ANCHORED IN SINGAPORE
Alumna Christine Tan is one of Asia’s best known faces

A FINE VINTAGE
AUCKLAND’S CULTURAL CAPITAL
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From the Vice-Chancellor

Creating top students

The occasional protest and occupation notwithstanding, one of the great joys of working in a university is the opportunity to interact with wonderful students. And wonderful they indeed are – bright, committed to their studies and to the University, interested in the world around them, socially and environmentally aware and typically involved in a vast array of extracurricular activities. Few things give us more pleasure than the experience we had a few weeks ago at Spring Graduation of watching 2000 of our recent students come across the stage, in the presence of proud family and friends, to receive their well-earned degrees and diplomas.

Top students are vitally important to the success of any university. They are exciting to teach, more often go on to graduate school, and become successful alumni in later life, often retaining strong connections to their alma mater. With the highest entry standards in the country coupled with strong demand for the limited places we are able to offer, we seem assured of excellent students, and our early indications of interest for 2012 back that up. However, our position cannot be taken for granted and we must work hard to ensure that we maintain an environment that is accessible and attractive to all students of ability. This is particularly so as we see increasing numbers of top students crossing the Tasman for their first degree.

The University of Auckland has a well-deserved reputation for academic excellence, but is often not thought so much of as a fun place to be (though students who are actually here do see it very much in those terms). Much of our effort at present is therefore devoted to ensuring that we create an environment that is attractive to excellent students. One example is our investment of over $50 million in a new 442-bed hall of residence, University Hall, adjacent to the Elam site. Although it will not be completed until early 2012, it is already well oversubscribed. The provision of quality catered accommodation is very important in helping students make the sometimes challenging transition from home and secondary school to independent living and study. That transition is also assisted by a variety of mentoring and learning support programmes to help get new students away to a flying start academically.

To assist our students financially, we have continued to attract generous support from donors for a range of scholarships – the John Drake Memorial Scholarship, featured later in this issue, being one example. And that example connects to another major development, the creation of a “Campus Life” directorate whose role is to provide an outstanding extracurricular experience for our students (and staff). We are, as a result, seeing the advent of a whole new range of concerts, inter-faculty sports and other events. All of these integrate students into the life of the University, creating a lifelong allegiance to the faculty and the University, as well as helping to balance academic achievement with the fun of sport, recreation and an active social life.

There is no doubt that the great universities of the world enjoy very strong alumni support. It is also clear that the more stimulating, engaged and enjoyable the undergraduate experience, the more powerful is the future attachment and loyalty of alumni to their alma mater. Judging from the upsurge of campus life and activities I see occurring here on a daily basis, this University has a wealth of support in the making.

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

STUART McCUTCHEON
Happiness

I read Ross McDonald’s article on “Measuring National Happiness” (Autumn 2011 Ingenio, page 28) with some trepidation.

Ross makes the assertion that the Bhutanese Government’s concept of GNH is “far from being a flippant idealism” and uses the illustration of four friends, “an elephant, a monkey, a rabbit and a peacock...[standing] together to pick fruit from a large spreading tree...the scene is harmonious and happy.”

In fact, recent times in Bhutan have been anything but harmonious and happy with the Buddhist theocracy forcibly expelling tens of thousands of ethnic Nepali citizens, forcing them to leave their land and end up in refugee camps, mostly in Nepal. The Nepali government has lobbied the Bhutanese government for many years to see if the refugees can be repatriated, but to no avail. The Bhutanese Government has remained steadfast and unrepentant in the face of international pressure to respect the human rights of this significant Bhutanese minority group.

Ross’s assertions in the light of this historical reality crumble into nothing more than a “flippant idealism”, to use his own words.

And to answer his question – “would you rather your children be in a GNP world or a GNH world”? - I would rather my children live in a country where GNP is understood for what it is, simply economic growth, and the Golden Rule is enshrined in both our legislation and personal lives.

David Senn BE(Mech) 1992

Declaration of interest: David was an engineer working with Nepalese farmers in the then Kingdom of Nepal from 1999 to 2003. He employed several Bhutanese refugees on construction projects.

University Fellowship for Society president

Associate Judge David Abbott, a prominent alumnus of the Auckland Law School and President of The University of Auckland Society, has been made a Fellow of the University.

English Channel swimmer

Alumna Nina Hall (BA(Hons) 2007, MA 2009) was part of a six-women, Rhodes Scholars, relay team that has just swum the English Channel raising funds for the Pakistan Acid Survivors Foundation.

Nina, who is on a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University studying for a DPhil in International Relations, was the second swimmer and on the “sunrise shift” for the 35-kilometre swim. “I dived in the water just before 7am,” she says, “and was able to watch the sun come up as I swam. It was really exciting knowing that every stroke took us closer to France.”

She and her fellow team-mates began planning the swim from Dover to Calais at Easter. “We swim every week in the pool at least three to four times then swim outdoors in lakes near Oxford and the sea. I spent a week up in Wales swimming in a lake fed by Mt Snowdon which was freezing and so perfect training.”

So far they have raised almost £10,000 for victims of acid violence – a brutal form of domestic violence. Says Nina: “It costs between £500 and £700 for full care and surgery for someone affected by severe acid burns.”

Support Nina’s swim at: www.justgiving.com/Nina-Hall

The honour of a fellowship recognises his “unique and valuable contribution to the University.”

Associate Judge Abbott has been a longstanding member of the Society which grew out of the original Alumni Association formed to provide advocacy and support for the University and its alumni. He was elected its President in 2003.

Under his stewardship, the Society has financially supported many causes and Associate Judge Abbott has actively encouraged Society members to support the University on legislative issues, notably the Education Amendment Bill in 2008. As well as donating huge amounts of time to the Society, he has contributed financially to the Faculty of Law. He gained an LLB (Hons) from Auckland in 1970 and was admitted to the Bar in 1971. In 2005 he was appointed an Associate Judge of the High Court at Auckland.
Planning urban living

Despite our rural economy, about 85 percent of New Zealanders live in cities and towns. Indeed, as of 2009, for the first time in human history over half the world’s population lives in cities. Sustainability is increasingly being shaped by urbanisation. This global movement from the rural to the urban environment underpins the School of Architecture and Planning’s suite of postgraduate programmes focused on urban planning and design.

The School recognises the need to provide planning graduates with strategic knowledge and skills in order to confront the increasingly challenging urban context.

The School offers a range of well-respected masters and doctoral programmes focusing on the urban environment - from rebuilding cities struck by natural disasters to addressing issues of international urban sustainability, diverse urban populations and regional development. Our postgraduates acquire a range of urban design and planning skills essential for accredited professional careers.

The University of Auckland is uniquely placed in its ability to offer a forward-looking, innovative curriculum that draws on the School’s disciplinary strengths: planning, urban design and architecture. With a strong emphasis on international exchanges and collaborations, our postgraduate programmes in urban design and urban planning can be the key to a dynamic urban-centred career in New Zealand or abroad.

For more information visit: www.creative.auckland.ac.nz

Architecture and women

What happens to New Zealand’s women architects after they graduate? This is the central question behind a new website, Architecture + Women www.architecturewomen.org.nz. Co-founded by University of Auckland architecture alumna Sarah Treadwell, who heads the School of Architecture and Planning, the website wants to capture the who, when, where, and how of this country’s women architecture graduates. The information will become part of a Architecture + Women exhibition in 2013, a show that will mark the 80th anniversary of NZ’s first female architect graduate, and 120 years of this country’s suffrage movement.

Our top teachers

University of Auckland staff scooped four of the 12 National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards for 2011 with Professor Mike Walker (Science) also named the Prime Minister’s Supreme Awardee.

Mike (far right) who teaches in the School of Biological Sciences, won a sustained excellence in teaching award in the Kaupapa Māori category. Dr Ross McDonald (Business and Economics), Professor Robin Kearns, (Science) and Rena Heap (Education), were all winners in the general category.

University staff have won awards every year since their inception in 2002 and this is the second time a staff member has won the Supreme Award. Mike Walker is renowned as an outstanding teacher, researcher and quiet champion of equity initiatives.

Plan for Tomorrow

The School of Architecture and Planning offers ten postgraduate programmes in Architecture, Planning and Urban Design. Extend your expertise and develop your practice.

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Asian anchor down under

Among the media that flew into New Zealand for the Rugby World Cup was alumna Christine Tan. Nicholas Reid caught up with her while she was in town.

Down at The Cloud on Auckland’s Queen’s Wharf it is a cold, windy, September afternoon but that doesn’t deter the immaculately-dressed Christine Tan, fresh from the tropical heat of Singapore.

“I’m back in a city I love,” she says without hesitation. Her excitement is palpable. A financial journalist, she is in Auckland with her cameraman and producer to interview leading names in New Zealand business for Singapore-based CNBC’s Managing Asia television programme. While here, she’s soaking up Rugby World Cup fever – she’s a fervent All Black supporter – and is rediscovering some of her old haunts from four years studying at The University of Auckland. In fact one of the Chinese Singaporean’s first ports of call after a day of back-to-back interviews will be Portofino’s on Ponsonby Road for “some great pasta”.

“I had an AMAZING four years here,” Christine says of her time studying at the University, doing first a BA in Sociology and English literature (1991), and then an MA in Sociology (1994).

“Great diversity of teachers and great teachers. Great mentors. I was always engaged with people. Sociology is all about people and so is my job today. I stumbled into journalism almost by accident. There was no planning involved. I just wanted to get a degree, go back home and get a job. I’ve always gone with the flow. Maybe that’s what New Zealand taught me – to go with the flow.”

Before she’d even finished her degree, Christine was offered a job with the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation. She hasn’t looked back since. She now anchors and presents the weekly Managing Asia show, CNBC Asia’s longest-running feature. Together with presenters in Europe and the United States, she also co-hosts the daily Worldwide Exchange. Every week, CNBC is distributed to more than 70 million households across Asia and to over 390 million households worldwide.

Christine’s reports and interviews are a regular source of information for business communities across South-East Asia. In the last ten years she’s travelled to Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, New Zealand. “We travel across the board, but increasingly we go a lot to Hong Kong and China. In many ways China has become the focal point in many of my interviews. Many companies are finding ways to crack the China market.”

Christine is very clear about the difference between the two shows she anchors. The daily Worldwide Exchange is a data-driven business news show. “It’s about the information that’s just come up on markets,” she says. “It aims to give viewers instant data for them to make investment decisions immediately.”

By contrast the weekly Managing Asia, in which Christine interviews leading CEOs, is more about personal insight. “CEOs like to watch other CEOs to find out how they’re running their businesses.”

She describes Managing Asia as “sitting down with a CEO, asking him questions and getting insights on how he manages his company and his strategy on how to compete and conquer markets. We try not to interview CEOs of companies that are struggling or on the verge of bankruptcy. We study their history. We choose companies that have really made
a mark and are well-respected. They’ve turned themselves around, made a difference, or come up with a niche product that’s taken the world by storm. We like those sorts of stories.”

At the same time, Christine does ask CEOs the hard questions, especially about their mistakes and misjudgments as they built up their businesses. “I’m not there to have them squirming in their seats. I’m not attempting to crucify them. But I am seeking honest answers. Does he sleep well at night because he’s worried about oil prices? - that kind of thing.”

You do not have to be in Christine Tan’s company for long to notice her professionalism and dedication to her work. She always studies carefully thick dossiers of pre-interview research that are compiled for her. She formulates her questions, sometimes sitting up all night to get them just right.

“You don’t have to be in Christine Tan’s company for long to notice her professionalism and dedication to her work. She always studies carefully thick dossiers of pre-interview research that are compiled for her. She formulates her questions, sometimes sitting up all night to get them just right. “My CEOs are CEOs who have very little time. I don’t want to have them looking at me and thinking that I don’t know their company. When I sit in that chair and the camera rolls I know this CEO thoroughly. I know how many children he’s got, how old he is, where he’s been to, who he works with. I know more or less what he is going to say. If I do my work the CEO is more willing to talk to me because he knows he is not wasting his time.”

Asked if viewers have ever assumed they can approach her personally for financial advice, she replies: “I don’t give advice. The policy of CNBC is that nobody in the newsroom is allowed to give advice. Our job is to be facilitators in business information, but not consultants.” In an age when there are so many media platforms of high-speed information, she sees a big part of her work as “trying to make sense of all the clutter that’s coming in”. She does, however, offer the opinion that the Asian financial crisis of a few years back taught Asian entrepreneurs caution about accruing unsustainable debt.

She praises innovation in New Zealand industry, seeing New Zealand entrepreneurs as highly innovative even if sometimes “slow in trying to penetrate new markets.”

“Having said that, I’m told the education systems have improved a lot since then. But certainly, there’s an openness here, to accept differences. That has always been part of what I love about New Zealand. A lot of teachers taught me how to analyse things, to see the world as it really is and to ask ‘What if?’ and ‘Why not?’ I don’t think that’s something I would have got if I had studied in Singapore.”

In the past, she has criticised interviewees who have been groomed wrongly by their public relations handlers. “I’m not trying to knock PR. Their job is to train their CEOs. That’s a given. Some are so well-trained that when they sit in the chair they know how to roll with the punches, they know what topics to follow, they know the length of the interview, how to be themselves and just tell it like it is. What I don’t like are interviewees who are trained to give the corporate spiel and see the interview as a way to promote their companies in language you can find in corporate brochures. That simply means I have to put in more effort in digging the answers out.”

This is the second time her show has come to New Zealand. Four years ago they did a series on New Zealand CEOs and companies of their choice, including Weta (“we got an inside view even though some doors were shut”), Fisher & Paykel, Fonterra and Tony Hambrock of Alloy Yachts.

She praises innovation in New Zealand industry, seeing New Zealand entrepreneurs as highly innovative even if sometimes “slow in trying to penetrate new markets”.

Sounds a little like a young student from Singapore adjusting to life in New Zealand? It was “an adjustment,” she says, “in a good way”. “Singapore is very rigid. It’s not as flexible as New Zealand. My time at the University gave me a lot of room to explore, find myself, find my own interests. I learnt here that if I went to a Sociology tutorial I could give an answer that would be accepted and discussed. But in Singapore if I gave an answer, I would probably be told it was not the right answer. I found that in Singapore, things were very black and white in those days.

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Ben Preston (BA/BCom 1995) and Mark Todd (BSc 1994) have known each other since childhood. They grew up in the 1970s in Mt Wellington and went to the same primary school before their paths diverged. Ben went on to De La Salle College and Mark to Penrose High. They met up again in mathematics lectures at The University of Auckland. Neither had a particular career ambition, but they knew what they didn’t want to do.

Mark was not interested in practical subjects when he was younger; he loved learning for its own sake. “It’s why I started studying mathematics. I don’t think I had a particular talent for it that would’ve taken me to the next level and postgraduate study, but I just love maths. I love abstract thought in general, which is why I liked philosophy as well. These are basic tools of critical thought.”

He left University with a BSc in mathematics and has since completed a second major in philosophy part time.

Ben, the eldest of six children, had gone directly from school to work in an accounting firm. Student fees had just been introduced and he could only afford to attend university part time. The job had one advantage: he discovered he didn’t want to be an accountant. “I think I took quite a hard line, just doing as many papers as I could that advanced my knowledge, that was the big thing, and not worrying too much whether it would result in a job. Of my 21 Arts papers, 18 were mathematics papers; I wasn’t allowed to take any more. I read pure maths, finance and economic history.”

They both graduated into the depressed economy of the mid-1990s. Of the hundred-odd commerce students graduating in 1995, Ben remembers being one of only a handful going straight into a job. He had won a scholarship sponsored by the investment bank, Barclays de Zoete Wedd, despite a somewhat unusual interview. “I remember the guy asked me to expound on the virtues of the privatisation of health, and I just let him have it.” He laughs. “I walked out thinking, ‘Well, that’s $5000 I’ll never see, but at least my dignity’s intact.’” To his amazement, they called him back. He had been the only commerce student they had seen who had read the paper, or who had an opinion. At the end of his degree he worked for them for a year before deciding to move to Australia.

Mark was also offered a job on graduating – at a meteorology school in Wellington – but decided not to take it. Instead his summer holidays extended to Australia, travelling coast to coast, and then on to Indonesia.

Back in New Zealand he did odd jobs for a couple of years, painting and decoration before joining forces with his brother, a boat builder by trade, doing renovations and property building contracts. “And then one day we were sitting at smoko on this terrible job in this dusty old room we were renovating and I said, ‘This is ridiculous!’ so I rang up four banks, three of them said ‘no’ and one said they’d lend us the money and we did our first development – a couple of townhouses in Mt Wellington, not many blocks from where we were born. I think we made $17 an hour all up.” But it was a beginning and over the
next ten years the brothers constructed an $8 million portfolio of long-term residential properties.

In Sydney, Ben had joined Macquarie Bank and went on to work for them in Johannesburg, London and most recently Houston where he currently heads Macquarie’s Credit Analytics team. Along the way, in the course of his work, he has become what he himself calls a bit of a weather nerd. “I think if you’ve got a nice house with a 20-foot pole on top with an anemometer then the term applies.” He is in good company: some of the leading scientists and thinkers of the last 200 years have had meteorology among their long list of skills and interests.

In 2009 Mark and Ben, who’d remained in contact, established Ockham, a residential development and investment business.

Soon after they also set up a charitable trust, The Ockham Foundation, dedicated to supporting scientific education and rational thought. Both strong believers in this, they wanted to find ways to encourage people to embrace science more and, as they put it, to bring science out of the closet. “The whole modern world and everyone’s lifestyle are underpinned by amazing scientific knowledge,” says Mark, “and yet the majority of people don’t remotely appreciate the intimate role science is playing in their lives.”

They decided they needed to create wealth to put towards their goal. “Both of us wanted to do something rather than just talk about it,” adds Ben. “I suppose the model in mind was to create something like Dilworth [School],” Ben explains, “although we are starting 200 years too late so we cannot buy property at ten cents an acre, or however much it was worth. But you’ve got to start somewhere.” The year 2008 provided them with that opportunity – property and

global financial markets that had just been “walloped”. They invested with a long-term view, to build property and hold on to it, to ultimately create an endowment.

Mark calls it “a very traditional approach to property. It also gives me a bit more motivation, to build a company and do something positive with it.”

It has been a productive two years with three projects completed: ten new townhouses in Onehunga, a 25-unit apartment in Kingsland opposite Eden Park stadium, and 12 new townhouses in their old home suburb. They already have the land for their next project, a block of 80 apartments in Grey Lynn called The Turing Buildings.

This year Ben and Mark felt ready to take the first step in their goal of supporting science in education. Ben is the initial donor, giving US$225,000 to establish The Ockham Foundation Senior Lectureship in Climate Risk Management at The University of Auckland. The incumbent’s initial task will be to develop an honours programme that will equip students with an in-depth understanding of how weather and climate information is generated over a range of time scales. The objective is to design an operational meteorological course that really targets mathematics and physics majors and gives them a route to a fulfilling career that is very cross-disciplinary – it stretches across everything in the modern world, from super-computing to farming. The postgraduate programme is a study of atmospheric science, the management of risk from a scientific viewpoint, and its applications in commerce and industry. For those who automatically presume it is aimed at assessing global warming, it is not, although they point out that a better understanding of the atmosphere can only help our understanding of climate change.

The concept of contributing is central to the Ockham Foundation and is a philosophy they both believe in. “I take the view that life is very long and these are things that you can do, and we can enjoy while we are young,” Ben says. “We can choose to contribute now because we can.”

“I’m not interested in working this hard just to make more money,” Mark adds. “I’m not really motivated that way. What does motivate me is what’s wrong with the world. But you can only complain so much and then at a certain point you have to do something. This is like action. And that’s one thing that I’ve always felt, even when I didn’t know what I was going to do, that I would contribute to society eventually.”

Professor Grant Guilford, Dean of Science, is warm in his appreciation of the Ockham gift and its potential. “Ben and Mark are an inspiring team. As two dynamic and entrepreneurial individuals with a strong commitment to open-mindedness and objectivity and a deep understanding of the importance of contributing to their community, they epitomise exactly the type of leader we set out to develop at the University. “Imagine what a country we could be if the leadership values of Mark and Ben were to replace the all-too-common ‘I’m owed a living’ attitude of others. We are very grateful for their support of the faculty and their interest in climate risk management.”

www.ockham.co.nz/of/
A rare bookman

The inimitable Iain Sharp is one of New Zealand’s top book reviewers, writers and an entertaining raconteur to boot. He spins a yarn (or two) with Nicholas Reid.

“...I do recall beginning an interview with the historian Jamie Belich by apologising for a review where I’d suggested that James Cowan’s ‘boy’s own’ version of the New Zealand Wars was a better read than his own meticulously-researched history.”

A lumnus Iain Sharp laughs. Traces of a Scots accent in his voice have led to a question about how long exactly he has been in New Zealand. He explains that he came to New Zealand in 1961, at the age of seven, and has lived here ever since. His last visit to his native Glasgow was over 30 years ago. “I’m a New Zealander, and more specifically an Aucklander” he says, although he does concede that he “can’t help being more interested in Scotland than in Skaraborg or Scottsdale, Arizona.”

Known as a high-profile literary journalist and interviewer, Iain has had a varied writing and editing career. He currently edits the book pages of Metro magazine. For over ten years he compiled the book pages of the Sunday Star-Times and he was deputy editor of the short-lived New Zealand Outlook. Before that he edited fiction for the literary journal Landfall, and he has frequently contributed to more specialised publications.

Respected as a poet and a live reader of his own poetry, he has had five collections published, one in collaboration with his partner Joy MacKenzie. But he is very modest about his poetry. He declares “months can pass without my thinking about poetry at all. Then there are days when I can’t think of anything else. Nowadays I’m far more often a poetry reader than I am a writer or performer.”

Typically, he tells a self-deprecating story about once being mistakenly publicised as a stand-up comic rather than as a poet. He died the death in front of a raucous audience who were expecting mother-in-law jokes. This, he says, is the memory that now saves him from stage fright. He reflects that nothing could be worse than that particular humiliating performance “and so far, nothing has been”.

It has also helped him in his frequent appearances as MC at literary awards ceremonies, and moderator of discussions at literary festivals. “It was through poetry readings at Auckland’s Globe Hotel in the 1980s that I gradually overcame my early fear of public speaking. Nowadays I find it easier to talk to crowded rooms than one-to-one to somebody I’ve not met before.”

Apart from the poetry, the journalism and the public appearances, Iain works for much of every week as a librarian in the Auckland Central City Library’s Special Collections. This is the repository of rare and valuable books and manuscripts that used to be called the Rare Books Room. It is much consulted by researchers.

After qualifying as a librarian, Iain left the profession for a while to pursue literary interests. When he returned, he says, “I had to re-train because I was completely ignorant about the computerised systems that had taken over the library world during my absence.” He’s comfortable with those systems now and confirmed in his love of old and rare books.

Both the literary career and the librarianship were heavily influenced by his studies at The University of Auckland, where he graduated BA in 1974, MA with
first class honours in 1975 and completed his PhD in 1985. He majored throughout in English literature. His doctorate, leading directly into the love of old books, was a critical modern-spelling edition of a Jacobean play, Middleton and Rowley’s *Wit at Several Weapons*. His supervisor was the formidable bibliographer and expert in early British drama Mac Jackson. “I remember him fondly for his generosity, kindness and terrific sense of humour, as well as his exemplary scholarship”, says Iain. But he also recalls an English Department filled with astute critics, many of whom were literary figures in their own right. They included Sydney Musgrove, Allen Curnow, M K Joseph, J C Reid, C K Stead, Kendrick Smithyman and others. “As well as studying New Zealand literature, I got to know it personally,” he says.

Nor can he help noting that some of his most memorable student experiences were in areas that he did not pursue as a career. He recalls the Mathematics lecturer Chris King as having “a delightfully warm and enthusiastic personality as a teacher” in the few papers of Maths that Iain undertook. And he nominates as his favourite lecturer “the peerlessly polished philosopher Gavin Ardisley, a dapper little man who taught the tricky thought of Aristotle and Kant with wonderful lucidity”.

When he speaks of his major books, Iain is as modest as he is about his poetry. *Real Gold*, published in 2007, is a handsome catalogue, with commentary, of some of the Auckland Central City Library’s treasures. Iain remarks: “There’s such wonderful stuff in Special Collections that people had been itching to do a full-colour book on the subject since the library opened in 1887. It was largely through the fund-raising brilliance of my old friend Theresa Graham, who was the library’s heritage floor manager at the time, that the project finally got off the ground.”

For his book *Heaphy*, he gives much credit to Sam Elworthy, director of Auckland University Press, who enthusiastically supported the project. Sharp’s interest in the nineteenth century artist, explorer and adventurer Charles Heaphy was piqued partly by the art and the discovery that Heaphy seemed to have known so many significant nineteenth century figures; but mainly by the fact that nobody before had written a full account of Heaphy’s explorations. Heaphy was a critical success and a finalist in the 2009 NZ Post Book Awards.

Currently, Iain Sharp is working with Chris Saines, the director of Auckland Art Gallery, on a book about the gallery’s new building, its architecture and history.

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“...on that occasion I had the chance to enter briefly into Crump’s extraordinary world, with angora goats jumping through the windows of his riverside shack and so forth.”

Iain can remember dire and uncommunicative interviews with the novelists Ian McEwan and David Guterson, and an excruciating occasion when the Canadian satirist Mordecai Richler walked out on an interview well before it was over. But it’s more in his nature to recall fondly the half day he spent with Barry Crump in Opatiki in 1987, finding the blokey yarn-spinner in a good talkative mood throughout. “Usually I just get to meet authors in cafes or hotel lobbies”, he says, “but on that occasion I had the chance to enter briefly into Crump’s extraordinary world, with angora goats jumping through the windows of his riverside shack and so forth.”

It’s more in Iain Sharp’s nature to list his favourite New Zealand authors (Bill Manhire, Fiona Farrell, Martin Edmond and the historian Russell Stone) than to dwell on the downside of interviewing others. His positive, professional approach to his work is what has kept him so much in demand as speaker, writer, editor, interviewer, and of course, rare books librarian.
Set the direction.

At JBWere, we give you access to the best minds in the business.

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The blood running through the veins of twenty-first century commerce increasingly consists of information about individuals. This personal information is expanding at an exponential rate and is the very lifeblood for companies such as Google and social networking giant Facebook. Many of these companies are based outside New Zealand and individuals here and globally are making use of the “cloud” for their information processing needs. However, these trends present a challenge to privacy laws and regulators worldwide as they struggle to keep abreast of rapid technological and social changes in how personal information is managed.

New Zealand’s 1993 Privacy Act is written in technology-neutral terms, is principle-based and has thus far stood up relatively well to these challenges. Indeed, earlier this year an independent panel of European experts recommended that this country’s laws be certified as providing an “adequate” level of protection for personal information, thereby enabling information relating to European Union citizens to be exported to New Zealand – a not inconsiderable achievement given the importance of outsourcing and service-based businesses to our economy.

On the other hand, development of “Web 2.0” has meant that previously vertical relationships in the collection and processing of personal information have been to a large extent replaced by horizontal ones where individuals process one another’s information. In addition, many businesses have become complacent as to their level of compliance with the Privacy Act and related laws such as those prohibiting spam (unsolicited electronic mail). There is a need for complete transparency as to how information is to be used and who it is to be shared with (for instance in the wording of privacy policies on websites).

The recently completed review of the Privacy Act by the Law Commission is therefore timely. The Commission’s final report makes several recommendations. Amongst the most significant is the heralded shift in the way the Privacy Act is enforced. Currently, this is largely complaints-driven with individuals able to lay complaints with the Privacy Commissioner and on to a specialist tribunal which has significant powers including the power to award monetary compensation. This is to be retained but, in future, be supplemented by the ability of the Commissioner to serve compliance notices on organisations, with fines to back them up should compliance not be forthcoming. This will be especially useful where systemic failures are evident in an organisation (such as when Google last year used information gathered from individuals’ Gmail accounts to create its new Buzz application).

Another recommendation relates to the ability of individuals to access their files, whether these are held by the Government or by commercial enterprises. The Privacy Act gives individuals the right to access these although statistics show that failure to give individuals their information constitutes the single largest source of complaint to the Commissioner and to the Tribunal. To simplify procedures in future the Commissioner will have the power to make binding determinations which organisations would have to abide by (with the right to appeal to the Tribunal thereby shifting the burden from the individual onto the organisation withholding the file).

Two other recommendations are of interest. First, the exception that currently exists for individuals collecting personal information for their “personal, family and household purposes” will be removed where the information is offensive to a person of ordinary sensibilities. This will close a loophole which currently permits individuals to post, say, naked photographs of their former partner on a social network. Secondly, the Commissioner is to be given the ability to conduct privacy audits of organisations. Whilst this may be a burden for some companies it also provides an opportunity for business graduates (especially auditors) and a reason to be well-acquainted with the requirements of the Privacy Act.

Senior Lecturer Gehan Gunasekara researches and teaches information privacy law at The University of Auckland Business School and was a member of the academic reference committee for the Review of Privacy by the Law Commission.
On a cold, dark evening at the University last winter esteemed New Zealand winemaker Kim Goldwater was obviously moved as he stood before a small gathering of staff, extended Goldwater family and friends. He and his wife Jeanette had just signed a deal that would see their iconic Waiheke vineyard and winemaking operation become a new centre for the University’s Wine Science programme, enabling students and researchers to be immersed in a commercial winemaking environment.

“The University of Auckland is on the cusp of creating one of the greatest schools of wine teaching in the world,” Kim told the gathering.

“All you have to do now is support your company by buying ‘Goldie’ wines and in doing so you’ll ensure future students have a working winery to study in.”

Ironically the event was held in the office of External Relations on Princes Street – home of Auckland’s first Jewish Synagogue and where, 61 years ago, Kim made his first speech at his Bar Mitzvah. “I have a lot of memories of this lovely building,” he said adding wryly, “most of them not good”.

When Kim was a young Engineering student at the University in the late 1950s he probably had no inkling that one day he and Jeanette would be at the forefront of New Zealand’s burgeoning wine industry.

After graduating from the University with a BE in Civil Engineering in 1961, Kim worked briefly in the Structural Design Department of Auckland City Council and then weighed anchor and left New Zealand with Jeanette and one young child (one was born a year later in London and one, two years later in Madrid) “in search of fame and fortune … and,” he jokes, “found neither”.

Through a fellow University graduate he got a job with Harris & Sutherland, an engineering consultancy in Victoria Street, London who were world authorities on pre-stressed concrete design and construction. After three years there Kim upped sticks again and moved his growing family to Spain where he spent two years working as a civil engineer designing bridges for Spain’s first motorway system from Burgos to Santander.

It was in Spain that Kim and Jeanette began drinking wine on a daily basis as they soaked up the Spanish lifestyle. “The Spanish cannot eat without bread in one hand and wine in the other. Wine was as much a part of the meal as the meat and potatoes.”

After several years back in New Zealand initially working for Sir Ron Carter and later the Auckland Harbour Board as resident engineer for the construction of a new wharf and designing the structure for the Fergusson container wharf, Kim gave up engineering to pursue a long-held passion for advertising photography. He set up a studio at Brown’s Mill where renowned photographer Robin Morrison later joined him.

At the same time, keen to continue their Spanish lifestyle in New Zealand, Kim and Jeanette tried to persuade local vintners to produce European-style table wines.

“No one was very interested so we decided we’d try and make our own,” remembers Kim. “I knew New Zealand lay geographically in the same latitudes as all of the wine-growing regions of the Northern Hemisphere so there was no reason why we couldn’t grow good wine here. And I had a hunch that Waiheke Island would be a good place because I’d sailed around there so much. Often it’d be raining in Auckland and fine on the island. The Weather Office had quite good temperature and rainfall records and from those I deduced that the island’s summer rainfall was a lot less than Auckland’s and temperatures were higher.”

The couple bought a gently sloping seaside property in Putiki Bay and began sailing back and forth at weekends on their 32-foot Townsend sloop to prepare the soil and plant the first two acres of grapes.

“We jumped in the water and swam like
crazy,” remembers Jeanette of those early days.

No one else had tried to grow European wine grapes on the island at the time and all they had to go on initially was California writer A.J. Winker’s book General Viticulture and Kim’s meticulous research methodology. This included plotting heat summation curves to determine how well his grapes would ripen compared with those in Bordeaux.

In 1982 family and friends helped harvest the first Goldwater Cabernet Sauvignon from which they made two 300-litre puncheons of wine. The next year Kim and Jeanette moved to the Island and Kim became a fulltime vintner using his scientific training and understanding of organic chemistry to help with his winemaking. In 1985 Goldwater Estate branding started and Merlot was introduced to the Cabernet Sauvignon blend.

The rest is history. Goldwater wine has since been sold in 26 countries around the world, won dozens of medals and the Bordeaux-style 2004 Goldie Cabernet Merlot would be the perfect size for their wine science programme.

“Our hope is that this will become the premium wine education facility in the whole of the Southern Hemisphere.”

“This is an unprecedented and extremely generous donation that will benefit both the University and the wine industry,” says Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon.

“We believe that winemakers will benefit from the supply of high quality graduates as well as the University’s ongoing research on everything from native wine yeasts to the aroma profiles of New Zealand wines.”

The University has acquired the Goldwater property, partly through a commercial transaction, and partly through the $4 million philanthropic gift. The total land area being transferred is 13.9 hectares. This includes winery buildings, a café and function room, two residences and seven hectares of vine in Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Syrah, Chardonnay and Viognier. These are bottled in the premium Goldie, and more.

“Our hope is that this will become the premium wine education facility in the whole of the Southern Hemisphere.”

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The rest is history. Goldwater wine has since been sold in 26 countries around the world, won dozens of medals and the Bordeaux-style 2004 Goldie Cabernet Merlot studied (and taught) here, with the fourth generation now in his first year at the Faculty of Engineering – were looking to the future. Having retained their original Waiheke Vineyard, and with the University in mind, their daughter Gretchen and her husband Ken Christie set up a small commercial wine company called Goldie Wines.

“We wanted to preserve the vineyard’s history and do something that would work for the local community,” says Kim. “We thought about the University and felt the vineyard
accessibly-priced, Island brands, producing a total of about 2000 to 3000 cases per year. The vineyard and winery will operate two parallel streams. An established team will continue to produce wines commercially under the “Goldie” and “Island” brands while Wine Science students will keep producing their own wines for teaching purposes under the University’s Ingenio label. Students will also work as interns in the commercial operation, and have access to the fruit and data for research.

“The new arrangement means that we will be hardwired into the industry and able to fine-tune our teaching to what the industry needs,” explains Wine Science Director, Randy Weaver.

“Teaching for the first half of our year-long diploma in wine science will be onsite at the Waiheke estate and students will continue to work there several days a week for the remainder of their studies. They will be exposed to everything from vineyard and winemaking operations to interacting with the public in the tasting room.

“We are expanding the curriculum for the course and anticipate that the number of students will double to around 30. The scale of the estate is perfect for teaching purposes and its proximity to the city, the historic value of the winery and the natural beauty of the site all will be major drawcards for local and international students.”

For Kim Goldwater, the overall quality of New Zealand wine is now better than anywhere else in the world, “and that’s because our winemakers are properly trained,” he says.

“That’s why it’s my quiet dream that this vineyard becomes an important centre for wine education and research.”

Ask him what needs researching and he’s quick to reply: “Rootstock development to meet specific New Zealand situations. Because of our relatively high rainfall our vineyards are generally too vigorous. A devigorating rootstock which delivers late budburst and early ripening would be a definite advantage.”

But there’s no chance he’ll be back hands-on in the vineyard. He has nearly completed his memoir and has a couple of novels waiting in the wings. “I’ve got a list of the things the length of my arm that I want to do.

“Now we can feel happy that the estate we’ve created is going to be looked after by the University, and we can move on to do other things.”

www.goldiewines.co.nz

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The science of food

Do you understand the science behind your cooking? What makes the browning reaction happen for instance and what’s going on when a steak turns out as tough as old boots?”

These were some of many questions answered when materials engineer Dr Bryony James, an expert in food microstructure, and top Auckland chefs Simon Gault and Carl Maunder got together for the 2011 Vice-Chancellor’s Lectures.

With a diverse range of speakers and lectures debunking popular myths about food and health, it’s not surprising that every ticket for the 2011 series was snapped up. The lectures, held from July to August, were filmed and are available at www.foodandhealth.auckland.ac.nz

“The series tackled some of the common myths and misconceptions about the links between food and health, and provided the latest information and insights from scientists, public health specialists, chefs, and an engineer,” says Kathryn Murray, Manager of the University’s Food and Health Programme, which organised the series. “The lectures dealt with everything from obesity to the dietary role of carbohydrates, and the links between nutrition in the womb and lifelong health.

“People know that good food and good health are integrally linked, but so much of the information in the public domain is flawed or misleading. These free lectures were an opportunity to begin addressing the problem, and their popularity shows that there is a real need for good information and advice.”

“At the carbohydrates lecture for instance, it was clear from the audience questions that people had a thirst for knowledge.” Questions ranged from whether carbohydrates really are addictive, to how to gain weight, and whether there are differences between common sources of dietary fibre. Professor Lynn Ferguson, Head of Nutrition, who had earlier explained the health effects of popular diets that restrict carbohydrate intake, offered expert advice or referred people to appropriate sources of information.

A real crowd-pleaser was a demonstration of the science that’s making its mark in top kitchens around the world by Simon Gault, owner of Euro, one of Auckland’s top restaurants, and his head chef Carl Maunder. The chefs prepared a fine dining menu in the lecture theatre, with scientific commentary by Bryony James. Audience members were invited to try the food, and “the expressions on their faces showed how good it was”, says Kathryn. “They even snuck behind the chef’s backs to get more.

“One of the exciting parts about the lecture was finding out not only about cutting-edge developments but what’s going on when I cook.”

The series began with a lecture on obesity – recognised as one of the most serious public health issues of our time – by Professor Mike Gibney from University College Dublin. A past president of The Nutrition Society (UK), Professor Gibney explained that solutions to the obesity epidemic must be highly-integrated, involving major social changes that will be complex and long-term.

It ended with a talk by Professor Sir Peter Gluckman from the Liggins Institute, also the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Adviser. He spoke about the effect of nutrition in early life on long-term health, and how health policy should better take this knowledge into account to help reduce the number of people developing obesity or a chronic illness in later life.

“Overall, the lecture series was an excellent opportunity to share the knowledge of the Food and Health Programme with the wider public,” Kathryn says. The programme, established in 2010, brings together more than 150 top researchers from across the university with expertise ranging from food science and process engineering to nutrition, health and business. It aims to improve people’s health, work with New Zealand companies to help enhance innovation and growth in the food and beverage industry, undertake fundamental research, and provide highly-trained graduates to the sector.

www.foodandhealth.auckland.ac.nz

Pauline Curtis
The ugly side of female friendships

New research shows that “friendship bullying” is rife among female high school students. Vaneesa Bellew investigates.

“You expect it to come from girls on the opposite side of the peer group perhaps, or at the hard edge but you don’t think your friends will bully you,” says Dr Ro Lange.

Ro, who is a school counsellor at an Auckland High School, has completed a doctoral thesis with the Faculty of Education, which has uncovered some startling facts about “friendship bullying”.

She has discovered teenage girls are just as likely to be bullied by their friends as they are by their so-called enemies. Part of the reason why the bullying happens, Ro believes, is due to developmental changes.

According to Ro’s research, bullying is common among friendship groups. Forty-four percent of girls surveyed believed they had been bullied by friends. More than 85 percent said they had experienced at least one type of bullying such as being ignored or excluded.

Ro’s research findings are based on a study of Year 10 females aged about 14. The study had three parts: small focus groups, an anonymous survey of 1300 students from six Auckland state high schools, and in-depth interviews with girls who had experienced bullying or who had witnessed bullying.

“I was trying to get a picture of the bullying that happens among girls but looking at it from the point of view of friendships, not bullying from their enemies,” she says.

Bullying occurred in the majority of friendship groups but girls often failed to recognise or name it as bullying because the behaviour came from their friends, says Ro.

One of those surveyed said: “She is my friend. I told her I don’t like it but she told me ‘she was only joking’ so the fact that I am feeling hurt, there must be something wrong with me?.”

“The other thing is what happens if you say to your friends ‘I feel bullied by you.’ What do you do then? Do you go off? Do you find yourself without friends? I had one girl whose friends had not spoken to her, except to call her names, for six weeks. They just pushed her out.

“They (girls) don’t in fact bully as much as boys according to some experts but if they do choose to bully, it’s a kind of bullying that uses the relationship as a weapon and exercises emotional pressure.”

Ro’s research identified two distinct types of friendship bullying: group bullying and triadic group bullying. Group bullying is when “the group” decides to ostracise one of their members. “She has done something to perhaps offend the group or for whatever reason one day she is in, one day she is out.”

Triadic group bullying is a “three’s a crowd scenario”. Ro explains this is where there are best friends in a pair and a third person befriends the duo. “There is this awful tug of war, and that could go on for months sometimes. It just devastates the people involved.”

Her study found that even if you weren’t the one being bullied it did have an impact on others in the friendship group. “The majority of observers and helpers were found to experience negative effects from witnessing bullying, while victims experienced significant loss and grief concerns,” she says.

“The observers felt internal conflict because they could tell someone in their group was being bullied or someone was being deliberately excluded and it would be
"They (girls) don’t in fact bully as much as boys according to some experts but if they do choose to bully, it’s a kind of bullying that uses the relationship as a weapon and exercises emotional pressure."

Friends outside the situation often provided good support: ‘They said ‘they would listen to me. They wouldn’t try to take over but they would make me feel more confident about myself.’ It’s important to have other friends you can go to for affirmations so you are not dependent on a very small peer group.’ 

Ro says friendship bullying amongst friends is complex. Schools should not assume that their students recognise the indirect forms of bullying because it could masquerade as someone who was a friend of theirs, possibly not a close friend, but a friend all the same. 

What do you do then? Do you speak out and get bullied yourself? Do you feel sad for your friend? Do you provide covert support? It leads to considerable internal conflict, a sense of guilt and sometimes shame,” says Ro. 

Ro says girls’ friendship problems are one of the main issues school counsellors deal with and as a result are often trivialised. Girls’ “friendship issues” have become something of a “cliché,” as “there is a sort of acceptance this was just how girls behaved,” she says. 

Ro says her findings suggest that the developmental changes in girls, which create increased friendship conflict, may also contribute to increased levels of bullying as girls learn to manage more highly-developed friendships. “It also indicates that satisfactory resolution of bullying is important for girls’ developmental well-being.”

When students were asked in the survey why they thought the bullying happened they tended to put it onto the bully. “The bully is angry with the other person, or it was stuff to do with friends or boys,” she says. 

But when interviewed one-on-one the students were more self-reflective. They said the bullying happened because “we change,” which, Ro says, fits with the fact that the developmental changes going on are enormous. 

“There are psycho-social changes and the teens are learning to define themselves. In those early teen years it is almost as though your identity is the peer group. You just want to be like everyone else and then there is a gradual separating out, not a rejection of the peer group but a sense that you are an individual. It becomes more about my friend as a person and their personal qualities, not just someone to do stuff with,” she says. 

“One girl said ‘when we were children our friends were people to do things with, we played games, we’d have a fight and come back to school the next day and all would be forgotten but now it is about how can she do something like that?’”

“So it is a completely different kind of relating to other individuals that they are learning and they have to practise somewhere and they are going to get it wrong sometimes. This is a new and complex relationship that teenagers are working on learning to manage and there are power imbalances that happen.”

Ro says power imbalances amongst teenage girls can happen really quickly. “The person who is quick with a smart answer is going to score points very fast and the quiet introspective person may get caught on the back foot.”

Ro’s research provides valuable understandings that can inform the work of school counsellors, teachers and others who work with girls in our high schools. “Her research highlights the importance of taking girls’ friendship bullying seriously, recognising the complex roles of all parties in these situations, supporting girls in dealing with the damaging effects of such bullying, and helping them develop constructive ways of dealing with the dynamics in their friendship groups,” says Dr Agee.
Is Auckland the culture capital of New Zealand?
What is Auckland’s contribution to arts and culture in New Zealand? Helen Borne asked some prominent University staff and alumni for their views.

Law of the jungle

Auckland is the cultural capital of New Zealand for one very obvious and simple reason – most of us live here. One man’s meat is another man’s poison, so the old adage goes, and in the vast cultural supermarket otherwise known as Auckland there’s a cut of beef for all of us. For too many generations we tugged our ruffian forelocks and bowed our venal and empty heads to the political capital, a tiny city that as time goes on diversifies more and more from us in almost every way – most particularly in numbers and level of cultural complacency. For Auckland culture to survive, being famously less state supported per capita, it must involve large numbers of people. Put on an event in Auckland and good box office proves it a success. Put it on in Wellington and if ten people come it has the same review. This year literally thousands flocked to our literary festivals, hundreds queued for the opening night shindig at the Art Gallery. We are shoulder to shoulder at the Lantern Festival, Pasifika and the Big Day and Gay Out(s). We cram the Civic for the Film Festival, theatre enjoys a youthful renaissance, kapa haka, whakorero, rap and poetry performances proliferate and most of the nation’s film and television is produced here.

This argument is of course in very bad taste and quintessentially Auckland in the worst sense – brute law of the jungle, the power of numbers, crude mathematics. But it’s true that there are enough of us to create a critical mass from which emerges a vital, ever-changing, multi-faceted, energetic kulcha blessed with a spirit of generosity and largesse. Perhaps the most curious compliment the Auckland Writers and Readers Festival ever received was from a prominent Wellington author, one of at least 50 invited New Zealand writers. “This is fantastic,” he said, wreathed in smiles, “it doesn’t feel like New Zealand.” How extraordinary, and how very defining.

Brokering culture

Is Auckland, our country’s economic powerhouse, also our cultural capital? It would be if the majority of us (who do not live in Auckland) regarded it as such – but we don’t, if it lay at the centre or heart of our cultural life, set cultural agendas and provided arts leadership and brokerage for the rest of the country – but it doesn’t; if it was the home base far most of the nation’s cultural institutions – but it isn’t; if Auckland’s cultural institutions and events were supported and attended, on a per capita basis, at a level comparable to Wellington’s – but they aren’t. True, the capital is far more compact and its amenities more concentrated, more conveniently located and reachable than in Auckland, and it enjoys somewhat less of an outdoors, recreational lifestyle and more of an intertemperate climate from which immersion in the activities and events of high culture offers a welcome respite, a distraction, compensation.

Whether or not Auckland is the “cultural capital” of New Zealand, however, it is culturally and socially the most dynamic city in New Zealand and a young Asia-Pacific capital - a meeting and mixing place of Pākehā, Pacific and Asian world views with its rich promise of converging, merging and divergent thinking and practice for future developments in the arts and new modes of expression. It is as essential that tikanga Māori is part of this dynamic, in grounding such cultural developments in New Zealand, as it is for the All Blacks to perform the haka at rugby test matches. In that respect, it is Wellington - through agencies such as Te Puni Kōkiri, the Waitangi Tribunal, Te Papa Tangarewa, the Māori Language Commission, Toi Aotearoa and Te Waka Toi that connect with marae the length of New Zealand - that is the “cultural” broker.

Cultural NCEA grade

I dislike the term “cultural capital of New Zealand”. It implies a lamely provincialising comparison with Wellington. Couldn’t we just not do atavistic turf-scratching? In the case of Wellington City Council’s involuntarily Bourdieuan deployment of the term “cultural capital”, it had behind it a history of mandarin support for “the arts and culture” dating back to senior diplomats and bureaucrats such as the Cornish family. The mandarin class in Wellington probably sandbagged the presence there of the National Symphony Orchestra and other cultural institutions associated with traditional metropolitan concepts of capital city culture. Auckland, too, has its generous patrons of “the arts and culture”, mostly associated with similarly traditional institutions.

But do we any longer believe in such metropolitanising concepts of culture? Let alone the anachronistic definitions of culture they enshrine? The newly refurbished and extended Auckland Art Gallery is a fine thing to be sure, but so is Fresh Gallery out at Otara, what’s more the latter operates within a congenial and highly responsive strategic relationship with its community rate-payers, and generates a phenomenal range of responses to the question, “What’s contemporary?”

Yes, the Auckland Writers and Readers Festival, but also yes at last a city that can at times almost begin to feel crowded. Yes the plethora of cheap noodle bars, yes the NRL supporters that tear up the motorway to Mt Smart Stadium, yes the cultural diversity of family picnickers by the lake at Western Springs, yes the fresh hot samosas on shopping weekends at Sandringham, yes the Newton fish-market, yes the Ponsonby Social Club screening the Japan vs. ABs game with DJs Pauly Who? & TDK.

Auckland’s getting big enough to feel like a city, and should be grown-up enough to stop worrying about its cultural NCEA grade.

Ian Wedde graduated from the University in 1968. He is New Zealand’s poet laureate and also teaches a graduate course in Art Writing and Curatorial Practice in the University’s Art History Department, and an undergraduate course in Writing Selves in the English Department.

Professor Jonathan Mane-Wheoki (Ngāpuhi/Te Aupouri/Ngāti Kuri) is Head of Elam School of Fine Arts. He is an art, architectural and cultural historian and curator, and is a pioneer in the development of contemporary Māori and Pacific art and art history. Jonathan has served on a wide range of national and international bodies and is currently Governor of the Arts Foundation of New Zealand.

“a vital, ever-changing, multi-faceted, energetic kulcha...”

Stephanie Johnson completed a post-graduate diploma at The University of Auckland in 1982 and established and taught the Masters in Creative Writing course 2004-2006. She is a prize-winning author and is currently Acting Artistic Director of the Auckland Writers and Readers Festival.

Ingenio Spring 2011 | 21
The sky above was gunmetal, a slight breeze was beginning to murmur, and the leaves of the huge oaks that dot the green were beginning to click with rain...During summertime, the gardens that surround the central fountain are stunning, and with a blue sky present, it's the sort of image you'd want on a postcard. By winter, however, things are generally a little more subdued and unappealing. And dead bodies don't contribute much towards a positive atmosphere."

"Murder, Albert Park, another rainy day in Auckland, and a character that lives in a leaky home, the scene is set and student Ben Sanders is the mastermind. He penned The Fallen, published by HarperCollins, in his first year of study toward a Civil Engineering degree at The University of Auckland. His second novel By Any Means, which has just come out, continues Detective Sean Devereaux's journey - investigating crime on the mean streets of New Zealand's largest city.

Now in his fourth year, the 21-year-old credits his long bus rides to University from the family home in Torbay on the North Shore as a period of creative gestation necessary to put pen to paper. "I find my best ideas come when I'm not really trying to think about it. I just sort of sit on the bus and idly let stuff tick over naturally and develop. I find it's best to let things cook."

As a schoolboy, Ben read Lee Child and Michael Connelly which sparked his passion and interest in crime writing and made him think: "Whoaarrr maybe I could write one of these."

When it came to choosing what to study at University, Ben was torn between his love of writing and his aptitude for science. His high school careers adviser suggested he pursue Engineering at university level and that writing be an ongoing hobby. So far, Ben is happy with that duality and, even with two novels published, feels very much a young Engineering student as opposed to an author because study makes up the bulk of his day.

He sets aside an hour each night to write as a way to relax after University. He believes it creates a good balance between the rigidity of engineering and he finds it's amusing that the two disciplines present an unlikely marriage. "With my writing I don't take an engineering approach at all, I don't plan anything. In an engineering field you will run into trouble straight away with that approach." Ben has tried writing outlines but they never seem to work, "so I have a vague idea of where I am heading and try to manoeuvre myself so I get there in the end. I guess it's a risky approach to take as there is a chance that everything isn't going to tie up but I think it's kind of exciting. It's exciting for the author as well as the reader."

As a result of studying at the University, Ben believes the experience of being present in the central city has contributed to his craft, as "regular exposure to something unfamiliar, different people and different settings and things" is a rich environment for a writer. So far, the formula is working. Both The Fallen and By All Means have had good reviews. The Fallen was number one on the New Zealand Bestsellers list for five weeks and Ben has been long-listed for the Ngaior Marsh Award for Best Crime Novel. He has also spoken at the Writers Lounge, a regular winter event at the Auckland Art Gallery. "It was a neat experience. I have never done a speaking event before."

If there is one lesson Ben has learnt from his writing, it is "the virtue of finishing something and getting it done". As an accomplished author and soon to be University graduate he certainly knows how to finish what he's started.
Earthquake impact

The Christchurch earthquake has brought the University’s research and expertise in high-performance computing into the limelight.

Power to computing

When the earthquake hit Christchurch in February emergency response teams around the country quickly called up large sets of data and images from the New Zealand Defence Force’s Geospatial Intelligence Organisation and New Zealand Aerial Mapping to make informed decisions about how to help.

This rapid access to large amounts of vital information was made possible by The University of Auckland’s Centre for e-Research. Established in 2009, the centre’s high-performance computing capability and data storage, as well as expert staff, are transforming the work of New Zealand scientists.

“High-performance computing and its related infrastructure have become an indispensable part of modern science,” says Director of the Centre, Professor Mark Gahegan. “Researchers regularly face complex computational challenges in their work and e-Research works closely with them to tackle these challenges. Computer scientists and the research community are now deeply engaged – it’s not just about providing the hardware.”

The Centre for e-Research connects researchers to BeSTGRID (Broadband-Enabled Science and Technology GRID), which is led by The University of Auckland and includes all New Zealand universities and some Crown Research Institutes.

BeSTGRID allows extensive data sharing and data processing via a coordinated data fabric that spans the country.

In the days following the Christchurch earthquake, eResearch handled more than 660GB of data storage and distribution across New Zealand, with the help of BeSTGRID and KAREN (Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network). KAREN is a super-fast private internet dedicated to the New Zealand research and education sector.

“We’ve moved past radio communication and a paper map,” says Mark. “Disaster response now requires and generates massive amounts of data with hundreds of gigabytes streaming daily.”

A world away from using e-Research to help a devastated city, the University’s Auckland’s Cancer Society Research Centre is creating new drugs with the same technology. A computer technique called virtual screening can rapidly scan hundreds of thousands of chemical compounds to find one that might block the action of certain proteins implicated in a specific cancer.

Instead of taking weeks, virtual screening does the sleuthing job in a day.

The extra computing resources also enable researchers to make detailed investigations of the interactions between drugs and targeted proteins, without the use of a more traditional biological “wet lab”.

The Centre for e-Research has also just been selected to host the National e-Science Infrastructure (NeSI), to be built over the next four years. NeSI supports the Government’s priorities for research and economic growth and it has invested $27.4 million in the project. “NeSI will greatly enhance the centre’s work in using advanced information technology and high-performance computing for research,” says Mark.

NeSI brings together new and existing supercomputer hubs at The University of Auckland, Canterbury University, the University of Otago, NIWA, AgResearch and Landcare Research. It will use KAREN to connect researchers throughout the country to its national data and computing infrastructure.

The NeSI project is an important and much-needed infrastructure investment for science in New Zealand, says Mark. “New Zealand relies on scientific research to support its fundamental industries, and research institutions around the country require this step-change in computational ability.”

www.eresearch.auckland.ac.nz

Tess Redgrave
avid Grinlinton, an associate professor in the Law School and a University of Auckland alumnus (LLB(Hons) 1994), has done so twice in the last four years for six months at a time.

In 2006-7 he served with the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team in Bamiyan Province, Afghanistan. In May this year he returned from a posting as a United Nations Military Liaison Officer in Timor-Leste which started the previous October.

On both occasions he took unpaid leave from the University to embrace challenges that proved as taxing as they were eye-opening and fulfilling. His service as a Naval Reservist qualified him for these essentially peacekeeping roles, requiring military expertise and Kiwi know-how in equal measure.

In Timor-Leste David was based in the capital Dili, part of a four-person team which covered the Dili Province in the north of the island nation. They spent many sweltering days out in the field talking to village chiefs, community leaders, NGOs and government agencies. There they gathered information on the state of food, water, medical support, roads and infrastructure, education, policing and security, aimed at maintaining law and order.

Their comprehensive reports were fed back to government decision-makers in Dili and the UN in New York for action. “Our presence and these reports did make a difference,” says David. “For example, we helped avert a developing food crisis in one area by prompting the World Food Programme to provide essential items. Shortages of food and water can lead to conflict between neighbours, and even the hijacking of trucks carrying supplies.”

Negotiating and preserving calm in fraught circumstances added up to a tangible contribution by David and his team behind the scenes. Equally satisfying on a smaller scale was their work with a Franciscan orphanage which they “adopted” in their limited spare time. They undertook minor repairs while also fundraising and supplying food, kitchenware, writing materials and activity books for the 12 children and four Sisters.

Colonisation by the Portuguese, forcible annexation by Indonesia in 1975, and nearly 25 years of violent unrest, which directly and indirectly claimed over 100,000 lives, have left Timor-Leste (population 1.2 million) an unenviable legacy. It is one of the poorest countries globally, its GDP ranked 173rd out of 181 countries.

Notwithstanding widespread poverty, malnutrition and living conditions unimaginable in New Zealand, David found the children “always cheerful wherever we went”. Some were orphaned, and all contributed to tilling crops, fetching water and other basic tasks so their families could survive. “New Zealand children have so much yet they don’t seem as cheerful.”

While not at risk of roadside explosives or other similar threats as in Afghanistan, David faced other perils in Timor-Leste. Foremost was the state of the roads on which he travelled every day. These were often little more than narrow tracks, clinging to the sides of steep ravines and liable to vanish in heavy rain. Local drivers’ disregard for road rules was another threat to well-being along with mosquitoes carrying malaria and dengue fever, and occasional salt-water crocodiles.

David was fortunate to have his wife Keiko with him for some of his deployment. She was engaged in a human rights legal project with the UN Development Programme.

On top of his daily (and often nightly) chores he and other UN peacekeepers helped mentor the Timorese military. Periodically there were diplomatic, UN and military events to attend. One day he had a chance meeting with the country’s President, José Ramos-Horta, in a Dili café.

Demanding as his stints in Afghanistan and Timor-Leste were, David found the experience a refreshing and rewarding break from career routine.

“Engaging in something important and contributing to a country rebuilding in a post-conflict situation was very rewarding. There was also the personal satisfaction of stepping outside of your comfort zone and facing new challenges.”

David returned to his academic duties feeling “revitalised, enthused and more motivated”. His Land Law and Natural Resources Law classes, “a couple of books to write”, and his duties as International Sub-Dean in the Law School have kept him grounded and at full stretch.

He admits, though, that if a chance to put his experience and training at the disposal of a troubled country again presents itself he won’t be slow to grasp it.

Bill Williams
Join a Graduate School of Enterprise programme or Short Course

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At The University of Auckland Business School we believe strongly that executive business education involves both professional and personal development. Engagement in our graduate programmes provides an extraordinary learning opportunity for every individual as a decision maker and leader.

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For those in, or aspiring to senior management positions or self employment. Options within this programme are Business Administration and (subject to numbers) Māori Development and Health Management.

A life changing event
Michael Robert, General Manager, TruDesign Plastics

Michael says The University of Auckland’s executive MBA was a “life-changing event”.

“It’s a growth opportunity, and if you want to improve yourself in your business life it’s something you need to do.”

He also gained friends for life from his cohort, which he says was a diverse mix of people.

“You get to know these guys and by the end everybody’s helping each other to actually get through this.”

And Michael, who coped just fine with the reading and writing required, says he has learned “a hell of a lot about business; got a great grounding”.

He learned about aspects he wouldn’t have comprehended years before – from accountancy to HR, supply chain management, economics and internal finance, rounded off with management “coaching”.

“It’s all been incredibly valuable. It really pushes you to think outside the norm. It opens your eyes.”

The University of Auckland Business School is also home to Short Courses, providing professionals with opportunities to upskill, refresh, reskill and acquire critical business thinking.

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www.shortcourses.ac.nz
What has been rumoured for many months will soon be confirmed on national airwaves. The medics are coming!

Generation Xs merely need to imagine the four-wheel drive vehicles of the 1970s TV sitcom M.A.S.H navigating makeshift roads and mountainous terrain. Only this is Achham, Far Western region of Nepal, and the year is 2011.

Set in the mountainous Himalayas, Achham is one of the more remote districts in one of the remotest countries on the globe. It is home to one quarter of a million people, one of the poorest districts suffering from one of the highest maternal and child mortality rates in South Asia, severely affected by war and poverty, with little infrastructure and an HIV/AIDS hotspot. It is also at least a ten-hour bus ride to the nearest operating room.

But boasting one road in, when it is not monsoon season, means that at least the international mobile surgical team including University academic and alumnus Ian Bissett (BSc 1976, MBChB 1979, MD 2002) can skip the expense of the chopper ride this time around. Instead the group, comprising three surgeons, two anaesthetists, general practitioners, an ultra-sonographer, one or two nurses, an interpreter, and the ten Nepali camp programme staff, plan to arrive by land rover late November.

Ian Bissett is Associate Professor in Surgery at The University of Auckland’s Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, chair of the International Nepal Fellowship in New Zealand and on the International Board for the International Nepal Fellowship. He has been on this annual three-week pilgrimage leading surgical camps for the last seven years. For him it is like going home but it is only possible because of very supportive colleagues in the University and the Colorectal Unit at Auckland Hospital.

His long association and love for this country and the work harks back to his elective to Gorkha, Central Nepal in his final year of medicine at Auckland in 1978. It was an experience which put him on a path. “Back then, one of the things that struck me was how much you could do as a surgeon in that setting, how many conditions were curable with surgery and how not being able to do surgery would hamper what you were able to do.”

So, just shy of a decade later, he returned to Nepal as a fully qualified surgeon with a young family in tow to take up a position at

PHOTOS BY COLIN WILSON

Pilgrimage to the Himalayas

Every year alumnus Ian Bissett leaves the comforts of his job at the University and journeys to a remote corner of Nepal. Megan Fowlie tracks him down on the eve of his 2011 departure.

“I’ve experienced a lot of brave people who, while suffering huge amounts, just continue with their every day life.”
One year a man walked five days to have a kidney stone removal by open surgery and then walked five days home.

“clearly I take a different view of life – I've experienced a lot brave people who, while suffering huge amounts, just continue with their everyday life; and they’re very committed professional people on minimal incomes. I’ve experienced the importance of community and relationships very much so. The richness of the people of Nepal compared with the [spiritual] poverty of the people in New Zealand in these areas is quite marked.

“It is always a great privilege to be able to go back. We are not stopping any time soon.”
1. Sydney alumni were fascinated by Professor Richard Faull’s presentation on the human brain, “the most complex and marvellous organ in the human body”, on 18 May.

2. New Zealand High Commissioner His Excellency David Pine was among the guests at the Alumni and Friends Reception in Kuala Lumpur on 29 May. He is seen here with the MC and Volunteer Alumni Co-ordinator, Ir K C Yong.

3. Alumni Dr Beng Cheah and Cheng Fai Kwan with Business School senior tutor Charles Chow at the Singapore Alumni and Friends Reception. A highlight of the event was the performance from The University of Auckland Chamber Choir, combined with the Anglo-Chinese Junior College Choir and the Anglo-Chinese Junior College Alumni Choir.

4. Sir Doug Myers (left) was among a number of well-known expat Kiwis at the London Alumni and Friends Reception in London on 14 June. With him are the Dean of Engineering, Professor Michael Davies, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, and the University’s UK Director of Fundraising, Christine Buccella.

5. Rotorua Boys’ High School prefects Himesh Gosai, Ngarangi Haerewa and Tai Stephens (deputy head boy) enjoyed getting a taste of University of Auckland life at the Tauranga event on 6 July.

6. Guest speaker Professor Margaret Brimble (centre) with alumna Dr Vivienne Cooper MNZM and the Vice-Chancellor at Hamilton on 20 July. Guest speaker Professor Brad Jackson with guests at the Wellington event on 17 August. Professor Jackson spoke about the leadership challenges that have faced New Zealand in recent times – earthquakes, a mine disaster, a Super City and a Rugby World Cup.

7. The Vice-Chancellor (centre, back) and the Director of External Relations, John Taylor (far left, back) with the newest Golden Graduates, those who graduated in 1961.
9. Professor Annie Goldson with Sir Bruce Slane at the Golden Graduates Luncheon on 7 September. Professor Goldson’s address provided insights into the world of documentary film-making and included a clip from her new film, Brother Number One. 10. Associate Professor Cliff Tasman-Jones and Dame Jocelyn Fish, who were at the same table at the Golden Graduates luncheon having not seen each other since school days at Hamilton High School. 11. Alumni Relations and Advancement staff joined with a team of senior University researchers for a combined programme of events in Edmonton, Vancouver, Seattle, Palo Alto and San Francisco in September. Professor Debesh Bhattacharyya, from the Department of Mechanical Engineering (second from left), with alumni at the Seattle reception. 12. The Dean of Science, Professor Grant Guilford (second from left) spoke at the Seattle event about the University’s Food and Health Programme, a major trans-disciplinary research and teaching programme. Professor Iain Martin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Engagement) seen here on the right, was speaker at the San Francisco reception. 13. Alumna Pooja Chitgopeker-Kumar and Vikram Kumar with Mathematics Professor Bill Barton in San Francisco. 14. Alumni Relations Manager Amanda Lyne with alumni at the San Francisco event. 15. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Jane Harding, a Paediatrician specialising in newborn intensive care (far right), with alumni and friends in Seattle. Professor Harding was speaker at the Vancouver reception. 16. US Friends of The University of Auckland Directors Quentin Hills and Sue Service with the Vice-Chancellor.
New Development Director

A passion for “Brand NZ” and the draw of a new challenge brought Champak Mehta back to New Zealand in July to take up the role of The University of Auckland’s Director of Development, based at External Relations and Development.

After working for Fonterra for eight years, the last 2½ years as Regional Manager Asia-Pacific for one of its joint ventures, he built a comprehensive knowledge of global market environments, experience which he believes will be valuable in his new position.

He isn’t new to the tertiary education sector, having worked as a consultant to The University of Auckland’s Business School on a strategic review in 2002/03 and, in the late 1990s, as a lecturer in Physiology and Pharmacology at the Central Institute of Technology, Wellington.

His teaching experience at CIT led him to the role of Education Officer in the NZ Army in December 1998, based first at Linton and then at Waiaurua. He was “tapped on the shoulder” to deploy to East Timor in late 2000, an opportunity he would have liked to take up – “it’s what you train for” – but which didn’t eventuate because he had already committed to doing his MBA.

Following his expat years in the US and then Asia with Fonterra, he is happy to be back in his home country, “helping to secure funding to enable the development that is needed for New Zealand to grow its next generation of researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs”.

In brief

GENEROSITY SUPPORTS RESEARCH AND LEARNING

Professorial chairs and research projects have had strong support through recent major gifts to the University.

The Chapman Tripp Chair in Corporate and Commercial Law will be established through a pledge for substantial funding over five years from leading law firm Chapman Tripp, and a pledge from the Fletcher Building Employee Education Trust for $2 million, with $1 million from the Plowman family, will support The Fletcher Building Chair in Leadership at the Business School.

New Zealand’s first Spinal Cord Injury Research Unit, based in the University’s Centre for Brain Research, has been made possible through a $500,000 donation from the CatWalk Spinal Cord Injury Trust; a $500,000 pledge from Ness Paykel will go to further research at the Liggins Institute; and a $5.5 million pledge from an anonymous donor will boost research through the establishment of the Manjana Kumerich Chair in Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

REDEVELOPED LEIGH MARINE CAMPUS CELEBRATED

More than 100 donors, supporters, locals and University staff gathered at the Marine Science Laboratory at Leigh, north of Auckland, at the end of June to celebrate the formal opening of the redeveloped campus and the Edith Winstone Blackwell Centre. The centre is the new interpretive interface between the marine reserve, the University and its marine research, and the public.

The development of the Leigh marine campus and the interpretive centre is an ongoing project and more interactive technology and classroom facilities are needed.

DONOR RECOGNITION BOOK TO BE LAUNCHED

A magnificently produced book (one copy only) to record and honour exceptional generosity to the University will be unveiled at the 2011 Chancellor’s Dinner, to be held on 3 November.

The book recognises in perpetuity individuals and organisations who are inducted into one of three societies within the Chancellor’s Circle: the Sir Maurice O’Rorke Society, whose members have made total contributions to the University of more than $5 million; the Sir George Fowlds Society, whose members’ total contributions are between $1 million and $5 million; and the Sir Douglas Robb Society, whose members have given a total of between $100,000 and $1 million.

The dinner will be a formal celebration for all those donors who have made a major contribution in the past year as well as those who are being inducted to the Chancellor’s Circle or moved through the Societies.

SUCCESSFUL CHINA AND HONG KONG VISIT

Alumni and friends receptions in Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong were hosted by the Business School on behalf of the NZ Asia Institute from 5–9 September. All three events ran over time with attendees relishing the opportunity for networking amongst themselves. “As philanthropy in mainland China is in its nascent stages, we wanted the opportunity for networking amongst themselves. “As philanthropy in mainland China is in its nascent stages, we wanted the opportunity to engage with a smaller group of alumni in preparation for the University-wide alumni functions in 2012,” said Development Director Champak Mehta.

ERICA PABST SCHOLARSHIP LAUNCHED

A new scholarship for a student studying at the Auckland Law School was launched in July at Baradene College. The scholarship, funded by an endowment of $75,000 and with a value of $3,750, was awarded to Katherine Chi Wai Yip and will be awarded annually to an ex-pupil of Baradene in her second year of an LLB or LLB (Hons) degree.

LED IN THE OCEAN

Dean of Science, Professor Grant Guilford and Rt Hon Lockwood Smith.

Law scholar Katherine Chi Wai Yip with the Dean of Law, Dr Andrew Stockley.
Alumni achievers

BR CLIVE BEAUMONT (BA 1961, MA HONS 1962) is a former lecturer at the Pacific Islanders’ Educational Resource Centre, now editor of a new dictionary of the nuiean language.

GISELLE BYRNES (PHD HISTORY 1995) has been appointed pro vice-chancellor of law, education, business and arts at Charles Darwin University in Australia’s Northern Territory. Professor Byrnes, a historian, is currently pro vice-chancellor (postgraduate) at the University of Waikato where she also holds the posts of professor of history and director of the Public History Research Unit.

TONY FAULDS (BE 1985) who has tribal links with Ngati Awa, Te Arawa and Tainui oversaw the building of a $1 billion steel plant in Siberia which opened earlier this year. The plant at Yekaterinburg involved about 2,000 people mainly Russians but also people from the US (Tony had been operating a steelmaking plant in Pittsboro, Indiana), Turkey, Germany, England, Croatia, Spain and Italy.

ANDREW KANIA (BA 1996, FIRST CLASS HONS 1999) has just published The Routledge Companion to Philosophy and Music – the first ever reference work devoted to the philosophy of music. It is a volume of 56 state-of-the-art essays on a wide range of topics at the intersection of philosophy and music.

BRUCE MENZIES (BE 1962, ME 1963, DSC 1991 SCIENCE) is founder and president of Global Digital Systems Ltd (GDS) in the UK which earlier this year received the most prestigious corporate award in the UK – the Queen’s Award for Enterprise in the category of International Trade. GDS designs, develops and manufactures hardware and software for testing the mechanical properties of soils and rocks. This technology is important in geotechnical and earthquake engineering and so is a key element of infrastructure development. Bruce is also a joint author of five books on geotechnical engineering and one on geology for civil engineers.

IAN NAREV (LLB (HONS) 1991, BA 1991) is the new chief executive of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia replacing Ralph Norris. In 2005 he became head of McKinsey’s operations in New Zealand and in 2007 he moved to Australia as group head of strategy for the Commonwealth Bank. He was appointed the Commonwealth’s group executive of business and private banking – a division with 4000 staff that generates A$1 billion in profit – in 2009.

DR PAUL OCKELFORD (BSC 1971, MBCHB 1974) is a Clinical Associate Professor, in the University’s Department of Molecular Medicine, and has particular expertise in haemostasis and thrombosis. He is Director of the Adult Haemophilia Centre at Auckland City Hospital.

SARAH PERKIN (BA/BCOM 2009, BCOM(HONS) 2010) is the Manager, New Zealand Sales and Marketing at Sentient Software. She was recently awarded the Maxnet Hi-Tech Young Achiever Award at the 2011 New Zealand Hi-Tech Awards. These recognise the excellence of leading companies and people involved in the New Zealand hi-tech sector.

NICHOLAS REID (BA 1973, MA 1975, MTHEOL 2000, PHD HISTORY 2004), a contributor to Ingenio, well-known book and film reviewer, published historian, poet and academic, has now added another string to his bow: a book blog called Reid’s Reader which he says offers “Something new, something old and something thoughtful to readers and browsers each week.”

JULIAN SMITH (BCOM 1997, DIPCOM 1999) and RAHUL SHARMA (BCOM 2008, BCOM (HONS) 2009, MCOM 2010) are Director and Brand Strategist respectively at BRR, an award-winning brand, design and digital agency (www.brrltd.com). After graduating, Julian started his own sport marketing company before taking on the role of Marketing Director at Orca. Rahul joined BRR following graduation and now specialises in developing brand and marketing strategies for export businesses and sports brands. Together Julian and Rahul have brought their skills to a range of brands, including Steinlager Pure, Earthwise, Yoobee and Te Punu Kokiri (Ministry of Māori Development).

CLAUDIA WYSS (BHB 1996, MBCHB 1999) has launched a new online entertainment hub, EntertainMe(entertainme.co.nz), to promote events and entertainment around New Zealand. Claudia is Managing Director for EntertainMe and a Director at Cranleigh, a merchant bank and corporate advisory firm. Claudia started her career as a medical doctor in Auckland before completing an MBA at Harvard Business School. She then became a consultant manager at McKinsey & Company in the US and the UK and, on returning to New Zealand in 2007, led a number of large healthcare improvement projects.

Email your achievements to the editor: ingenio@auckland.ac.nz
Alumni and Friends event calendar highlights

November 2011

- November 10: Society Highwic Tour and Morning Tea at Highwic, Newmarket
- November 16: Christchurch Alumni and Friends reception at Hintons – Restaurant, Café & Function Venue, Old Government House
- December 8: Society Christmas function and AGM

February to June, 2012

- March 2: Whangarei Alumni and Friends Reception at Forum North
- March 8: Auckland Live! 2012 at The Maidment Theatre
- March 9: Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner (Auckland) at Marquee, OGH Lawn
- May 5: London Alumni and Friends Reception at Town Hall TBC
- May 15: MBChB Reunion* at Medical School, Grafton Campus
- June 2: MBChB Reunion* at Medical School, Grafton Campus


For more information or to ensure you receive an invitation to an event being held in your area please visit www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/update to update your details. 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.

2012 Distinguished Alumni Award winners announced!

- Professor Charles Alcock – Science
- Dr Privahini Bradoo (Young Alumna of the Year Award) – Medicine and Science
- Don McGlashan – Arts
- Emeritus Professor Ranginui Walker – Education and Arts
- Dr Mark Sagar – Engineering
- Dame Robin White – National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries (NICA)

To purchase your tickets to the DAA dinner online please visit: www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz.

AUCKLAND LIVE! 2012

Auckland Live! 2012 is coming...don’t miss this inspirational showcase of six of The University of Auckland’s highest achieving graduates.

Mark your diary now: 6–9pm, Thursday 8 March 2012 – Tickets available January 2012.

Auckland Live! 2012 is your chance to get up close and personal with the winners of next year’s Distinguished Alumni Awards. At this exclusive event you will hear aspirations, inspiration, and information, and gain a candid insight into how they turned their University of Auckland qualifications into outstanding careers, nationally and internationally. With award-winning achievement in the fields of astrophysics, Hollywood digital visual effects, fine art, international popular music, green mining, and Māori leadership, this lineup will not only leave you inspired, but with some practical insight on how to maximise your own potential.

Don’t miss out – places will be limited.

For more information contact Liz Atkinson, Event Coordinator, direct dial (09) 923 5622 or email l.atkinson@auckland.ac.nz

History

History graduate David Verran (BA 1973, MA 1974) was giving one of his regular talks on Auckland’s North Shore history “from the 1790s to the 1960s, 45 minutes, no notes” when he was approached by publishers Random House.

As a result David’s The North Shore: An Illustrated History was published last year and sold out within three months; it has just been re-printed.

For David, who is a librarian at Auckland City Libraries, the book represents 18 years of reading and research. “I’ve always been interested in history and in the history of the area where I grew up,” he says. David is North Shore-born and bred. “I was born in the Devonport nursing home, went to Birkenhead Primary School, Northcote Intermediate and Westlake Bays High School.” He now lives in Takapuna and is a life member of the North Shore Historical Society, and a former president.
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.

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Ken also welcomes contact from alumni in Europe without a coordinator in their area.

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Pharmacy in New Zealand
Natasha Bell, nbel020@aucklanduni.ac.nz
UAPA – Pacific Alumni
Walter Fraser, w.fraser@auckland.ac.nz

If you are interested in becoming a VAC in an area not currently active, or you wish to represent a particular affinity group of alumni within the Auckland area please contact Jamie Himiona at j.himiona@auckland.ac.nz.

Join the Society

If you live in Auckland we encourage you to join The University of Auckland Society. This is a diverse network of interesting and accomplished Alumni and Friends, who are invited to special events and receive additional benefits and opportunities based on their interests. Annual membership is $50.

*By joining the Society, the benefits of attending New Zealand’s leading university last well beyond graduation,* says Dan Bidois, former President of Auckland University Students’ Association (AUSA).

See www.society.auckland.ac.nz

Join the Society by 30 November 2011 and go in the draw to win one of two copies of Our Game. See our Alumni Books, page 39.
Motivation

High motivation is a key ingredient in a successful career. So how do we keep up our motivation? How do we avoid getting into a rut – and staying there? What are some of the practical things we can and should do if we’re serious about success?

Personality traits

Dr. Giles Burch (AFBPsS MNZPsS MAPS) is a Sydney-based Registered Psychologist working as an organisational consultant, academic and clinician, specialising in personality/psychopathology - performance/productivity linkages in the workplace. A former staff member at The University of Auckland Business School, he continues to facilitate sessions on the Executive MBA on personal development.

“There is little doubt that motivation plays a role in career success. Perhaps the starting point when considering what determines individual motivation is personality. Research has found that personality traits of extraversion and conscientiousness are associated with higher levels of motivation, while neuroticism is associated with lower motivation. If you are someone who is extraverted and conscientious you generally won’t require much help with maintaining motivation; however, if you are someone of neurotic character, then this is more likely to be a challenge.

“So how can motivation be enhanced? In the first instance, consider whether you are actually working in a context you enjoy, both in terms of what you are doing job or career-wise and also your working environment, for example, are you over-worked? and is the culture toxic? Perhaps you need to change it! However, if you are content in your work, but find it difficult to maintain motivation, what are the options?

“Research highlights the effectiveness of goal-setting in motivating people, and is based on the rationale that it focuses a person’s attention to identifying, working towards and achieving objectives. There are a number of goal-setting techniques, from the simple to-do list, through to the setting of SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, timely) goals and the GROW (goal, reality, options, way forward) process. Another evidence-based technique is that of activity scheduling, which can be helpful if motivation is particularly low. This involves scheduling activities into the day that will provide a sense of pleasure and/or achievement. The rationale behind this is that the less motivated one is, the less they engage in things which, in turn, feeds back that the less motivated one is, the less they engage in things which, in turn, feeds back that the less motivated one is, the less they engage in things which, in turn, feeds back that the less motivated one is, the less they engage in things which, in turn, feeds back that the less motivated one is, the less they engage in things which, in turn, feeds back that the less motivated one is, the less they engage in things which, in turn, feeds back that the less motivated one is, the less they engage in things which, in turn, feeds back that the less motivated one is, the less they engage in things which, in turn, feeds back that the less motivated one is, the less they engage in things which, in turn, feeds back that the less motivated one is, the less they engage in things which, in turn, feeds back that the less motivated one is, the less they engage in things which, 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Define success

Debbie Schultz is a Career Consultant for Career Analysts, which provides career development expertise and tools to The University of Auckland. For more information visit www.careeranalysts.co.nz

What gets you out of bed on Monday morning? Defining what really motivates you.

“Career motivation is when what we do is so closely aligned to what we’re good at and linked to our values that we just know we are on the right path. Everyone is motivated by different things and we all need to determine for ourselves what success means to us.

“Are you motivated to make a difference, to create something unique, or to have balance? Don’t rely on what your family, friends or co-workers define as success. Ultimately it’s up to you to decide and define what success means. Unless you define clearly what path you are on, you may be able to achieve success by others standards but never your own.

Tips to build motivation if you feel stuck in a rut

“To get out of a career rut, we need to reframe and think carefully about what inspires, motivates or gets us excited!

• Shift your focus from where you feel stuck, to what “gets you going”. Consider looking at your current and past roles. When have you felt the most satisfied and successful?
• Write a list of positive things you would do or start if you felt completely fearless! It is powerful to know what you want, even if you experience anxiety.
• Build a list of strategies to eliminate what might be holding you back. Think about what’s worked for you in the past.
• Motivate yourself by thinking of the cost of staying stuck in a rut. How are you going to feel about yourself if you are still in this situation in another two years’ time?”

HOT JOBS – new monthly jobs bulletin from NZ’s leading employers

Hot Jobs is produced through Track Me Back, which is an online community mainly for Kiwis who are currently offshore but are planning to return and would like to hear about job opportunities from leading employers in New Zealand. You can find out more and subscribe at http://trackmeback.co.nz.

LinkedIn

Are you interested in discussing career related topics with other alumni? To start or join a discussion through the alumni and friends group at LinkedIn, go to www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/social-media
The announcement was made towards the end of the reunion dinner held for the 1987 All Blacks in Auckland on 11 October. It was their first get-together since they won the inaugural Rugby World Cup. The 800 guests stretched the Ellerslie Event Centre to capacity. Such prominent figures as Sir Peter Leitch, Bryan Williams (NZRU President), Martin Snedden (2011 RWC CEO), Precious McKenzie (former weightlifting champion), Gavin Hastings (former Scotland and Lions captain) and Jake White (coach of the victorious Springboks at the 2007 RWC) also graced the occasion.

Some $165,000 was raised for the Drake Scholarship from net ticket proceeds plus an auction for a "weekend escape" to Taupo, signed rugby jerseys, memorabilia and round of golf with Gavin Hastings at Muirfield. The highest successful bid was the $15,000 which Sir Peter Leitch paid for the privilege of joining the 1987 heroes on-stage for a team photograph, a popular gesture greeted with thunderous applause.

The scholarship, established in 2009 and worth $5000 a year, supports an outstanding all-rounder who intends to study at the University and also play for the Auckland University rugby football club.

John Drake, who died in 2008 aged 49, was an Auckland graduate and a redoubtable prop forward in the World Cup-winning team. The scholarship in his memory is awarded to a school leaver who has excelled both in rugby and academically while showing the potential to emulate John Drake’s attitude and success both on and off the rugby field. Sam Viskovich amply demonstrates these qualities. He is Sports Captain and Deputy Head Boy at Westlake Boys High School as well as captaining the first fifteen. He is also involved in acting and debating. Last year he scored highly in the Cambridge International Examinations and he will be sitting NZQA scholarship exams in history, economics and statistics.

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For his BCom he will do a double major in Economics and International Business while for his BA he will major in Psychology. His career ambition is to be a future business leader in New Zealand.

Presenting the scholarship the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, noted that four of the 1987 All Blacks — Grant Fox, Sean Fitzpatrick, David Kirk and the late John Drake — were from the University Club along with Jerome Kaina, John Afoa and Graham Henry from this year’s team. “We are hopeful that this scholarship, which stresses the importance of maintaining the balance between study and sport, will produce more All Blacks in due course.”

The lively and often boisterous dinner, held in the anxious week before the semi-finals of the 2011 tournament, was replete with amusing anecdotes, warm tributes to John Drake (whose family were present in force) and sometimes quaint memories of a long-vanished amateur era. There were heartfelt expressions of support for the 2011 All Blacks in their quest for the Webb Ellis Cup. Veteran rugby commentator Keith Quinn ably compered proceedings and a revealing panel discussion involved key members of the 1987 side: Sir Brian Lochore (coach), Sean Fitzpatrick, John Gallagher and Warwick Taylor.

A University-produced video, 12 minutes long, featured three current All Blacks, Graham Henry and others giving their recollections of 1987.

As for the semi-final against Australia, Sir Brian had sage advice for the All Blacks: “We have to cut down their space. We have to be incredibly physical. Boy, we’re going to have to be on the job on Sunday!”

Panel discussion (from left): John Gallagher, Sean Fitzpatrick, Scotty Stevenson (moderator, Sky TV), Warwick Taylor, Sir Brian Lochore.
Books

The Settler’s Plot
Europeans arrive on a beach and push inland. They take the land and transform it. They make themselves at home, they dream of other places. And the stories they write take shape in settings – the beach, the farm, the bush, the suburb – that become imaginary versions of actual places. Taking a new approach to the cultural history of this country, alumnus Alex Calder’s (BA 1977, MA 1980, PhD 1988) The Settler’s Plot, published by Auckland University Press, is a study of the relationship between literature and place in New Zealand. Through fascinating and unpredictable readings of some of our greatest literature from Maning and Guthrie-Smith to Mansfield, Sargeson, Curnow and Frame, Alex investigates the often contradictory meanings that Pakeha have found in our most familiar settings.

Briefcase
After an argument with his wife, Verity, Jason Button threw a stapler which struck her on the face. Is he guilty of violent assault? Or was it just a matter of bad luck?
Briefcase, the first book of poetry by Judge, alumnus and poet John Adams (LLB 1970 Law, MCW 2010 Creative Writing), published by AUP, is a mélange of poems – in traditional and experimental forms – and other texts: affidavits, police reports, a sudoku puzzle, court transcripts, a menu, wills and commentaries, presented as a briefcase of lost documents.

District Court and Family Court judge at Auckland by day, John Adams has a Masters in Creative Writing from the University and is a poet by night. The first draft of Briefcase was written during his masters year in 2009.

Travels of Hochstetter and Haast
University alumnus Sacha Nolden (DipPerArts 1998, BA 2001, BA Hons 2002, MA 2003, PhD 2007) with Mike Johnston tracks the travels of Dr Ferdinand Hochstetter and his countryman Julius Haast in early New Zealand between 1858 and 1860. In early 1859 the pair went by foot, horseback and canoe deep into the North Island’s volcanic zone. Hochstetter kept a dramatic account of all he saw including the Pink and White Terraces.
His collaboration with Haast proved very fruitful and, on Hochstetter’s endorsement, his friend was appointed leader of an arduous expedition to the West Coast in 1860. Travels of Hochstetter and Haast in New Zealand 1858–1860, published by Nikau Press, draws on previously unpublished material from New Zealand and European archives, including sketches drawn for Hochstetter by Charles Heaphy.

Our Game
Published by New Zealand Geographic, Our Game celebrates the grassroots of our national game – rugby played by weekend warriors and embryonic All Blacks, far from the steely glare of stadium lights. This is the origin of the sport in New Zealand, the font of future McCaws, junior Jonahs, mini Meads’, and its greatest legacy. As much as it is a sport of the people, rugby is a sport of the landscape. Taking in these themes, New Zealand Geographic photographer Arno Gasteiger has captured the sport, the heart and soul of New Zealand, and the landscape in which it is played. Coupled with an enlightening, humorous commentary by alumnus, writer and rugby-enthusiast Peter Malcouronne (BA 1995) Our Game is an honest, heartfelt and at times irreverent vision of the game as it is known by all New Zealanders.

The crisis of theory
This book by alumnus Scott Hamilton (BA 1998, MA 2009, PhD Sociology 2009) tells the story of the political and intellectual adventures of E. P. Thompson, one of Britain’s foremost twentieth-century thinkers (and the University’s Robb Lecturer in 1988). Drawing on extraordinary new unpublished documents, Scott shows that all of Thompson’s work, from his acclaimed histories to his voluminous political writings to his little-noticed poetry, was inspired by the same passionate and idiosyncratic vision of the world. Although Thompson’s thought was a response to the great events of the twentieth century, The Crisis of Theory: E.P. Thompson, The New left and postwar British politics argues that it is more relevant than ever in the age of the War on Terror, extraordinary rendition, and capitalist globalisation.
Tradition made anew

For the fortieth anniversary of the Pacific Islands Forum, The University of Auckland’s Fale Pasifika was used to host a lecture by John Key.

The focal point for the Centre for Pacific Studies, this fale is so impressive it could easily upstage a small country’s prime minister. Its interior is vast, with a cavernous roof structure distinguished by afa or sennit (coconut coir) cord lashings worked by Tongan artist Filipe Tohi. His striking diamond and chequerboard patterns cover the steel plates and bolts of modern architecture while paying tribute to traditional construction methods.

In early meetings with Albert Refti who led the design project for the new building, Filipe Tohi was the artist who visualised the malae, or assembly area outside the fale, as an ocean. Taking their inspiration from the images generated by new imaging technologies such as computerised topographical maps, the artists sought innovation in tradition. They also wanted to blend cultural references, and to combine an aerial view with a Japanese aesthetic of space and simplicity derived from temple garden design. By so doing, they hoped to create a space for meditation and introspection – an oasis in the busy life of the campus. Just as looking up into the rafters of the fale could be likened to gazing at a Polynesian stick chart of another world, so the paving at the visitor’s feet could provide a way to navigate through to the future.

Tania Euruatua Short created the design for paving of the malae, entitling her work Accidental and Deliberate Voyages in the South Pacific. She based her pattern of arrows on a map featured in a book on Polynesian navigation edited by Jack Golson. A complicated representation of the myriad of journeys taken across the Pacific, this work creates a visual parallel to a student navigating a pathway through academia. As Refti writes, “The aim is not to define the journey. Neither the starting nor the finishing points are stated. What are described are the currents and channels, forming and deforming, reflecting options and choices, to be made and undertaken by the individual.”

Complementing the paving in vertical format are the black, white and red glass paintings by Niuean artist and poet John Puhiatau Pule. These run the length of the façade of the Centre for Pacific Studies building and divide it into seven parts, like the days of creation. Allowing light to enter the interior through their large white expanses, these are windows for wondering about rather than seeing through. They function like story boards, rich with allusive detail of fish, phantoms and oceanic phenomena. Horizontal lines form banded compositions derived from hioapo (the Niuean barkcloth painting traditionally done by women) in four of the paintings, while others have free-floating imagery loosely held together by tendrils of line. Like the metopes and triglyphs of a classical frieze where intense figurative activity in one panel was flanked by abstract patterning, this series of window paintings follow a busy tracery of black line drawing with a pause to contemplate bright red point blossoms. Made in 2004, the same year that the artist was named an Arts Laureate, it’s John Pule’s largest work to date, and brings together the main ideas of his practice.

Central to his work is the significance of the sea to those who come from the Pacific: “I look upon the sea with great love and admiration. I admire the beauty of the moon looking at the moon in the sea. The way clouds conjure up the day so the night can shower the sky with stars. It tells me who I am. Where I come from”, he writes.

Poet T.S. Eliot once wrote that the past is altered by the present as much as the present is directed by the past. The works of contemporary Pasifika artists living in New Zealand which are incorporated into the design of the Centre for Pacific Studies look back as well as forward. They respect the presence of the past while opening up the ocean of possibilities when traditions are made anew.

Linda Tyler, Director of the University’s Centre for NZ Art Research and Discovery
The school boy challenge that began inauspiciously that day in 2008 has become bigger than both of these University students. So big, it is what is now known around the globe as the I am Challenge.

"After about two weeks we found that things were getting a bit tough and we had no idea why we were doing this stupid thing," laughs Dan. So through fundraising events at school and as fresh undergrads at The University of Auckland, Ben and Dan decided to wear the same T-shirt every day for a year and raise money for charity. First up they raised $5000 for World Vision and 30 friends joined the challenge. In 2009 the group raised more money that went towards building a water tank for a community in Tanzania. At that point, 30 additional people jumped on board and there was no going back.

As self-professed “small fries” at the University, they do their studies in tandem with wearing the same T-shirt every day and galvanising others to do the same. Dan is studying a conjoint Arts/Commerce degree and Ben is studying toward a conjoint Engineering/Commerce degree. Alongside they fundraise, market, order stock and develop the website for the challenge.

For Ben, working on the challenge directly relates to his chosen papers. “I’m doing accounting this semester and there have been a couple of times where I’ve applied what I’m learning to the challenge. And I’ve learnt how to talk to people and approach charities and businesses about things.”

Dan nods in agreement. “I’ll be in one of my Marketing papers learning about how to conduct research, and I’ll be thinking ‘how I can apply that knowledge to the I am Challenge?’”

The T-shirt wearing challenge is embraced by youth from 14 different countries raising money for a range of causes. Kuwait has 20 people participating in the I am Challenge. Due to occupation and war in the country’s history, it is heavily polluted; therefore, the Kuwaiti team aims for an environmental focus to its fundraising. Money raised from wearing the T-shirts will be used to plant trees around Kuwait.

“Youth in Thailand are focusing on the issue of shark finning, so they are wearing T-shirts for that and run autonomously with a link back to us,” says Dan.

It was the February earthquake in Christchurch that made Ben and Dan think about keeping their fundraising closer to home. As a result, Dan spoke at the “Ted X - Reimagination of Christchurch” conference in May this year. The I am Challenge now has a dedicated core team of five members leading the challenge in the devastated city.

“The challenge is about creating a really good experience; it’s not just about wearing a shirt but becoming a part of a family and a community.”

Dan can’t quite believe that what started as a joke has turned into something so big. So far, he estimates that there are up to 150 people who have worn an “I am” shirt. “It is a youth empowerment tool. The T-shirt represents I am, who I am and because of that, I can make a difference.”

The boys are quick to point out the challenge is not all warm and fuzzy. It can be tiresome to hear “Is your name really Ben?” as often happens or to walk around with everyone knowing your name, which can be a bit disconcerting at times. But nothing compares with coming across a fellow I am challenger walking down the street.

“I saw someone wearing an I am T-shirt,” says Ben, “and I had no idea who they were. And it was kind of an awesome feeling.”

Kate Pitcher

“I am, who I am

“Ben and I were driving in the car one day when I said, ’I dare you to wear a T-shirt with I am Ben written on it and wear it for a whole year’, and Ben dared me back.”
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