Dame Jocelyn embarked on her first political position as Piako County’s first and only female councillor from 1980-89. Since that time, she has had a remarkable impact on New Zealand women through her appointments in diverse sectors including National President, National Council of Women (1986-90); Film Censorship Board of Review (1981-84); NZ National Commission of UNESCO (1989-94); Hamilton District Community Law Centre Trust (1994-2006). Dame Jocelyn was among those who lobbied successfully for 1993 to be recognised as the Women’s Suffrage Centennial Year. The 1993 celebrations “went magnificently!” and in that same year she was awarded a Suffrage Centennial Medal. Dame Jocelyn has received a CBE and DCNZM (2009, DNZM) for her service to women and the community. She feels these awards were “very nice reinforcement that the work we were doing was valuable”. Although in recent years she has retired from her role as JP and as trustee at numerous charitable trusts, Dame Jocelyn still participates in voluntary societies and is one of two community members on the University of Waikato Honours Committee.

Alumni and Friends Events Calendar 2011
(May – December 2011)

Spring Graduation (Auckland) Aotea Centre 2, 4, 6 May
Graduation Gala Concerto Competition (Auckland) Town Hall 5 May
Celebrating Pacific Success Dinner* (Auckland) Alumni Marquee 7 May
* $25 per person. For more details email Pacific-success@auckland.ac.nz or call +64 9 923 5893.
Ingrid Betancourt Society function (Auckland) Aotea Centre 14 May
Melbourne* Alumni and Friends reception The Westin Melbourne 17 May
Sydney* Alumni and Friends reception Four Points Sheraton 18 May
*Distinguished Professor Richard Faull is speaking in Melbourne and Sydney
Kuala Lumpur Alumni and Friends reception Crowne Plaza Mutiara 29 May
Singapore Alumni and Friends reception 30 May
London* Alumni and Friends reception (Speaker: Prof Julie Maxton) The Royal Society 14 June
Tauranga Alumni and Friends lunch (Speaker: Prof Charles McGhee) Mills Reef 6 July
Hamilton Alumni and Friends lunch (Speaker: Prof Margaret Brimble) Garden Terrace, Hamilton Gardens 20 July
Wellington Alumni and Friends reception Intercontinental 17 August
Golden Graduates lunch (Auckland), (Speaker: Prof Annie Goldson) Pullman Hotel 7 September
Edmonton Alumni and Friends lunch TBC 12 September
Vancouver Alumni and Friends reception TBC 13 September
Seattle Alumni and Friends reception TBC 14 September
San Francisco Alumni and Friends reception TBC 15 September
The University of Auckland Society Strings Concert (Auckland) School of Music 18 September
1987 former All Black team fundraising dinner* (Auckland) Ellerslie Racing Club 11 October
*For the John Drake memorial Scholarship
Kevin Roberts Sport Panel Discussion (Auckland) Business School 18 October
UniServices Networking Research event* Business School 20 October
*An interactive look at ground-breaking commercial research being conducted by the University
Christchurch Alumni and Friends reception TBC 16 November
Society AGM/end-of-year function (Auckland) Gus Fisher Gallery 8 December

For more information contact alumni-events@auckland.ac.nz or to register please visit www.auckland.ac.nz/rsvp

Please note that informal Alumni and Friends events being run by our Volunteer Alumni Co-ordinators (VACs), both locally and overseas, will be promoted directly to alumni living in the catchment area.
International alumni network

If you live in or near any of the areas below and would like to be involved with local alumni, we encourage you to make contact with your Volunteer Alumni Co-ordinator (VAC). If you would like to consider being a VAC for your area, then please contact Jamie Himiona at j.himiona@auckland.ac.nz for further information.

AUSTRALIA
Melbourne
Rupert Saint, rupert.saint@bigpond.com
Sydney
George Barker, BarkerG@law.anu.edu.au
Regan van Berlo, rvb@karaka.com.au

CANADA
Calgary
Allison Hall, allisonhall77@hotmail.com

CHINA
Beijing
Vivian (Yang) Jiao, vivianny@gmail.com
Joy (Fengxin) Ding, djpegfengxin@ bfsu.edu.cn
Chengdu
Hua Xiang, xianghua@swufe.edu.cn
Hong Kong
Raymond Tam, tmkraymond@yahoo.com.hk
Shanghai
Vincent Cheung, agl_vincentcheung@live.hk

EUROPE
Germany
Philipp Schuster, philipp schuster@hotmail.com
Scandinavia
Duncan Lithgow, duncan@lithgow-schmidt.dk
Belgium
Ken Baker, eualumni@skynet.be
Ken also welcomes contact from alumni in Europe without a coordinator in their area.

ISRAEL
Ofir Goren, ofir.goren@solcon.co.il

INDONESIA
Jakarta
Iman Paryudi, paryudi@redefmail.com

JAPAN
Tokyo
Simon Hollander, rzhikazaemon@yahoo.co.jp

MALAYSIA
Kuala Lumpur
KC Yong, keecyong@streamyx.com

SINGAPORE
Anne Dumas, annetran160@hotmail.com

SOUTH AMERICA
South America
Carlos Tirado, tiradotaipe@hotmail.com

TAIWAN
Taipei
Mago Hsiao, mago.hsiao@nzte.govt.nz

USA
New Hampshire
Rushan Sinnaduray, rsinnaduray@exetercongchurch.org
New York
Rosena Sammi, rosena@rosenasammi.com
Philadelphia
Nai-Wei Shih, naiweishih@hotmail.com
Texas
Jyoti Maisuria, j.maisuria@gmail.com
Washington, DC
Ruby Manukia, rbmanukia@yahoo.com
San Francisco
Nita Srebotnjak, nita.srebotnjak@ecologic.institute.ac.nz

NEW ZEALAND
UAPA – Pacific Alumni
Walter Fraser, w.fraser@auckland.ac.nz
Chinese Alumni in Auckland
Rachel Yang, rachelyang53@gmail.com
Pharmacy in New Zealand
Natasha Bell, nbell1020@aucklanduni.ac.nz

We are currently searching for VACS in these regions
- Seoul, Korea
- Chandigarh, India
- Whangarei, New Zealand
- Hamilton, New Zealand
- Christchurch, New Zealand

If you would like to put yourself forward for any of these positions, please contact Jamie Himiona with your CV at: j.himiona@auckland.ac.nz

Chamber Choir tour

The University of Auckland Chamber Choir tours Singapore and Britain 29 May–15 June 2011. The 30-voice choir which last October sang Bach’s St Matthew Passion with the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra to great critical acclaim, is conducted by its internationally-renowned choral director, Karen Grylls. The tour will include concert appearances at St Paul’s Cathedral, St James’ Piccadilly, St George’s Chapel in Windsor Castle, the Royal College of Music and Christ Church, Oxford. The choir will also perform at alumni events in Singapore and London.

www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/chamberchoir

2012 Distinguished Alumni Award

Distinguished Alumni Award nominations (including Young Alumnus/Alumna of the Year Award) close for 2012, on 30 June 2011. The awards are presented at the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner in March in Auckland.

www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz

Civil Defence

On 25 March, the University of Auckland Alumni Relations Office and the Chinese Alumni Committee jointly hosted a Civil Defence Seminar at the Business School. Guest speakers Jamie Richards and Ben Stallworthy from the Auckland Region Emergency Management team spoke on how to prepare for and deal with natural and man-made disasters in Auckland. Over 250 students and alumni attended the seminar, as well as special appearances by the national Operating manager of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs and the Vice Consul of China. The event also attracted a number of high-profile Chinese community organisations and media representatives.
Picture this

If a photo can say a thousand words, then how much can two, three or five words show in a photo?

This is the question External Relations is hoping keen photographers can answer. The words – campus moments, learning landscape, and holidays – are the three themes for the first holiday card photography competition, which is open to University alumni, students and staff.

Participants may submit up to two photos that capture one, two or all three of the competition themes. The top three entries will be featured on External Relations holiday cards, with the photographer’s name and University affiliation on the back. Winning photos will be selected on composition, how they best capture the chosen theme(s), and suitability for use on a card.

First-place prize is a D7000 Nikon camera with 18-105mm lens, generously donated by TA Macalister. Retailing at $2,539, it has the latest in camera technologies and functions, including a new Nikon DX-format CMOS image sensor and new image-processing engine, EXPEED 2. The D7000 is also equipped with the D-Movie function enabling superior video quality in full 1080P HD, as well as an effective pixel count of 16.2-million pixels and improved capability of shooting under dim lighting.

Second- and third-place prizes, also donated by TA Macalister, are a Manfrotto 190CXPRO3 carbon tripod with 496RC2 ball head – retail value $1099, and a Lowepro Versapack 200 AW Backpack – Retail value $200.

Participants should send one or two photos to alumniphotocomp@gmail.com between Monday, 13 June and Friday, 1 July 2011, along with name, contact details, student or staff I.D number (if known), and caption.

Please visit www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/photo-competition for full contest terms and conditions.
Respected New Zealand historian Dame Judith Binney has passed away”, we read in the New Zealand Herald. Judith richly deserved the public recognition accorded her as Dame Judith, and her other honours (including an inaugural Fellowship of the New Zealand Academy of Humanities and a Distinguished Alumni Award from The University of Auckland) but for those of us who were her students and colleagues, it is her personal presence and the words she put onto the page (very numerous pages at that) that remain in our memories.

Judith began teaching at The University of Auckland in 1966 and retired in 2004. In 1983, wet behind the ears, I stumbled into a Stage III course in Mexican history. Two hours later, head spinning and hand aching from furious note-taking, I staggered out. I had just met Judith Binney. Judith was a vivid presence in the classroom. She had on a bright turquoise shirt, collar turned up, beautiful earrings, a well-cut tight black skirt and what can only be described as kick-ass boots. And kick our asses she did. In Judith’s classes you could not just take notes and regurgitate information. You either paid attention and used your brain to think outside the square or got a withering look (and a B if you were lucky). Or worse, a C and her lopsided, but not unkind, grin.

She modelled critical thinking and socially engaged scholarship in a way that forced us to see the past as vitally connected to the present, contested and contingent.

Judith’s first book, A Legacy of Guilt (Auckland University Press, 1963), about the missionary Thomas Kendall established her reputation as a leading historian of colonialism. In the 1970s and 1980s when many Pakeha historians were reluctant to undertake histories of Māori topics Judith’s Mihaia (with Gillian Chaplin and Craig Wallace, Oxford University Press, 1979), Ngā Mōrehu: The Survivors (with Gillian Chaplin, Oxford University Press, 1987), and the numerous articles she also produced in this period, showed how indigenous ways of seeing the world could be written into histories of Māori engagement with the colonial process without loss of academic rigour. The books were innovative in other ways too: their use of photographs, their attention to gender dynamics, the sensitive and thorough-going use of oral history all marked them out as path-breaking.

Judith’s capacity for navigating the potential mine-fields of cross-cultural scholarship, her respect for the stories she was retelling and the people who trusted her with those stories, fed into the monumental later works; Redemption Songs: a life of Te Kooti Anikirangi Te Turuki (Auckland University Press and Bridget Williams Books, 1995) and Encircled Lands: Te Urewera, 1820-1921 (Bridget Williams Books, 2009). Encircled Lands was the New Zealand Post Book of the Year in 2010 and Redemption Songs the Montana Book of the Year in 1996.

Judith was a working historian right up until her death. Her collection of essays, Stories Without End (Bridget Williams Books, 2010), leaves us with new stories to think about and new ways of thinking about old stories.

Nearly 30 years later as I reflect on what Judith has meant to The University of Auckland’s History Department and to the wider historical profession I am struck by how much her influence rested on the combination of scholarship and personality. Few historians have as much personal charisma as Judi, fewer harness their strengths as well as she did. Her formidable intelligence was matched with a formidable work ethic. She read widely beyond the discipline and within it, loved good novels and good films (it was rare to have lunch with her without getting recommendations for viewing and reading) and did not back away from an argument. She leaves a great legacy in her work, but for those of us who had the privilege of knowing her the work is no substitute for the woman.

Deborah Montgomerie (BA 1984, MA 1987), senior lecturer, Department of History, The University of Auckland
Professional networking: why is it important and how do you make it work for you?

At the request of our readers, we have introduced a section to focus on career-related topics. This time Helen Borne asked three members of the University community to talk about the value of networking.

Building social capital

Having had a very diverse career, I am passionate about networking. My personal experience, backed up by research, powerfully demonstrates that networking is a key way to build social capital. Social capital is about “who you know” rather than “what you know”. Many university-educated professionals take great care to invest in financial portfolios, career development, family and friends, but not in building their professional social capital. Networking contributes to career success in many ways. To me, the most important and meaningful gains from networking are:

- Market research - learning what’s happening in your profession and among your clients, and understanding who the “real” influencers are
- Collaboration - finding like-minded people
- Diversifying your perspective – this can include finding people who become your mentors (another powerful career tool)
- Profile raising - a way to signal your expertise and career stages
- Support - building supportive networks of peers who are at similar life and career stages.

I make networking work for me by being authentic about it. I am genuinely curious about what people do, and what they think. I enjoy engaging with one or two people in depth and often follow up with people I’ve met in networking events.

My top tips for networking are:
1. Be curious - everyone is interesting once you ask the right questions. You may be able to learn from their past experiences, or from their fresh take on a familiar situation
2. Be genuine - think about how you can add value to others first, rather than what they can do for you
3. If you feel intimidated or tongue tied, ask questions
4. Be adventurous - think of networking like a box of chocolates: you never know what you’re gonna get! - so be open and don’t prejudge.

Research notes and additional resources:

- General Electric talk about the P.I.E framework which is relevant for networking, and for why networking has power to boost your career.
- Market research – learning what’s happening in your profession
- Profile raising - a way to signal your expertise and career stages
- Support - building supportive networks of peers who are at similar life and career stages.

E = Exposure – this is simply being known, people recognising your name. 60% impact on career/promotion!

Source: Harvey Coleman: Empowering Yourself, The Organisational Game Revealed

- David Maister’s article “Young Professionals - Cultivate the Habit of Friendship”. By a well-respected professional service consultant and Harvard professor, this emphasises authenticity, taking a long term view of relationships – and getting started in these good habits early!


- “Networking your way through the organization. Gender differences in the relationship between network participation and career satisfaction.”


Galia Barhava-Monteith is a Director of Professionelle, an organisation for professional, career and business women in New Zealand, and a University of Auckland alumna.

Connections between people

Networks are arrangements of filaments, lines, veins, passages. In other words they are the connections between people or how we are in relation to each other. I would understand networking as an orientation to what can connect or link us.

I’m not a conscious networker. I need to admit up front. There is a deliberateness or transactionalness about how that word is often used that I remain uncomfortable with. I don’t then seek out events or organisations to affiliate with, nor people to get visible to. I find people who interest me, awaken curiosity, stretch my thinking, and provide other perspectives nearly everywhere I go. This may be stretching the term “networking” for some reading this but I find it difficult to view people as resources for my career or future.

Networking makes most sense in terms of belonging to different communities, communities centering around work, school, learning, neighbourhood, activities. In the doing and being associated with these communities, relationships are created, conversations emerge, and identities are crafted. I recently went on my son’s school camp and ended up talking “my topic” (leadership) with other researchers, practitioners and development professionals who I never knew were even there. I find leadership is a topic or concept that generates those filaments, lines, veins, passages on the sideline of sports games, in aeroplanes and in the myriads of learning forums and conversations that constitute a university existence.

Whether this “works for me”, depends on what could be considered value in “work”. I value the seeds of new thinking, the unsought insight, the door opened in my consciousness, the juxtaposition of old and new knowledge, and the beginnings of movement in identity and mindset. That’s the life force I want to flow through the filaments, lines, veins, passages that constitute my network. And at the moment there seems to be loads of that kind of action.

Dr Brigid Carroll is a Senior Lecturer in Leadership and Organisation Studies in the Department of Management and International Business, both a Leadership Design/ Development Facilitator and Principal Researcher at the New Zealand Leadership Institute, and an alumna.
Understand your brand

Networking today is an integral part of building a professional career. Making, maintaining and using personal contacts or exchanging information for professional purposes are important elements of advancement, but using them wisely and effectively should always be top of mind.

Many Kiwi businesspeople consider networking to be merely a job-hunting technique, but that’s a greatly simplified assumption. Networking can help with employment, but it can also be used to progress within an organisation as well.

The key to effective networking, however, is to identify why you need it, what opportunities are available and how to effectively utilise your options for optimal benefit.

The Business School’s speed networking programme, which gives students just four minutes to complete an “elevator pitch” of their Unique selling Points to employers, highlights the importance of self-marketing.

Whilst external opportunities are often obvious (conferences, training courses, online social network sites, professional bodies, friends and family), internal networking can sometimes be ignored as a “poor cousin”. That’s unfortunate, because colleagues, committees, working groups and team members can also present important networking options that can be easy to recognise and take advantage of.

Online social networks are also a crucial and ever-growing medium that can’t be ignored, whether it’s a discussion group on sites such as Facebook, Twitter or Myspace, or professional networking sites such as LinkedIn. These offer different ways of creating new contacts and develop opportunities, but none will work well unless you understand exactly how to maximise your networking attempts.

I suggest the following top tips:

• Identify your Unique Selling Points, and don’t be shy to market them. You are your “brand” and only you can market it effectively
• Understand how you can personally benefit from networking
• Identify, develop and maintain your networks like you do with clients
• Be strategic, pro-active and sharing… and thank contacts for their assistance
• Be willing to ask for help, and also to give help
• Maximise social networking opportunities…and be daring!

James Hairsine is Director of Careers at the Graduate School of Enterprise.

Resources

Graduate School of Enterprise Short Courses
Website: www.shortcourses.auckland.ac.nz
Phone: 0800 800 875

Centre for Continuing Education (CCE)
Website: www.cce.auckland.ac.nz
Phone: 0800 UNICONTED (0800 864 266)

University Careers Services
www.auckland.ac.nz/careers

The Business School ASB Careers Centre:
www.business.auckland.ac.nz/careerscentre

Ingenia Autumn 2011 | 35
More than a man’s game

Dr Jennifer Curtin has always had a gender slant to her research exploring state feminism, women political leaders, and gender equality within trade union movements.

Paradoxically the international interest around her current research activity is raising a few finely-plucked eyebrows. Dr Jennifer Curtin, feminist and political scientist, is exploring rugby.

“There’s an ambivalence amongst feminists towards rugby: it’s considered violent, the off-field culture is sometimes oppressive, and when intellectualised it is often read as excluding women. But even as a feminist I can’t give up my ‘fandom’, my love of the game.

“I’m a Hamilton girl,” explains Jennifer. “I grew up with rugby in my life.” As a fellow child of the mighty Waikato I can fully understand her duality. Rugby was more central to provincial community life, to both men and women, than the annual dairy pay-out.

Later, working in Australia, Jennifer resigned herself to watching league...until union came to Canberra. Away from home, rugby remained a strong connector. “As New Zealanders we would talk about the way rugby defined us,” she says. During sporadic visits home she viewed the arrival of professionalism. “It seemed as if both New Zealand and rugby were growing up. It was at this point I became interested in how the two aspects of my identity ‘feminist’ and ‘lover of rugby’ could be reconciled.

“Although rugby coverage and histories chorus great heroes and long lineages of rugby men with no mention of the women I felt that rugby union was much more than a man’s game. I didn’t believe we could be a great rugby nation without the support of both men and women. So I decided to reinstate women into our national rugby history.”

As one of the speakers for this year’s 2011 Winter Lectures on “New Zealand’s Rugby World”, Jennifer will argue that union is “More than a man’s game”. The lecture will be a glimpse into her pending publication of the same name focusing on women as spectators, supporters, fans and players.

Unearthing stories from as far back as the 1840s Jennifer shows women’s impact on the game was much more complex than just the phenomenon of “male-gazing”.

“From the earliest time we can see women providing colour and context off the field. Up until World War I most club games were free for women with the assumption that they would accompany men and bring a civilising influence to the game and the crowd. Towards the end of the century, at some provincial games, 500 out of 600 spectators in the stand were women, sipping tea and taking all the seats. Women, unexpectedly, were attending games in their own right. And, at times unchaperoned, women pushed the boundaries of acceptable behaviour: donning supporters’ garb gave way to the raucous removal of hats; and though prohibited, it was sometimes women giving and taking bets.

“There’s a turning point once the Rugby Union becomes formalised,” says Jennifer. “The NZRU sets itself up in the 1890s codifying and creating layers of competition. Administration starts to build and most records start to model that officialdom. You stop getting the context of what’s happening around the game... you might almost think that women weren’t there.

“The 1981 Springbok Tour changed the tone of women’s engagement. It split families along gender lines and politicised rugby in a way that hadn’t been seen before. Women who didn’t necessarily identify with feminism were caught uncomfortably between their own beliefs and supporting their menfolk. The tour also overlapped with the peak of the women’s movement merging these two in the nation’s consciousness. From that point women were often regarded as oppositional to rugby, and moreover seen in direct opposition to rugby.

“One interesting finding is that while groups such as Women against Rugby were centre stage in the lead up to the Cavaliers’ Tour in 1985, we also see the surge of women as players in a formal sense. It’s amazing. It’s the flipside of feminism. Women’s rugby was growing significantly when men’s rugby was still struggling to come to terms with the post-tour fallout.

“I’m still unpacking the political dimensions of all of this, but I am also telling a story - for those who are interested in blaming women for the demise of rugby at different times and those adamant that rugby is solely a man’s game - it’s just not that straightforward.”

Megan Fowlie

For more on our upcoming Winter Lectures see: www.auckland.ac.nz/winter
Books

A Micronaut in the Wide World
Alumnus Gregory O’Brien (BA 1984) tells the story of fellow alumnus and expatriate artist, designer and illustrator Graham Percy (DipFinArtsHons 1960) who after studying at the Elam School of Fine Arts worked as a designer/illustrator for The School Journal. In 1964 Percy was offered a scholarship from the Royal College of Art and moved to London to study. There he worked as a graphic designer and freelance artist, eventually specialising in children’s book illustration. By the end of his career, Percy had over 100 books to his credit, including editions of The Wind in the Willows, The Arabian Nights and Aesop’s Fables. He died early in 2008 and now a major exhibition of his art, curated by Gregory O’Brien, is touring around New Zealand and will be at the University’s Gus Fisher Gallery from 7 May–July. A Micronaut in the Wide World: The imaginative life and times of Graham Percy is published by Auckland University Press.

The Commonplace Book
“I read this on a sandwich board outside a coffee shop. I stopped, pulled out my notebook, and leaned against a shop front. You’re nothing but a piece of crockery and a bit of blood. – Epictetus”
Alumna Elizabeth Smither (LittD 2004) has always kept her own collection of other people’s words: quotations, extracts, poems and pensées, the found and overheard. In The Commonplace Book: A Writer’s Journey Through Quotations, published by AUP, she shares these witty and wise quotations interspersed with incidents and memories from her own writing and life. Leaping from her garden to a favourite café, the library to a dinner party, Paris to Melbourne, racing through first drafts and plodding through proofs, she offers a sparkling glimpse into the influences and inspirations of a far-from-commonplace writer.

Hearts Hands Minds
This book by alumna Margaret Horshburgh BA 1978, DipEd 1983, MA(Hons) 1987) tells the story of nurses and their work in the cardio-thoracic surgical unit (CTSU) at Green Lane Hospital over 60 years until the unit transferred to Auckland Hospital in 2003. Published by Dunmore Press, it includes personal stories, recollections and photographs, together with commentary on societal changes, the development of the New Zealand health services and of the nursing profession from 1940–2000.

Swimming upstream
Nowadays New Zealand’s King Salmon is commonplace; it is found on every supermarket shelf and is an alternative option on most restaurant menus. This fish is a major export earner whose trade is worth in excess of $70 million a year and it provides jobs for hundreds of New Zealanders. It is, however, a relatively new industry based on a premium species of salmon – Chinook. These salmon are not indigenous but were brought here from the McCloud River in northern California at the beginning of the 20th Century. Just a few importations of ova were sufficient to establish “home runs” in many South Island rivers. In Swimming Upstream: How salmon farming developed in New Zealand, published by Wily Publications Ltd, alumna Jennifer Haworth (BA 1966, MA History 1968) tells the story of how innovative many of our early salmon farmers were as they overcame trials and problems to create a viable industry.

Daughter of Lachish
In Daughter of Lachish, published by Wipfandstock, alumnus Timotheus (Tim) Frank (BTheol 2003) draws on extensive scholarly research to bring to life the world of Ancient Judah. His book melds archaeology and biblical studies to tell a story of the people who first heard the words of the Psalms and Prophets. It is a story of one girl, her search for a place in the world, and her quest to make sense of loss and joy. Through her eyes we experience the daily tasks, the seasons of the agricultural year, the bonds that hold together a household and a village, and the tensions that threaten to tear them apart.

Noted

The Frame Function
From Owls do Cry to The Carpathians, the novels of Janet Frame have challenged our understanding of what fiction does. In The Frame Function, published by Auckland University Press, Jan Cronin, a senior lecturer in The University of Auckland’s Department of English traces the operation of a prescriptive authorial presence within the novels to offer an engaging “inside-out” guide to a great writer’s work.

Readers of Frame frequently sense the presence of some kind of puzzle to be solved in her books but can’t quite distil its parameters. The Frame Function takes as its starting point this capacity of Frame’s texts to lure the reader into looking for solutions while simultaneously deterring such behaviour. In crafting a portrait of Frame’s compositional processes, Cronin provides new insights into the underlying relationship between prescriptiveness and elusiveness in Frame’s work. The Frame Function is a guide for those who are intrigued, stimulated, sometimes baffled by Frame’s powerful novels.

If you have published a book recently, email the editor: ingenio@auckland.ac.nz
“Being assigned a client company, investigating a growth issue and presenting the findings back to the client and a panel of experts provides a fantastic opportunity for MBA students - it focuses the mind sharply on how the academic knowledge gained can be applied to great effect in business practice.”

“Amazing - I have learnt so much …… Understanding the internationalisation concept as opposed to just exporting. This is way outside my normal sphere of learning.”

“I now think about my organisation differently, and consciously improve my own behaviour to raise my own leadership and ethical performance.”

Real students voicing real comments about real courses in The University of Auckland MBA programme.

These real MBA students are working professionals with full-time managerial or executive roles in New Zealand enterprise. They study in two distinct clusters: a weeknight class with an average age of 34 and 12 years work experience and a weekend class with an average age of 41 and 18 years work experience. Their backgrounds encompass SME’s, service sector, manufacturing, technology, agriculture, government and not-for-profit. They bring an unparalleled wealth of experience, expertise and perspective to the classroom.

When these high-achievers arrive in the classroom, they come with high expectations. They expect to have their thinking challenged and to be exposed to new business skills. And they demand that the learning is not only at a high level of intellectual rigour but also relevant to their business environment. Thus real comments that the course “focuses the mind sharply”; that “I now think about my organisation differently”; and that “this is way outside my normal sphere of learning” is just that. Real world comments from a demanding and discerning audience.

Such comments stem from exposure to situations of complex and dynamic decision making within New Zealand organisations. Armed with the latest findings in management thinking, the students are assigned to New Zealand companies and tasked with emerging growth issues both domestically and on the ground in specified international markets (most recently Shanghai, Seoul and Kuala Lumpur). Over the past 3 years these MBA teams have completed projects for nearly 100 New Zealand enterprises ranging from start-ups to long-established international companies to major domestic entities. Many companies are now on their second and third projects reflecting their marketplace growth. And the international projects? Both the Seoul and the Kuala Lumpur visits had 7-figure sales outcomes for client companies.

Real students studying real relevance for real world outcomes raising leadership and ethical performance.

The NZ Executive MBA. Challenge Your Thinking, with Like-Minded People.

www.gse.auckland.ac.nz | 0800 61 62 65

The University of Auckland Business School
Resurrecting ceramics

Nowhere is the connection between art and science stronger than in the world of ceramics. Glaze chemistry and kiln technology are always being manipulated to achieve ever more miraculous artistic outcomes from the meeting of fire and clay.

Tellingly, renowned potters Len Castle and Chester Nealie both trained as science teachers, and their work is a highlight of the learning environment at The University of Auckland’s Epsom Campus. Castle and Nealie pots from the core of a small but significant ceramic collection which endures as testament to the literally ground-breaking work that took place at Epsom 60 years ago. Histories of studio pottery in New Zealand claim that it was experimentation with clays and glazes at Epsom that led to the foundation of the modern pottery movement.

Renowned potter Len Castle traces the beginning of his career to 1946 when he was a 22-year-old student at Auckland Teachers’ College. Working in clay was a minor element of the curriculum. Art lecturer Hilary Clark showed him how to kick a cranky wheel, centre the clay, and throw a pot. Enthused and encouraged, he enrolled in night classes with the Englishman Robert Nettleton Field at Avondale College to learn more. After becoming a lecturer in science at Epsom, he passed on his clay skills to a generation of would-be teachers, including science student Barry Brickell, who later reciprocated with kiln-building and firing instructions.

Believing that ceramic forms should not be overwhelmed by decoration or textured surfaces, Len Castle followed the Oriental example initially. He also scaled his pots for domestic use. Marks of making by finger, thumb and knuckle were allowed to become evident. There are over a dozen examples of his ceramics in the art collection at Epsom, including wine ewers, slab and oval form vases and stoneware dishes.

Teaching alongside Castle was Patricia Perrin (1921-1988), a bold and radically modern potter who had studied sculpture at Elam. One of her keenest students in the mid-fifties was Graeme Storm, who was then only 19 years old, but who would become Perrin’s successor in pottery teaching at the college. After becoming an art specialist for the Education Department, Storm travelled to England in 1959 returning to New Zealand and becoming a professional potter in 1964 when only 28 years old. His stoneware pots with their copper barium-based glazes in intense purples, blues and greens created a sensation at his first solo exhibition at New Vision, where Perrin also showed.

Len Castle had left teaching to become a fulltime potter in 1963, shortly before Arts Laureate John Parker arrived at Epsom to train as a teacher. Parker is the epitome of the tidy potter Castle identifies as belonging to a tradition opposed to his own. Receiving his teaching diploma in 1970, Parker first undertook postgraduate study at the Royal College of Art in London, before returning to New Zealand in 1977. He soon unleashed his Vortex Ware, thrown and turned to emulate industrial ware, as if each piece was a rediscovered relic from a forgotten Auckland commercial pottery factory. This tendency would reach its apogee in Parker’s White Ware, where ancestral bloodlines back to Keith Murray’s designs for Wedgwood via Crown Lynn legend, Ernie Shuffebotham, were evident.

By 1971, the groundswell of interest in ceramics had to be acknowledged, and Graeme Storm was able to establish the Pottery Department at Auckland Teachers’ College in that year. All three training colleges in the Auckland region offered classes in clay, with Ardmore Teachers’ College the most significant ceramic collection which endures as testament to the literally ground-breaking work that took place at Epsom 60 years ago. Histories of studio pottery in New Zealand claim that it was experimentation with clays and glazes at Epsom that led to the foundation of the modern pottery movement.

All these potters have gone on to international successes, but the teaching of ceramics itself has gone into decline, with only one tertiary institution offering degree courses in the subject. The last potter on the academic staff at Auckland College of Education was Penny Ericsson who taught part-time until 1991, but the facilities are all still there. Now that ceramics have found their way into contemporary art practice, notably in the work of Grayson Perry and Francis Upritchard, the Epsom wheels and kilns await rediscovery and reuse in the teaching of art and craft to a new generation.

Linda Tyler, Director of New Zealand Centre for Art Research and Discovery.
Free presentations, displays and lectures for your chance to explore postgraduate study options at New Zealand’s leading university*. 

Register now!
www.auckland.ac.nz/postgradweek

Monday – Postgraduate Pathways
Tuesday – Business and Economics, Education, Engineering, Law
Wednesday – Science, Arts, Medical and Health Sciences
Thursday – Education, National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries (NICAI)
Throughout the week – Lunchtime Lecture Seminars, Special Exhibitions, Concerts and Presentations

*See www.auckland.ac.nz/leadinguniversity