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Ingenio – The University of Auckland alumni magazine

Spring 2007
ISSN 1176-211X

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International students have been studying in New Zealand universities for over 60 years. They presently make up about 12 percent of The University of Auckland’s 37,000 students, and come to us from some 80 countries worldwide – the largest group from China, and with significant cohorts from North America, South East Asia and Europe.

Our international students not only have to meet high academic entry standards, but they add to the vibrant nature of campus life and connect New Zealand to both the established and the emerging knowledge economies globally. The strong networks of personal relationships they establish here underpin a broader national strategy to connect New Zealand’s research and innovation system to the rest of the world. For example, the many outstanding students who studied in New Zealand under the Colombo Plan in the 1960s and 1970s now occupy influential positions in their own countries as leaders of government, the judiciary, the education system and business. Their ongoing connection with, and empathy for, New Zealand has been of great advantage to this country over the last half century.

As a relatively isolated nation competing with richer countries to attract these students, we are conscious of our social responsibility to New Zealanders to build these links. To quote Minister of Tertiary Education Dr Michael Cullen: “When we increase our global connections, we build our economy and help to strengthen New Zealand’s sense of national identity. Education contributes strongly to these priorities for New Zealand.”

International students are a key part of the University’s strategic development. An international quality research university like ours must both prove and provide for its research productivity through its ability to attract a global cohort of high quality students. Go to any top university internationally and you will find upwards of 30 percent of its research students are international. Indeed, in countries like the United States, global science and technology leadership is based on the ability to attract these people. The fact that The University of Auckland is able to attract such students derives from our high ranking among international universities – and without them, this ranking would quickly be at risk.

It is also worth reminding ourselves that international education makes a major contribution to the New Zealand economy – it is now one of our largest export activities, generating more foreign exchange revenue (nearly $2 billion in 2005) than the fishing ($870 million a year) and wine ($611 million) industries. The jobs of a great many New Zealanders rely on the financial contribution that international students, their families and their governments make to this country through international education.

I believe New Zealand students have the right to test themselves against a global cohort of top students here in New Zealand just as Australian, British and American students do in their universities. We not only improve our students’ performance, but...
Another perspective

I was pleased to see that the piece by Dr Elizabeth Rata in the latest Ingenio (Autumn 2007, page 38) was identified as opinion but disappointed that there was no alternative perspective provided.

Dr Rata’s flawed thesis that “culturalist principles” and “culturalist ideology” actively discourage critical inquiry and are therefore incompatible with the ethos of a world class university, needs to be subject to the kind of critical inquiry she espouses. The absence of such critical evaluation needlessly empowers her argument that already draws strength from unconsidered common sense about scientific inquiry.

First, Dr Rata distinguishes “objective scientific inquiry” from other cultural practices, she refers to them as cultural stories, as if such science developed and exists apart from particular people’s ways of understanding and mastering their worlds. That is equivalent to claiming a “degree of ‘cultural sacredness’” for such science. Second, her investigation does not appear to include examples of “intellectual risk-taking” that was actively discouraged by politically powerful members of the scientific community. I can testify that it does happen. Finally, her analytic perspective is from within the dominant definitions and systems, consequently she attends the actions of those on the margins. Orientated in that way she apparently cannot see how those practices, practitioners, and acolytes silence critical investigations of the social dominance of the culturalist ideology of science. That preferential vision enables her to disparage the university adherence to the “principles of the Treaty of Waitangi”.

More could, and should, be said but my intention here was simply to explain why I feel there ought to have been at least a comment on the opinion.

Raymond Nairn BSc 1965, MSc 1972, PhD Film, Television and Media Studies and Psychology 2004. Honorary Research Associate with the Department of Social and Community Health, School of Population Health.

Praise for Dame Joan Metge

I was very happy to receive my Ingenio magazine and read an article about Dame Joan Metge (Autumn 2007, page 20).

Any chance of you passing on my grateful thanks to her because 25 years ago after having been recently married to a Samoan I was given a copy of her book Talking Past Each Other. That little gem has definitely made my last couple of decades with my wife Tulua a more joyful cross-cultural experience.

Tulua and I have raised a family of four “World Citizens” who are much more “planet smart” than I was when, as a new member of the Baha’i Community in the early 70s with a pure Pakeha upbringing and never having been in the homes of Māori or Polynesians, I was suddenly face to face with a rich diversity of people.

Give Joan a big hug from me.

Derek Smith, BArch 1978
Secretary of the Port Moresby Baha’i Community
President PNG Institute of Architects

I very much enjoyed reading Ingenio, especially your general discussions of research projects and personal accomplishments.

I read with great interest and appreciation your great story of Dame Joan Metge and her work researching across cultural barriers. I am interested in the same problems.

I have spent many years since retirement working voluntarily in the developing world and helped to provide postgraduate education in surgery in Africa, India and Asian countries by scholarships for young surgeons of merit with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. These rowan Nicks Scholarships are governed by a special College of Surgeons committee.

More recently in conjunction with Sir Russell Drysdale’s widow and estate we have established the rowan Nicks Russell Drysdale scholarship for educating and training young scholars in the health sciences under the supervision of the University of Sydney.

My committee with the University of Sydney would greatly appreciate receiving copies of the papers of Dame Joan Metge as I think they may help us a great deal in our efforts to help in the advancement of Aboriginal communities on a national scale.

Rowan Nicks, OBE, Potts Point, NSW, Australia.
The finishing touches are being made to the iconic new Business School in anticipation of its opening in February.

The massive seven-storey, 28,000 square metre complex, named the Owen G. Glenn building, has risen as a dominant feature on the eastern side of Auckland city.

The new structure will allow the Business School to have, for the first time, its own integrated space. At present the School is spread across numerous locations on the City Campus.

The building is named after expatriate New Zealander Owen G. Glenn, who donated an unconditional $7.5 million to the Business School’s Partners for Excellence campaign. This commitment was a watershed in New Zealand philanthropy.

Business School Dean Barry Spicer says having a distinctive home is an important centrepiece in the Business School’s campaign to be recognised internationally.

“For Auckland, having an outstanding Business School is expected to boost its reputation worldwide, with most international business schools around the world housed in their own purpose-built complexes.

“The Owen G. Glenn building will become a hub where the business community, government and academia will converge to share ideas and pursue a better economy for all New Zealanders.”

The building, which was designed by architectural firm fjmt + archimedia, has opened in stages. Five parking levels containing 1200 spaces were opened in 2006. The centrepiece Fisher and Paykel Appliances lecture theatre, with 600 seats, opened early this year along with a second lecture theatre.

In July “level 0” opened. This is an entire floor for students made up of lecture theatres, case rooms and social spaces. It is dotted with “interactive pods” where students can work and recharge laptops, and there are comfortable seating areas and extensive open spaces.

Lecture Theatre Manager Pat Maguire says students have been thriving in their new state-of-the-art home.

“A big driver of this project was to create a home for students, where they could attend classes, meet with other students, hang out, do some work, sit in the sun – all in an environment that promotes learning and interaction,” Pat says.

Staff will occupy offices in the upper levels of the building, which encircle an impressive atrium as a focal point. “Social bridges” connect the wings of the upper floors, where staff will meet, socialise, have a coffee, and feel a part of the Business School community.

An open-air northwest facing public courtyard sits in the centre of the building complex. For more information see www.newschool.business.auckland.ac.nz
Centre launched in Beijing

The New Zealand Centre, a combined initiative of The University of Auckland and Peking University, was officially launched in China in May. Housed in a traditional building beside beautiful Weidman Lake in the grounds of Peking University, the Centre’s aim is to promote the study of New Zealand in China. It will strengthen ties between the two countries and combine an academic and teaching role with a policy development function.

As well as an undergraduate elective course on New Zealand, the Centre will actively promote scholarly exchanges and undertake special projects to enhance understanding between New Zealand and China. It is available to all New Zealand universities and provides a forum for discussing such issues as the Free Trade Agreement currently under negotiation, economic transformation and technology transfer.

New director welcomes ideas

Sam Elworthy, the new director of Auckland University Press, is keen to engage with alumni as he builds on the Press’s current list and seeks to expand into some new areas. Most recently the Editor In Chief of Princeton University Press, Sam stepped into the director’s chair at AUP in June. As well as building on existing strengths in history, art, literature, poetry, Māori and Pacific studies, he is keen to “deepen the Press’s commitment to science, health and business topics”.

“Over the next few months I will be travelling the country talking to booksellers, scholars, authors, and the media to help fashion the future of the Press,” he says.

“I am also very keen to talk with alumni and hear their thoughts and ideas.”

To contact Sam email him at: s.elworthy@ auckland.ac.nz

Also read about discounts on AUP books for alumni on page 32.

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President of Peking University Professor Xu Zhishong and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon.

Ingenio Autumn 2007
Celebrating 125 years

The University celebrates its 125th Jubilee next year.

Formally opened on 21 May 1883 as a constituent college of the University of New Zealand, the University began in a disused courthouse with four professors, and 95 students studying for degrees in Arts and Law.

The Governor of New Zealand, Sir William Jervois, said at the College’s opening: “The work on which we are engaged – placing the advantages of a university within the reach of every man and woman of Auckland – is one the importance of which it is almost impossible to over-estimate.”

During the first part of the 20th century, the College began to occupy land and buildings that now form the City Campus and in 1926 it commissioned prominent Chicago-trained architect R.A. Lippincott to design an Arts complex – today the iconic ClockTower building.

In 1958 the College became the University of Auckland and in 1962, with the abolition of the University of New Zealand, it became an autonomous entity.

During the second half of the 20th century student numbers soared as an increasing diversity of degrees and subjects was offered for study.

By 2006, The University of Auckland had become New Zealand’s leading tertiary institution and an international centre for excellence ranked among the top one percent of universities in the world.

Next year a Jubilee theme will extend to regular University functions such as the Distinguished Alumni Awards dinner (see page 32 for more information) while the main celebrations will be centred on May Graduation.

Auckland University Press is publishing a full-colour book on the University’s past and present and the 2008 Robb Lectures will be presented in March by Professor Sheldon Rothblatt, University of California, Berkeley, on the history, nature and purpose of universities.

For more information on Jubilee events for alumni, email alumni-events@auckland.ac.nz

Alumni on Council

Two alumni have been elected un-opposed to serve on the University Council.

Justice Lynton Stevens (BA 1969, LLB 1970) was re-elected to serve a third consecutive four-year-term.

A former partner at Russell McVeagh Barristers and Solicitors, Lynton was a Queen’s Counsel from 1997-2006 and is now a High Court Judge.

Dan Bidois, President of the Auckland University Students’ Association (AUSA) for 2006, has been elected to the Council unopposed.

Dan (BA/BCom 2006) is a business analyst for Deloitte Consulting. He says, in particular, he is committed to being part of the debate to ensure high investment in tertiary institutions in New Zealand.

Alumni have three representatives on the 18-member University Council (the other is Kate Sutton whose term ends in 2009).

Above top: R. A. Lippincott’s new Arts building.  
Above: Sir Maurice O’Rorke, chief founder of Auckland University College and first chairman of its Council.
Rosena Sammi’s jewellery designs can be spotted on New York catwalks and in the fashion pages of *Vogue* and *Harpers Bazaar*. The University Law graduate (LLB Hons/BA conjoint 1997) counts Naomi Watts, Uma Thurman and Claire Danes among her clientele.

Across the Atlantic, Carly Arnold (BCom/BE 2000) was named on *UK Management Today*’s 2006 top 35 young businesswomen under 35 list. This features those “judged to have the potential to reach the top of their chosen paths”.

Danelle Clayton finds out how these two alumnae are building on their University of Auckland degrees to create outstanding international careers.

**New York gem**

Rosena Sammi, who is forging a path in New York’s fierce fashion industry, believes it is the lawyer in her that gives her an extra edge.

After practising both in New Zealand and New York, the 33-year-old made a life-changing decision to swap the legal books for haute couture fashion magazines and now designs opulent jewellery for a living.

“Practising law in New York is incredibly demanding. You really have to love it to give up so much of your life,” Rosena says.

“I wanted to instead find something I was truly passionate about.”

Rosena hails from Sri Lanka and, as a child growing up in Auckland, remembers being surrounded by beautiful jewellery and adorning herself head-to-toe in gold and gems.

“My mother had a joy for jewellery that started my love affair,” she says.

Rosena’s designs are mostly inspired by the different regions of India, where she travels extensively to locate traditional artisans to craft her designs. The artisans use ancient techniques and source beautiful local stones to bring her designs to life.

Rosena Sammi ready-to-wear pieces retail in select Saks Fifth Avenue stores and designer boutiques for between $US100 and $US1000, depending on the materials and intricacy of the design. A red carpet piece – like a multi-strand gold necklace, three months in the making, which appeared in *Town and Country* magazine – will retail for $US36,000.

“My ability to translate classical Indian jewellery into something modern and wearable has been the key to my success,” she says. “My jewellery is opulent, elegant and striking.”

The experience Rosena gained from practising law in a corporate setting has been invaluable to her business.

“Apart from specific legal skills that are very useful, such as drafting contracts, negotiating and dealing with intellectual property, I am very efficient and organised, and can communicate well. Being persuasive is a great tool for any entrepreneur,” she says.

As well as coming up with creative designs,
Rosena is constantly communicating with her artisans, meeting magazine editors, talking to buyers, visiting stores, and thinking about merchandising. In the evening she hobnobs at industry events and parties, picking up advice and contacts.

She maintains strong connections to The University of Auckland and is the Alumni Relations Coordinator in New York.

“I field a lot of questions from alumni who are new to the city,” she explains. “There is a small, but highly successful community of alumni in New York. The drive and success of those I have met is a real credit to the University.

“I have incredibly fond memories of my time at university,” she adds, “and this is a wonderful opportunity to give back in some small way. I also love to meet and hear stories from other alumni – they’re a very talented group.”

Rosena says she is having far too much fun to think about ever returning to law.

“I do intend to keep my New York Bar membership active and where possible assist with pro bono work,” she adds. “I am currently a pro bono volunteer for Sakhi, a New York domestic violence organisation for South Asian women. I am also pretty active as a committee member of the Asia Society Museum in New York and that provides plenty of wonderful opportunities.”

Rosena’s designs are now available in New Zealand in Trelise Cooper stores, or visit her website: www.rosenasammi.com

High flyer

“This kind of recognition is not something that I have been striving for,” Carly Arnold told The Guardian newspaper soon after being named among the top 35 young businesswomen in the UK last year.

“It simply happened as a by-product of my career.”

And what a career! At 30, Carly is General Manager of EasyJet, Europe’s largest low cost airline famous for its cheaper than cheap fares (sometimes as low as 99p). Based at London’s Luton Airport, Carly oversees 600 crew, 17 aircraft, and a $30 million budget, and is tasked with delivering a safe, on-time and cost effective operation.

Since taking over the role of general manager, Carly has dealt with flooding, bomb scares, security changes and major technical issues “all of which are urgent and critical”. In the day-to-day, she works with everyone from the Easyjet team to third party service handlers including check-in staff, baggage handlers, engineers, cleaners and caterers.

“There is no such thing as a typical day in the world of operations, and that’s what makes my role so interesting,” she says. “I often start with a ‘to-do’ list that by the end of the day I have hardly touched because of needing to react to the reality in front of me.”

A former St Cuthbert’s College student, Carly originally dreamed of being a pilot. But after completing Engineering and Commerce degrees at Auckland, she found herself flourishing in a behind-the-scenes role as a computer programmer with Air New Zealand. When she and husband Joshua moved to the UK in 2002, she landed a job as a business analyst with Easyjet and has since worked her way through five promotions to reach her current role.

Carly sees her grounding in operations research – part of her Engineering Science degree – as central to her performance with Easyjet.

“Professor David Ryan [Engineering Deputy Dean] was definitely a key influence. He was very practical in his teaching and made technical subjects such as operations research and optimisation easy to understand.

“The BCom gave me a good grounding in the financial side of business, and the BE taught me how to use logic to solve complex problems – usually with incomplete data. Engineering is truly a discipline that encourages innovation and thinking outside of the box.”

Professor Ryan says one of the most satisfying aspects of an academic career is meeting outstanding young people and watching their development and progress, first as students and then in their chosen career.

“Carly was one of these outstanding students, not just because of her natural ability but through her commitment to excellence in all she attempted. It is not surprising that she has achieved such success and distinction in her career. We are very proud indeed to say she is a graduate of The University of Auckland,” he says.

Carly admits she is a workaholic, and doesn’t leave room for many other activities in her life although she does like to attend alumni events in London. She doesn’t own a television, but has found the time to run “a few” half-marathons and last year she briefly met Queen Elizabeth and Princess Anne at a reception held for Women in Business at Buckingham Palace.

“Living in London is amazing,” she says, “it is such a 21st century cosmopolitan city with incredible diversity.”
Delivering better health

University research teams are working with District Health Boards throughout the country to deliver better health care to ordinary New Zealanders. Tess Redgrave joins two teams out in the field.

“My woman is nearly 90 years old; she has osteoarthritis and is recovering from a small heart attack. She is quite bent over. She has some problems with walking and some problems with dressing herself. She can’t do her own washing. She can’t read. She can’t do the garden. She can’t drive. However, she’s a character and she copes with her disabilities with quite a good sense of humour.”

It is a Spring Monday morning at the Hutt Valley DHB in Wellington and this is the report of one of seven Sigma Needs Based Assessors participating in SMART (Service Management in Advanced Restorative Techniques) – an innovative eight-week training programme devised by University of Auckland researchers for delivering home-based services to older people.

The centre-piece of SMART is a pioneering tool called TARGET (Towards Achieving Realistic Goals in Elders Tool) which enables assessors to find out exactly where an older person “is at” in terms of his/her physical and mental/emotional health, then helps them...
facilitate realistic and achievable goals that will improve their quality of life.

“Shall we go through what this woman’s goal ladder might look like using the TARGET tool?” continues leader of the Hutt Valley workshop, John Parsons, a research fellow with the University’s School of Nursing’s GERAC team (Gerontology, Education, Research, Advocacy and Consultancy).

John draws a ladder on a white board and begins writing up the 90-year-old’s goals on each rung – “crossing the road to visit her friend, being able to wash her own ‘smalls’, go to the supermarket once a week with her son, do her own grocery shopping, work in the garden” – rubbing them out and changing them as the group offers suggestions.

“I think this approach to working with older people will help achieve a different focus,” observes Meera Isaac, leader of the Hutt Valley Sigma team. “Up to now we’ve had very few clients who’ve set goals and made improvements. We hope this tool will help achieve a rehab focus and get people independent again – even if it’s only 10 percent of them.

SMART was conceived by a team led by Dr Matthew Parsons (John’s brother), a registered nurse, gerontologist and head of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences Postgraduate Gerontology programme. In particular it draws on Matthew’s role as the principal research investigator for both ASPIrE – a Ministry of Health funded evaluation of initiatives in New Zealand to keep older people in their homes – and InteRAI, an international tool used for assessing older people.

“These initiatives reinforced the need to locate teams such as Meera’s in the community where they gain an intimate knowledge of the older person’s local environment,” says Matthew.

As a result, SMART supports government strategies (and worldwide trends) that facilitate older people to “age in place” making their own choices about where to live, enjoying a good quality of life and receiving the support to do so.

On a practical level, once SMART’s TARGET tool has identified a person’s goals, a support plan to achieve the goals is put in place by service providers contracted to DHBs.

“Before, if you were, let’s say 80 years old, you might get some home help [such as house-cleaning] when what you really needed was to keep up your social networks,” explains Matthew. “What we’ve done is realign the whole system: we’re upskilling the home support workers and we’re upskilling the agency which is assessing the older person in the first place so they can help them work out what is important to them. For example going to Mah Jong class two days per week might be important for an older person but they can no longer get up the stairs at the club.

Now they can get help to get back to doing that. They might get half an hour home help while the rest of the time is spent on getting them fitter and stronger, maybe bringing in some occupational therapy and physio.”

With the number of older people (65 plus) anticipated to rise to 25 percent of the population by 2050 and a four-fold increase in 75-plus-year-olds predicted to occur over the next 20 years, refining services for older persons has become a top priority for District Health Boards around the country.

In response, Matthew and his team, which cover the disciplines of nursing, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, and counselling, are currently working with 11 DHBs ranging from Northland to South Canterbury; and more are coming on board all the time.

By 2009 Matthew hopes New Zealand will have a “restorative home support” service that is totally tailored and aligned to the older person’s goals, aspirations and needs, resulting in reduced residential care admissions and greater staff retention in frontline home care roles.

And DHBs seem to endorse his goal.

“This is absolutely the way to go,” says Karina Kwai, Senior Portfolio Funding Manager for Older Persons at Hutt Valley DHB. “With TARGET we will have the data to start measuring outcomes for the first time,” she enthuses. “It’s such a new way of working – leading edge stuff – and I have a great respect for Matthew and his team.”

Working with DHBs is “leading edge stuff” for the University too. Traditionally UniServices – the University’s research technology company which promotes and manages the contracts – has worked directly with the Ministry of Health.
"And we’re continuing to do so," emphasises Mark Burgess, UniServices’ General Manager of Research and Consulting, "but we’re also starting to see a quiet devolution of work from the Ministry of Health to DHBs and I think it shows that University research and know-how is relevant to the health care of ordinary New Zealanders at an operational level. A lot of high profile research commercialised by UniServices relates to new drugs. That’s important but some of the big gains are in the public health sector.

Another key University/DHB partnership has been fostered between the School of Population Health’s Centre for Health Services Research and Policy (CHSRP) and Counties Manukau.

In 2005 Counties Manukau launched a world-first $10 million community health campaign called Let’s Beat Diabetes (LBD) to try and combat the high prevalence of type-2 diabetes in its region. As part of the innovative five-year campaign, the DHB engaged a team of University health systems evaluators, led by Dr Janet Clinton, to evaluate the campaign as it progressed with the goal of creating a collaborative learning environment.

“We decided that if we were going to do something on this scale then we needed to learn from it, be able to capture the learning and then share it,” says Chad Paraone, Programme Director of LBD.

“We’ve made a strong investment in the University’s evaluation expertise and as director of the programme, I see it as an important tool which enables me to look right across the campaign and see how it is all hanging together.”

“A report at the end of five years was no use to us,” adds Chris Mules, Chief Planning and Funding Manager for Manukau Counties DHB. “We needed to make sure this would work.”

Initially Janet’s team, which includes Project Manager Sarah Appleton and Rob McNeil (in charge of population monitoring), built an evaluation framework. This uniquely adapts a US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention model of programme evaluation for local conditions.

Now the team is actively involved in evaluation: collecting data and constantly feeding information back to Counties Manukau DHB. Already initiatives like the effectiveness of reducing sweetened drinks at fast food outlets have been confirmed, changes in workforce training identified and the need for more face-to-face contact for community workers acknowledged.

“Our work is about improvement of a programme or project as it’s running as opposed to testing a hypothesis,” explains Janet. “Rather than working from the back end we start at the front with the development of the programme and get people critically reflecting on the whole process.”

To observe Janet’s team at work, Ingenio sat in on a recent high-level meeting of Let’s Beat Diabetes project managers as they listened to University evaluators present key findings for 2006-2007.

With some 12,000 people diagnosed with type-2 diabetes and double that number still undiagnosed, the impact of diabetes in Manukau (pop. 451,100) filters right through the community. In response the multi-pronged LBD campaign brings together community organisations on ten wide-ranging action areas from social marketing, urban design and community leadership through to food industry, schools accords and vulnerable families. The overall progress and development of each of these areas is the subject of Janet’s presentation today.
Ingenio
Spring 2007

First she explains the system of evaluation variables each group has been measured against. These include key performance indicators, degree of implementation, organisational development, overall progress, collaboration, sustainability and evaluation readiness. She then flicks vivid graphs up on the screen to illustrate how each action group, measured against the variables, is doing.

Says Chad Paraone: “This shows we can pat ourselves on the back in some areas but we’ve got some real problems in others. So now the question is what do we do with this?”

“We’re very keen this information goes back to the Action Group leaders,” replies Janet. “Now that we’ve got this information we all need to think what does it mean for policy, practice and research?” she adds.

A trained educational and clinical psychologist, Janet began working as an evaluator of interventions while at the University of Western Australia in 1990. She then moved to the Department of Measurement and Evaluation at the University of Carolina before coming to New Zealand in 1998 and joining The University of Auckland’s Faculty of Education. In 2002 she moved over to the School of Population Health and has since been instrumental in establishing New Zealand’s first Health Evaluation teaching programme.

“We develop a plan for ongoing evaluation and monitoring of a project which is very collaborative and informative,” explains Janet. “For example, each year with LBD we might do a lot of surveys, interviews and focus groups. We analyse those and take those back to the reference group and say ‘well what does it mean to you? How are you going to use this data to inform your programme and projects?’ By following this cyclic process the programme gets enhanced and if it needs adapting, it’s adapted very early rather than teetering along until it fails – traditionally programmes are evaluated at the end.”

As well as Counties Manukau, Janet and her team are working with other DHBs in the North Island and have recently begun evaluating Nelson/Marlborough DHB’s physical activity and nutrition programmes.

“They want to build a culture of critical reflection and feed that down to the community level so that all their actions are informed by evidence,” says Janet.

“Programme evaluation as a methodology or discipline is not extensive in New Zealand,” she adds. “However, it is critical for the ongoing transfer of knowledge and continued improvement of health initiatives.”


“What library are we talking about here?”

No library. One magazine. The Listener. Every week.
New Zealand’s top young scientists

Auckland took the top placings at this year’s Young Scientist awards. Emma Timewell reports.

Understanding how Huntington’s disease develops and tracking the behaviour of island-based rats won two young University scientists the top accolades at this year’s MacDiarmid Young Scientist of the Year awards.

Jessie Jacobsen, a PhD student in the Department of Anatomy with Radiology, was named New Zealand’s Young Scientist of the Year (the second year in a row an Auckland student has won the top award) while James Russell, a PhD student in Biology and Statistics, was runner-up.

Jessie, 25, is looking at the progression of Huntington’s disease in sheep. Understanding how Huntington’s disease develops in a large animal with a similar brain structure to humans could give scientists some insight into how the disease develops in humans. In turn, this knowledge will assist in the development and testing of new treatments for Huntington’s and other neurological disorders.

To be able to treat Huntington’s before symptoms appear, scientists need to spend enough time studying the period just before symptoms occur, so they can create and test drugs that stop the disease in its tracks. Compared with other “model” animals, like mice and rats, the longevity of sheep (around 10-15 years) allows scientists to mimic the late onset of Huntington’s and provides the
timeframe required to study the disease progression before symptoms appear.

Jessie’s research involved working with a piece of DNA that encodes the human gene for Huntington’s disease.

“The gene that causes Huntington’s was identified in about 1993,” she explains. “It’s a gene that’s common across most animals, but it has a repeating sequence of nucleic acids that varies in length. In humans there are normally between 10 and 35 repeats, whereas sheep have 10 to 16 repeats. From what we know of the disease, when the gene has more than 36 repeats Huntington’s develops. Humans are the only animal where the length of repeats is near this top end, so we’re the only ones that get the disease.”

Over about a year Jessie constructed a DNA sequence that resembled those found in humans with Huntington’s disease, and was stable enough to be introduced into living cells.

“The first year of my PhD was like a battle,” she remembers. “One of the most difficult achievements of my life so far. I didn’t realise a piece of DNA could be so difficult to work with and it really gave me an appreciation of just how toxic the gene is.”

Jessie’s new transgene was then sent to collaborators in South Australia who injected the DNA into eggs from ewes. The eggs underwent in vitro fertilisation (IVF) and the fertilised eggs were transferred back into the uteri of the ewes. After five months, six lambs were born that tested positive for the Huntington’s gene – Huntington’s develops. Humans are the only animal where the length of repeats is near this top end, so we’re the only ones that get the disease.”

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Jessie, who completed an honours degree in cardigenetics before embarking on her Huntington’s project, has another year of PhD research to go. She is very passionate about her science and members of her lab frequently meet with patient support groups, re-energising their enthusiasm when it begins to wane.

“Huntington’s is a really emotional disorder,” she says. “Because of its late onset, people often don’t realise they have it until they’ve had kids and they suddenly realise they are potentially passing this fatal genetic abnormality on to them. It’s easy to forget the human aspect of the research when you’re in the lab every day getting frustrated, but seeing these families really brings it home.”

While Jessie’s work is ultimately about saving human lives, James Russell’s research is focused on helping the Department of Conservation put effective biosecurity measures in place so that endangered species are safe on island sanctuaries.

New Zealand is a world leader in eradication of pests, such as rats, from its outer islands, but little is known about how and why rats re-invade. James’s research involved catching and radio-collaring male rats for release on islands in the Hauraki Gulf previously cleared of rats. He then tracked these rats to monitor their movements.

“We spent a lot of time running around islands trying to catch rats – it was quite comical in some ways,” he laughs. “Eradication of pests from islands is relatively easy, but getting them to stay away is almost impossible. No-one really knows why the behaviour of a re-invader is so different from one that has always lived in an area, so it’s important that we understand all the hows, whys and wheeres to continue protecting the animals we intend to re-home on these islands.”

James’s research found that rats would leave islands even when there was no other competition, and swim long distances in search of social interaction; in the case of an infamous rat called Razza (featured in media around the world after its feats were published in the journal Nature and now the hero of a Witi Ihimaera children’s book) up to 400 metres!

“Razza has been the star of the show for a while now,” he smiles.

James’s work has been used to update the Department of Conservation’s Standard Operating Procedures for minimising rat re-invasion of island sanctuaries. As rats are now known to travel further during invasion than previously imagined, the monitoring radius for invaders has been extended beyond its earlier 500 metres from identified landing point. A permanent surveillance grid is also put in place early in the process, so it is present prior to reinvasion and not introduced to the environment once the predators have arrived.

James has just completed his PhD and was capped at Spring Graduation. He is keen to continue his rat research overseas, and is weighing up options for postdoctoral positions outside New Zealand. “Less is known about rat re-invasion in other places, so it will be interesting to learn the differences between different species in different places around the world,” he says. “New Zealand really is the forerunner in this kind of research, so everything I’ve learned will be really useful for similar projects elsewhere.”
From the Uni gym to the America’s Cup

Alumnus David Slyfield trains some of New Zealand’s top elite athletes. He talks to Tess Redgrave.

When Emirates Team New Zealand entered the dial-up for the first America’s Cup race in Valencia, alumnus David Slyfield (BA Psychology 1989) was back at base watching on the big screen.

As head of Team New Zealand’s sports science and conditioning programme since 2000, David had spent thousands of hours working on the health and fitness of the 17 Team NZ sailors. Now as the two yachts crossed the start line and television stations broadcast computer-generated information on wind shifts, boat speeds and boat lengths apart, David could have reeled off a corresponding set of statistics: how Dean Barker had scored on aerobic fitness in his latest field test; the helmsman’s carefully maintained current weight; and the quantities of carbohydrate drink and caffeine gel he’d had just before going into the ten-minute countdown.

Equally, as the two boats went into a tacking duel close to the first mark, David knew grinder Rob Waddell’s current performance score on a series of weight-lifting movements; the general level of his anabolic and catabolic hormones in the gym each morning; and what protein shakes he drank to stimulate them.

If asked, David could report on the combined weight of the team and how that balanced out between the afterguard and trimmers versus the grinders, mastman and pitmen. He could even offer a clear, scientifically-tested, score of how energised the sailors were feeling and as a result of that, predict how they might be performing by day five.

Team New Zealand, Olympic medallists Ben Fouhy (kayaking), Barbara Kendall (boardsailing), Sarah Ulmer (cycling) and Hamish Carter (triathlon) – these are just some of the elite athletes David has worked with during 17 years as one of New Zealand’s leading
strengthening and conditioning trainers.

Back home in Auckland, already signed up for the next America’s Cup and enjoying spending time with his wife and two young daughters, the 40-year-old looks sun-tanned and relaxed as he tells Ingenio how his career had its genesis in a haircut.

“I was in the seventh form at Bream Bay College in Ruakaka and I had a job lined up at Radio Northland,” he remembers. “But then one day I went to get a haircut and I asked the person cutting my hair what they did in the weekend. They told me about this fantastic party they’d been to at Auckland University and I thought ‘that sounds like me’.”

David “chucked in his job” and enrolled in a BA eventually majoring in Psychology. But by the end of it in 1988 he was more interested in his visits to the University gym and managed to land a job as a fitness instructor.

“Back then most gyms didn’t require formal qualifications – just that you knew a lot about how to lift weights correctly, which fortunately I did,” remembers David.

The following year he combined the gym job with a six-month course in fitness instructing at Auckland University of Technology.

“Suddenly I was passionate about what I was learning. Then the All Black trainer (Jim Blair) came in and spoke to us and I thought ‘yes! that’s what I want to do – work with elite athletes’.”

Keen to learn as much as he could about the science of sport and fitness, he started “all level his study fizzled out because it wasn’t as applied as he wanted it to be. “Now I’d do a Sports Science degree,” he says, “but those didn’t exist then.”

In 1990 David became the Fitness Supervisor of the University Recreation Centre and manager of the Weights Room. He was also beginning to work with some talented athletes. Among them were Sarah Ulmer, whom he had first met when she was an Epsom Girls’ Grammar student preparing for the Junior Worlds (and whom he still trains) and BCom student Mark Weldon (now head of the New Zealand Stock Exchange), who went to the 1992 Barcelona Olympics as a member of the New Zealand swimming team.

In 1994 David was offered a job at The University of Auckland’s UniSports – New Zealand’s first sports science centre consulting exclusively to elite sport. During two years there he worked intensively with tennis player Brett Steven, accompanying him to both the French Open and Wimbledon, as well as athletes from a wide range of disciplines. He then left UniSports to set up his own business: Slyfield Training Systems.

In the lead up to the 2000 Olympics, David helped a number of athletes, spending a lot of time on Sydney harbour working with rower Rob Waddell (now grinder aboard Team New Zealand) and board-sailors Barbara Kendall and Aaron McIntosh.

“Soon after, he was approached by Team NZ to work with the sailors in preparation for New Zealand’s 2003 defence of the America’s Cup. For David, it was a natural fit.

“Yachting had been my family sport. I’d sailed all the youth classes up to 17. I understood the lingo and what it took to train for that sport, where it hurt and what you needed to prepare for.”

As well as managing the fitness and diet programmes for each Team NZ sailor during the 2003 campaign, David was involved in ground-breaking physiology testing. HertResearch New Zealand had developed a device called Electrosonophoresis (ESOP) which reads blood through the skin by drawing out a tiny little bit of interstitial fluid. They approached David looking for a population of athletes who were regulated and would be available for long-term testing, to trial ESOP on.

“Many of the variables in the blood such as hormones are permeable and can move through the interstitial fluid,” explains David. “We were interested in testing hormones and looking at how that related to sailors’ performance in the gym.”

Using the ESOP device, David and HertResearch did multiple blood tests on the sailors during their daily gym routines. They found that when a sailor’s anabolic hormones (growth hormones such as testosterone) are at high levels and catabolic hormones (breaking down hormones such as cortisol) are at low levels, he is in the best position to display maximum strength.

“So we looked at whether we could modify a sailor’s hormone state naturally,” explains David. “One significant finding was that introducing protein on an empty stomach first thing in the morning had a positive influence on a sailor’s hormones.

“Nutritionists tend to look at proteins from a building block perspective as a nutrient to help re-model muscle,” observes David. “We were seeing the introduction of protein creating a hormone cascade. So the key thing to take out of it was that if you weren’t eating before training, or only had carbohydrates, you were hindering yourself not just from a fuel perspective but also in terms of getting a hormone lift.”

The lessons learnt from the ESOP research (the first major study of its type in the world) were applied in the 2007 campaign. A new computerised device recording sailors’ daily energy levels was also introduced during the recent campaign to try and maximise the energy of the whole team prior to racing.

“We used the data collected to help formulise breaks and decide how we would peak and taper during rounds of the Louis Vuitton and America’s Cup,” explains David. “We were able to show Grant [Dalton] and our management team that if we just worked harder and harder without allowing enough rest our performance got worse and worse.”

Managing director of Team New Zealand, Grant Dalton says David understood his role within the team “perfectly” during the last campaign. “Sly has a great sense of humour and over the campaign he gained the sailing team’s trust and loyalty. Strength-based athletes need to see results and to make gains they had to do a lot more than just lift weights. Sly managed all this. He is a one stop shop as such. From supplements to programmes, he took control.”

David, who often sailed on Team NZ’s back up boat in Valencia alongside Grant (“Sly learnt quickly but he never showed me up”), is humble about his training methods.

“I don’t do anything especially unique,” he stresses. “What I do in training athletes is try and instil a level of balance and consistency. Research tells us that it takes most world champions an average of ten years to become world champions and that’s one of the key messages I try to get across. Athletes have to keep refining and refining their training and try and have logic and reasoning to it.

“Sometimes elite athletes think they must do more than everyone else – that to be the best they have to do the most training. It’s not always about more, it’s about the right amount of the right type, and it’s about being smarter.”
Benefactor grew up in Nazi Germany

A German-born benefactor thought to have met Hitler has given optometry and vision science research at the University a significant boost.

The Robert Lietl Chair in Optometry has been created in memory of one of the country’s pioneering optics manufacturers.

At a ceremony in June, some $850,000 was handed over to The University of Auckland Foundation as an endowment pool to support the research work of the chair’s holder. (See story opposite).

Robert Lietl, who died in 1997, was a key figure in establishing an optics industry in New Zealand. He was also very active in Auckland’s German society (president for many years and then its patron) and had an intriguing, and to many who knew him, “mysterious” background.

Born in Nuremberg, Germany, in 1933, Robert grew up in Nazi Germany during the Second World War “and as a brownshirt is rumoured to have shaken the Fűhrer’s hand”, says his former accountant Lorne Weir, co-executor of the Lietl Estate.

Robert’s childhood sweetheart Traudi, later to become his wife, was of “Jewish extraction” and was thought to have been expatriated to Austria during the war.

“And that’s all we really know,” says Lorne. “The war years were a closed book when they came here – they didn’t want to talk about them.”

Robert Lietl trained to be an optician at a gymnasium in Germany and then worked in a frame manufacturing plant making spectacles. After rising to production manager, he was seconded to Brazil to set up a frame manufacturing plant. He returned to establish another plant in Germany and in 1969, at the invitation of the government’s Trade and Industries Department, came to New Zealand to set up the first frame manufacturing plant for Solavoid. Owned by Hannaford and Burton, this plant later became OHL Corporation and more recently OHL Eyewear Ltd.

Keen to stay in New Zealand, Robert helped establish another frame manufacturing plant, Owen Optical, and in 1976 purchased the company. Over the next few years he built up a small empire, purchasing Arthur Cocks and Co – an established wholesale company of optical goods, fancy goods and jewellery – and amalgamated it with his wife’s sunglasses company International Fashion Eyewear.

Other companies were added to the Lietl empire and grouped under the name Gregor Holdings. When the New Zealand Vision Research Foundation was established in the 80s, Robert became a major benefactor.

In 1988 he retired from optics and dabbled in other businesses. When Traudi died while undergoing an operation in America in 1992, Robert was devastated and struggled on for the next five years battling diabetes – with no family in New Zealand to lean on – eventually dying suddenly aged 65.

“Robert was a guy who actually kept pretty much to himself,” says business colleague and former company manager of Arthur Cocks and Co, Peter Lawson. “To many folk,
he never went out of his way for people. He was straightforward. You just took him as you found him.”

“But he was a different kettle of fish when you got to know him,” adds Lorne. “He was actually a lovely and very generous guy and we’re very keen for this memory to continue on.”

Understanding retinitis pigmentosa
Understanding why the retina degenerates in the group of genetic eye conditions called Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP) is the core focus of Michael Kalloniatis – the inaugural Robert G Lietl Professor of Optometry.

Michael heads the Optometry Department’s Retinal Networks Laboratory, which is trying to identify factors that accelerate cell death in RP.

“We’re also trying to understand exactly how cells in the retina communicate with each other,” he explains. “We know they communicate via a range of chemicals and that when degeneration occurs, the communication changes and in some cases, the chemicals used for communication become toxic.”

Working with a range of models researchers are looking at how RP creates a metabolic insult on the retina and subsequently leads to accelerated cell death. “We’re not going to cure people of the disease,” cautions Michael. “But we want to slow it down. Patients can lose up to half their vision every ten years. So if we delay it by five to ten years, we will be providing a significantly longer period of useful vision.”

As well as research and teaching, the Department of Optometry and Vision Science currently runs eye clinics at both the Tamaki and Grafton campuses with students seeing up to 6000 new patients each year.

The department is also involved in a move to establish a multi-disciplinary National Eye Research and Clinical Centre at The University of Auckland. In March a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Departments of Optometry and Vision Science, Ophthalmology and the Molecular Vision Laboratory (Department of Physiology) to create a world-leading centre for both vision research and education. “This will provide a focus for vision research leading to collaborations and generating a critical mass of researchers,” says Michael.
Mobilising for change

An important book on how New Zealanders can tackle climate change and sustainability comes out in November. Judy Wilford meets some of The University of Auckland contributors.

Prue Taylor, an international environmental lawyer and a senior lecturer in Planning, is hard-hitting in her demands for change. “Quite simply, we [humans] behave as if we were independent from the Earth’s systems, and as a consequence we plunder its fruits faster than they can be replenished and pollute its reserves of air, water, sea and land faster than these wastes can be absorbed,” she says.

“We do this regardless of its impact on ecosystems and at a rate and scale that is harming humans and non-humans. We do so to meet our own short-term wants and needs irrespective of the interests of others.”

This recognition and the moral force it carries is the driving energy behind a forthcoming book edited by University senior lecturer in Psychology Dr Niki Harré (pictured above) and alumnus Dr Quentin Atkinson (BA Hons 2003, PhD Psychology 2006). Its authors include University staff from four faculties – Arts, Science, Law and Creative Arts and Industries – and from government agencies, non-government organisations, businesses, CRIIs and other tertiary institutions.

Carbon Neutral by 2020 was conceived last December at a meeting of staff from across the University initiated by Planner Tricia Austin. The speed of its production since is a measure of the urgency with which contributors, the editors, and the publisher, Craig Potton, all view the issues.

It is also a measure of the power of collective action, mentioned by several of the authors of the 18 chapters, who offer a kaleidoscope of different perspectives – scientific, political, ethical, legal, economic – on an issue they see as crucial to the Earth and every species in it.

Though the central focus is climate change – the issue now mobilising world opinion – this is seen by most authors against a wider backdrop of sustainability, described by Prue Taylor as “a conceptual framework...”
that is becoming well-developed to help us understand all aspects of the problem… and deal with them in an interrelated and comprehensive way”

The book is timely, positive, and makes riveting reading, moving beyond the science of climate change to provide additional information of a kind seldom discussed in the media.

Dr Alexei Drummond, a senior lecturer in Computer Science (as well as a biologist with specialised knowledge of bioinformatics and a research focus on evolutionary processes) offers some surprises in his analysis of the impact of computers, which are part of both the problem and the solution.

While they take considerable energy to build – ten times as much per kilogramme as manufacturing a car – they also comprise the essential tool for global, historical and predictive monitoring to assess the extent of the problem, and for modelling to find solutions.

At a day to day level computers can change behaviour by telling you which appliances in your home are using most power: if the plasma television on stand-by, for example, is using as much power as the lighting in the hall.

Computers can also place the world in the palm of your hand – and give you the means of cutting down carbon emissions by working or learning from home, teleconferencing, e-researching, even visiting virtual nightclubs and dancing with strangers half a world away.

Alexei expects people to feel more and more comfortable moving between the virtual and the real worlds: “One of the ways of the future – important for New Zealand – is in virtual travel, including virtual scenic flights.”

An aspect of Trade Me that people seldom think of is that it is hugely friendly to the environment, spreading the concept of recycling to people who have never walked into a second-hand store. Since a car, for example, costs more in energy to build than it uses in fuel for the whole of its lifetime, one favour you can do for the environment is buy second-hand.

“Human rights are essential to the rule of law, and sustainability is essential to the concept of human rights. We have a fundamental requirement to sustain for the future.”

Dr Jennifer Curtin and Dr Anita Lacey from Political Studies focus on opportunities for citizens to influence government. Their task as they see it is to show New Zealanders that they have solid power and can use their collective voices to raise political momentum.

Each offers a number of strategies to bring about change: among these are the lobbying of Members of Parliament to present Private Members’ Bills; the uniquely New Zealand Citizens’ Initiated Referendum, unlike any other in the world; and the use of the Toolkit for Climate Change, developed last year through an international collaboration of activists, to educate councils and governments on caring for the environment.

Between the strategies outlined, Jennifer and Anita believe there is something everyone can identify with. “There is a tendency for issues to hit the public agenda, shine brightly, then fade, irrespective of how important they are,” says Jennifer. “This issue has to hit hard enough and stay long enough to embed carbon neutrality as a way of life.”

Says Professor Klaus Bosselmann, Director of the Centre for Environmental Law in the Faculty of Law: “Helen Clark has suggested that New Zealand should strive to be the first country to be carbon neutral. We try to show in our book that this can be done. We have the expertise.

In his chapter Klaus strikes to the heart of the conceptual base on which civilisation rests. Sustainability, he asserts, is as fundamental to human rights as justice or freedom.

“Human rights are essential to the rule of law, and sustainability is essential to the concept of human rights. We have a fundamental requirement to sustain for the future.”

This he adds, has to be a legally binding requirement, extending beyond the limits of democracy: “Democratic models are not usually concerned with outputs. Democracy brings a deficit of long-term commitments.”

New Zealand, Klaus believes, already has in its Resource Management Act the key to...
an effective environmental law. However it is weakened by its restriction to resource consents, and by the primacy of property law. This country puts few curbs on ownership rights and demands no duty of care for the land, which is built into the constitutions of many other countries.

The solution to oil dependency, Klaus asserts, does not lie in the cultivation of biofuels – which too often involves the clearing of rain forests to free land for their cultivation – or the use of nuclear energy, which has the fundamental problem of storing waste. Instead the answer is to radically favour renewable energy, offering subsidies such as those given under Germany’s Renewal Energy Act 2002 to encourage use of natural resources such as wind and water.

Prue Taylor’s chapter – which focuses on the Earth Charter first drafted for the 1992 Earth Summit and finally launched in 2000 – highlights the ethics of sustainability.

As an international environmental lawyer who has worked in the field since 1989 – and as the author of the first legal paper ever written on climate change in New Zealand – Prue is very aware that the law cannot dictate change.

“Law reflects current value systems. It can lead a bit but is largely a responsive instrument. It is hopeless coming up with fancy legal regimes if the motivation to make very deep changes is not there. Only when ethics start to change can you build legal principles based on a new ethical understanding and change of consciousness. This book is part of a mechanism for changing consciousness. It provides a vision of what is possible.”

The first-ever teaching programme on climate change in Planning – taught by Prue in the first semester this year – showed the multiplying effect of individual action. Students calculated their ecological and carbon footprints, chose one action to reduce the first and two to reduce the second. A further task was to raise the awareness of a friend or relative about climate change and persuade that person to calculate his or her carbon footprint and decide upon one action to take.

“Students were given the opportunity to think about the ethics of climate change, to ask the question ‘Is this about me?’ and to realise the answer was ‘No’. They saw that there is a universal responsibility to take action, owed by every one of us however we organise ourselves.

“What I learned from the course,” says Prue, “is the multiplying power of one. The cumulative effect is so powerful. You really can change the world.”

Niki Harré describes her input to the book as one of the most positive experiences of her working life – “I love the material. I’ve had such fun on this project. I’ve met such extraordinary people...” She also sees it as a turning point in her whole attitude towards climate change and to life in general.

“This process has made me an optimist, partly because there are so many dedicated people thinking hard about these issues, and partly because it’s just so inspiring seeing people work from a values base and for the common good.”

Niki’s optimism is reflected in the ethos of the book. It is definitely not a cry of doom but an assertion that we can mobilise to bring about essential changes – provided that we recognise and fulfil our individual and collective responsibility to respect the earth’s resources and leave them intact for future generations.

Written to be accessible to a wide general audience, with its language geared at about senior secondary school level, it is intended both for individuals and for organisations: schools, hospitals, businesses, rugby clubs, universities, can all set out to be carbon neutral.

The authors acknowledge the issue has changed their lives – whether by prompting them to shrink the size of their bins to force them to think about waste, to ride their bikes to work or invest in solar heating.

Says Niki: “For me now, personally, almost everything I do has a consciousness about having an impact on the planet and on social justice. I think very carefully about the use of my car, about the things I eat, about the consumer products I buy and also about the importance of human connections. Thinking about climate change makes you realise that at the bottom line each other is all we’ve got. And this incredibly positive project is not about anyone winning because either we all win or we all lose.”
An unsettled coastline?

In the course of our recent fieldwork in Hawke’s Bay, a number of people have remarked that the first place they take international visitors is Ocean Beach, an expansive 9km stretch of open coast close to Hastings. In a similar fashion, West Coast beaches like Piha loom large for Aucklanders showing new arrivals “the sights”. Why this homing in to wild coastal places? Perhaps we have an urge to show newcomers places that align with New Zealand’s image as green and pure? Perhaps we realise the uniqueness of relatively undeveloped beaches in close proximity to urban centres? Certainly these types of landscapes form part of our national heritage.

What will international visitors make of these beaches as they become more intensively developed? Will they enjoy the new opportunities for comfortable accommodation and lattés? As for New Zealanders, while residential and commercial development at the coast represents a welcome opportunity for some, others find it is deeply unsettling. Larger, bolder houses and higher fences speak to a more private and imposing built landscape, often portrayed as detracting from the experience of going to the beach.

Our research project is investigating these concerns through detailed case studies. One is Ocean Beach, where landowners and developers have proposed building up to 1000 units at a site where currently only a small cluster of baches and a surf club stand. Our interviews with stakeholders, and examination of public submissions, have revealed a number of key themes.

First, for some, too little of our coast is deemed to be of “special” or “outstanding” character, and thereby deserving of protection from urban development. While nearby Te Mata Peak was given “special character” status by the Hastings District Council 15 years ago, such a designation has eluded Ocean Beach. Given the extremely high cost of coastal land, district and regional councils, and DOC, have very limited capacity to purchase it from private landowners in the name of the public interest. This leaves instruments such as District Plans as the primary mechanisms for regulating their use. Yet expressly protective rules run up against objections based on private property rights.

A second tension concerns the nature and values of wild places. One submitter to the Hastings District Council spoke of Ocean Beach as “a place of spiritual retreat”. While contemporary articulations of health make space for such considerations, has planning kept pace? How might health considerations fit within the often technical language of resource management? Are they “too subjective” to be taken seriously by statutory authorities?

A third tension springs from the Resource Management Act itself. On the one hand the Act enables development, provided environmental effects are mitigated. On the other, it opens up developer proposals to a measure of bureaucratic and democratic oversight. Proposals for Ocean Beach have attracted around 200 submissions, most of them opposed to substantial development. There is considerable debate among those involved over how these submissions should be interpreted, and whether or not they are representative of the views of the “silent majority” (whose support is claimed by both “sides” of the debate). In the process, the democratic environment has become acrimonious.

The future of Ocean Beach is currently the largest issue on the Hastings District Council’s agenda. The scale of what is proposed signals the possibility for a fundamental, and unalterable, change in the physical and social character of a distinctive, and much-valued coastal landscape.

It is timely that debate about the future of the coast is occurring. There is little consensus on how New Zealanders see the coast, nor how they wish to leave it for future generations. While academic inquiry cannot necessarily provide answers, it can assist in interpreting what is at stake.
Dem famous chicken bones

On 4 June, 2007 the prestigious journal, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), published ground-breaking research led by the University’s Department of Anthropology which, for the first time, offered indisputable evidence that early Polynesians voyaged as far as South America.

In the space of 24 hours, the long-held theory that early European voyagers brought chickens to the Americas was in tatters, provoking outrage in some international quarters!

The global media spotlight was instantly cast on two Auckland anthropologists. It seemed very newspaper, radio station, television channel and Internet site in the world wanted to interview PhD candidate Alice Storey (above left) and Associate Professor Lisa Matisoo-Smith.

Over the following week stories appeared in international publications ranging from The New York Times, LA Times and USA Today to The Times of India, Belfast Telegraph, and print and online sites in China, Europe, Russia and Kyrgyzstan.

So, what was all the fuss about and how did Auckland come to be at the centre of it?

Back in 2002 Lisa, who has pioneered the use of commensal animals to understand prehistoric human mobility in the Pacific, met Chilean archaeologist Dr Jose Miguel Ramirez while at an Easter Island Conference in Chile. Dr Ramirez asked the Auckland anthropologist if she would be willing to examine some chicken bones recovered from an archaeological site on the central coast of Chile. He told her he thought they were pre-Columbian and therefore might have been introduced by Polynesians.

“While I sympathised with his views regarding the likelihood of Polynesian contact with South America, I told him that finding any evidence of that in the chicken bones was like finding a needle in a haystack,” Lisa recalls. “But I agreed that we would be willing to try to get DNA out of the bone. When I returned to Chile in 2006, Jose Miguel gave me the sample.”

Back in Auckland Lisa gave the chicken bones to her student Alice Storey, who in 2004 had moved from Canada to Auckland so Lisa – “the master of all things commensal” – could supervise her PhD study on the movement of chickens across Oceania and, by extension, the migrations and interactions of ancient Oceanic peoples.

Alice studied the Chilean chickens’ DNA in the University’s dedicated ancient DNA laboratory. She discovered it had the same genetic sequences of chickens from prehistoric contexts of an earlier time period in Samoa and Tonga and was very similar to those found in later contexts in Hawaiian and Easter Island archaeological sites. Radio-carbon dating then dated the bones at around 622 years old or from between 1321 and 1407 – a century or more before Christopher Columbus arrived in the Americas in 1492.

“This finding is most significant in that it gives global exposure to the extraordinary capability of Polynesian navigators,” says Alice.

Despite their international brush with fame, Alice and Lisa remain focused on the work at hand. The chicken findings are just a small part of Alice’s PhD thesis, which she hopes to complete by the end of the year, while Lisa considers the latest findings just another chapter in her ongoing examination of early Pacific settlement and Polynesian voyaging.

For both Lisa and Alice, the ongoing inquisition demanded by anthropology remains the most exciting aspect of their work. “Every time we think we just might have answered one major question, new ones emerge,” says Lisa. “That’s where the excitement lies – of simply finding things out.”
Breeding specialist

By Emma Timewell

In the 1980s and 90s endangered New Zealand kakapo on Maud Island in the Marlborough Sounds were having a rough time; they could not breed.

Standard tests run on the females did not identify any problems, leaving Department of Conservation (DoC) breeding programme team members scratching their heads.

A chance discussion with a University of Auckland-based scientist, Dr Patrick Casey, pointed them in a new direction.

The team collected sperm from the dominant male kakapo using a dummy female bird and found the problem – no live sperm.

“A male may have no sperm at all but he’s dominant because he has a lot of testosterone,” explains Patrick. “If he’s not able to reproduce and you have a species on the brink of extinction, that’s just about enough to push them over the edge.”

The DoC team removed the unfortunate kakapo from the breeding ground, allowing another male to mature, and a little while later kakapo chicks were born.

Patrick originally trained as a vet at Massey University. Keen to study “interesting science”, he then gained a PhD in comparative pathology from UC Davis. Returning to New Zealand in the early 1990s and wanting to pursue scientific exploration alongside his vet practice, he contacted renowned obstetrician and gynaecologist Professor Graham Liggins (FRS) at The University of Auckland’s then School of Medicine. Professor Liggins gave the young scientist a challenge: come up with a commercial idea that will pay your way and we will help you out.

After speaking to a few contacts at UC Davis, Patrick developed an idea and Andrology Services, undertaking research and consultation on male fertility, was established as an arm of the University’s research Centre in Reproductive Medicine.

After his success with kakapo, Patrick realised his research into fertility was not just applicable to humans. Over the following years, the science arm of Andrology Services began working with native animal and bird breeding programmes, providing consultation and gaining scientific insight into reproductive processes.

In particular, pukeko provided a great source of information. “It’s quite difficult to study biological processes, such as sperm production, in an endangered bird as the populations are so small it’s difficult to define normal,” explains Patrick. “By studying a bird which is quite closely related but more prolific, like the pukeko, we can create a model of normal sperm production to work by. Pukeko taught us important lessons in sperm collection and storage.”

In 2002, Andrology Services was split into two entities – the commercial aspect continued while the science became the One Helix Charitable Trust (see one-helix.com).

One Helix builds on the scientific and consultation work of Patrick (today Director of Andrology Services and a trustee of the One Helix Trust) and adds a public aspect through education and awareness. The trust works with breeding projects across the country, building knowledge and numbers of Auckland Island pigs, tuatara, rockhopper penguins, blue ducks, kakapo and the takahe (once believed to be extinct).

The trust is also running major public awareness programmes and this year launched Green Kiwi Day on St Patrick’s Day, as a day dedicated to educating children about the importance of saving New Zealand’s native birds.

“Green Kiwi Day aims to inspire and motivate children to do their part to save endangered New Zealand wildlife,” says Patrick. “Simple messages such as putting a bell on cat collars to warn birds are used to show children how easy it is to make a difference.”

A new project the trust hopes to get off the ground is an on-call service for people who find dead, or dying, birds. Sperm can be collected from birds in the first 24 hours after death. By collecting as much of this genetic material as possible the trust hopes to keep a record of New Zealand birds forever.
The tale of two ski huts

When the University’s Snowsports Club (formerly the Ski Club) advertised its 40th reunion dinner last year, retired architect and alumnus Denys Oldham (BArch 1959, Dip Urban Valuation 1972) approached Ingenio saying they had got it wrong.

The first hut
“The Ski Club evolved out of the Varsity Tramping Club shortly after the end of the Second World War,” says Denys “and it aimed to have its own hut on Ruapehu as soon as practicable.”

However, fundraising for a small number of skiers from a small university college was “very hard” and after negotiations at the end of 1954 it was decided that the Victoria and University of Auckland Ski Clubs would combine to build a hut on the mountain.

“That it succeeded remains a lasting tribute to a small group of dedicated skiers from Auckland and Wellington as well as many in the mountain fraternity who unstintingly helped,” says Denys.

In 1955, following Park Board approval, plans were drawn up for a prefabricated building in timber. But this scheme was eventually abandoned in favour of concrete block and work started in December 1955. While Victoria provided “excellent labour” for the working bees, Auckland was responsible for most of the organisation, remembers Denys, who designed the 1100 square foot building. The construction engineer was Bill Hamilton (BE 1954); finance, accounting Hugh Thompson; working parties, Laurie Colebrook (BSc 1954, MSc 1955, PhD Chemistry, 1961); publicity, Lesley Quinn (BSc Chemistry, 1956); liaison with Vic, Tom Turney, a graduate of Victoria and lecturer in Auckland’s Physical Chemistry Department.

The hut site was levelled with Land Rovers (“where did they come from?” asks Denys), and foundations and slab poured. Most of the material was manhandled up from the Top of the Bruce with a huge amount of help from Hans Fitzi, of the Christiania Club and their flying fox.

“The estimated cost was £1200 – half from each club,” remembers Denys, “and by January 1956, £650 had already been spent.”

In spite of diminishing funds, by the end of the summer the hut walls were largely complete and during 1956/57 the roof, windows and doors were fitted and the ski room/draft lobby completed. In 1957/58 the minimal services, internal partitions, bunks, a wood cooking range, and a long drop were added and by June, 1958 the hut was “just habitable and officially opened.”

“By general agreement it was the coldest hut on the mountain (heat came from an antique Shacklock wood range which also heated the water for a 25 gallon hot water cylinder) but it was ‘ours’ and fortunately the young are impervious.

“Looking back and referring to the tattered note book that I still have,” Denys says he is “astonished at our luck, rashness – we were not even an incorporated society – and the fact that by 1959 most of us had degrees despite clearly spending a lot of time commuting to Ruapehu! Transport relied very heavily on the two members with vehicles: Bill Hamilton had rebuilt a truly monumental 1930 Armstrong Siddeley with enough room inside for six and, once wound up to 50mph, was unstoppable while, in contrast, Tom Turney had a new Austin A30 which was quite unequal to the loads we imposed, and snapped an axle at midnight at Owhango. Nothing would’ve broken Bill’s Armstrong!”

In 1966 the ski hut became the sole property of the Victoria Club and is still in use on the mountain today.

“This was probably a project of its time,” Denys reflects, “and today’s students would be unlikely to have that vital commodity, time! And of course we were spared the truly awful consent process of today.

“By rights there should be a 50-year party in June next year to celebrate,” he adds.

“Where? When? I would be delighted to hear from any of the original pioneers, still vertical, and sentient at: denys_oldham@xtra.co.nz”

The second hut
As the first ski hut passed into Victoria’s hands, another band of hardy Auckland students were ready to build a new ski lodge. One of these was Engineering student and ski club vice president, Paul Walker.

“The old ski hut had been a fun place to stay,” remembers Paul. “It had a low truss roof and in the evenings, to prove you were fit to ski and sober, you had to pass ‘the test’, which was to hand swing the length of the lodge from truss to truss, and negotiate
around the lights without falling.

“But the 1966 split with Vic left Auckland with cash, but no lodge. The Auckland Ski Club committee decided to build a new lodge, gained approval for the site on Ruapehu and raised a bank loan from Westpac for $20,000. This was controversially guaranteed by the Student Union; a farsighted and great decision!"

University architects led by alumnus Nigel Cook (BArch 1968) decided the University had to “make a bold architectural design statement at the Top of the Bruce” and came up with a design for a 450 square metre, two-storey lodge clad in Canadian cedar and fitted out with eight bunkrooms and open plan entertainment and dining areas.

Pouring of the first concrete foundations began in May ’67 in freezing conditions after an early snowfall during the holidays.

“The Ready-Mix concrete would’ve frozen before it could harden,” remembers Paul. “So in his wisdom ‘Mr Bean’ the truck driver first added a quick setting agent while parked 100 metres downhill of the building site. As he began driving up the frozen slope the truck promptly got stuck. Panic enabled ten students to barrow a truckload of concrete uphill in freezing rain before it could solidify in the truck.”

In November that year Paul, Club President and Maths and Physics student, Craig Bettley, and alumnus Malcom Castle (BSc 1971, MSc 1975), a former oceanographer and now entrepreneur and investor, based in Sydney, headed to Ruapehu after exams finished, and stayed four months working on the lodge until it was closed in. “We rented the Tauranga Lodge just across the road from our building site,” remembers Malcom. “The ski village was deserted during summer so the mountain reverberated to the sounds of Bob Dylan and Simon and Garfunkel.”

Building materials were picked up from the National Park railway station and carried up the mountain on the roof rack of Paul’s 950cc Triumph Herald. Bales of fibreglass insulation lashed six at a time all around the outside, gave it the appearance of a moving hay barn.

“The Triumph crawled slowly uphill in the thin air at 5500 ft, but to the chagrin of traffic officers, held the speed record downhill on the twisty, loose gravelled road,” remembers Malcom.

“Fortunately community spirit was strong on the mountain, and each time a uniform came looking for a little blue mystery car, the Chateau sent a warning to park out of sight.”

Long work days were rounded off with half-gallon bottles of Sutton Baron port, “suntan” sherry, beer, relaxing in the Turangi hot pools, possum and deer hunting in the bush, and target shooting across Happy Valley.

On weekends, work parties swelled to 45 students (male and female) with most sleeping on the floor in the 17-bunk Tauranga lodge.

By the end of the summer, the ski lodge was clad, roofed, floored, wired, sewered, and water tanked (with 15,000 gallon concrete block tanks) ready for fitting out. Although it was not completely finished, the first ski parties used the lodge in the 1968 winter, its walls throbbing to the sound of the newly released Beatles record: Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band.

For more information on the Snowsports Club and its lodge today see: www.uasc.co.nz
To read Denys Oldham and Malcom Castle’s unabridged stories go to the alumni website: www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz

Trampers mark 75 years

Over 300 current and former University trampers, some travelling from as far away as New Caledonia, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States, celebrated the Tramping’s Club’s 75th Jubilee in July.

Festivities included a formal dinner, a traditional over-night camp at Hunua and lunch at the club’s Waitakere Ranges hut.

Among those present were alumni Beverley Williamson (MA 1941) who joined the club in 1937 and current member, assistant Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Associate Professor Penny Brothers, who describes the club as “one of the defining experiences of my life as an undergraduate student in the 70s. “Outside of my studies, my social interactions, friendships and holidays were all framed by the Tramping Club and its activities,” she says.

The Tramping Club has a long and colourful history with the earliest expeditions to the South Island in the 1940s involving the use of a pack horse. State Services Commissioner Mark Prebble features among past club members and according to the club’s annual magazine, Footprints, Sir Edmund Hillary attended the first Waitakere Hut birthday party in 1945.

For more information see www.autc.org.nz
A theologian of “transformation”

In 2003 Professor Elaine Wainwright turned down international appointments to become the inaugural head of the University’s fledgling School of Theology. She tells Judy Wilford why she likes working at Auckland.

When I mention the Professor of Theology at The University of Auckland, the question people most often ask is “What’s he like?”

In a world where we no longer have gender expectations about doctors, lawyers or politicians, there is still an assumption that a leading theologian will be male.

However, Professor Elaine Wainwright, as a leading female theologian and a specialist in contextual and feminist theology, not only confounds the assumptions but also examines what lies at their base.

“‘Theology,’” she says, “is about interpreting the traditions that have shaped the church and its teachings – the Biblical text, the Trinity, Christology, liturgy, spirituality.

“In modern theology an emphasis has emerged on the significance of context. The culture and perceptions of the researcher have come to be seen by many theologians as a vital part of the engagement with tradition. This results in a more dynamic perception of how meaning is created” – opening the door, for example, to feminist and liberationist theologies which have emerged quite strongly over the last 20 years.

This recognition of the importance of context is something the University has grounds to celebrate. It is one of the reasons Elaine, an Australian formerly based at Griffith University in Brisbane and a scholar of international renown, chose in 2003 to accept the position of Head of the School of Theology at Auckland, rather than take up other offers from the United States or Europe.

“One of the exciting things about moving to Auckland, she has found, is the richness of the cultural context, the high proportion of Pacific students, and particularly the engagement of Māori in theologising.

“Because of the size of Australia, the spread of indigenous people and the small numbers engaged in theology, I would never, for example, have had an Aboriginal student in theology, or been in a context where there would be an Aboriginal theologian on staff.

“Whereas here it is just the way of the world that there are Māori staff and growing numbers of Māori students – which is making way for Māori theologies to emerge in quite a new way.”

When the University decided to create the School of Theology – as recommended by a review in 2000 – the vision was a powerful one: to consolidate the loosely-constructed consortium of theological colleges in Auckland, to provide a more coherent structure for theological education, to offer a strong academic base from which to advance scholarly research, and to more rigorously underpin the degrees in theology the University was offering.

In the words of Elaine’s former colleague, James Haire, Professor of Theology at Charles Sturt University in Canberra and President of the National Council of Churches in Australia: “The University couldn’t possibly have found a better person to do this”.

The task was a challenge in the beginning, Elaine acknowledges. The four colleges comprising the Auckland Consortium of Theological Education – the Catholic Institute of Theology, St John’s Anglican College, Trinity Methodist College and Carey Baptist College – were still predominantly independent which meant there was a fair amount of duplication, with some courses being offered by two or three of the colleges.

Tightening the structure meant revising the curriculum in a way that could have been difficult since it demanded a “letting go” from some groups. It is a measure of Elaine’s quietly modest and collaborative leadership style and the goodwill of the colleges’ staff that this was accomplished with very positive results.

“It was a significant help to the school that we had a task like that,” says Elaine. “It was a big element in bringing everyone together and discovering where our combined strengths

STAFF PROFILE
were and what we had to offer.”

This style of leadership is also appreciated by Elaine’s administrative staff, in an office which is notably pleasant, vibrant and welcoming.

“What she creates,” says Theology Registrar, Pervin Medhora, “is an atmosphere that encourages staff to feel they can advance.”

One of the cores of the School’s expertise, happily in accord with Elaine’s own interests, is a focus on public theology – which engages theologians with issues of social justice and therefore relates quite closely to contextual theology.

Elaine would like to see the School strengthen its part in public theology. Under her leadership this is beginning to happen.

Thirteen staff with different theological expertise are contributing to a major research project on spirit possession which has been commissioned by a trust fund dedicated to advancing “research into and the treatment of spirit possession as it relates to mental illness”.

Elaine’s portion of this research relates to the interpretation of spirit possession in the New Testament. She welcomes the project – the first major commissioned research to be undertaken by the School – as an avenue of engagement with public theology as well as a chance to affirm the School’s expertise and prepare the way for further contract research.

Recent visiting speakers have included James Haire, well-known for his hard-hitting commentary on public issues – who spoke in a School of Theology Public Lecture about an aspect of Muslim-Christian dialogue.

“Interfaith dialogue, he asserts, “is the issue of our time. Elaine agrees, and in fact has applied for University funding to add to the staff a specialist in dialogue between the three world monotheistic religions: Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

Members of staff have recently addressed colloquia on public theology in the US, in Australia and at Otago in New Zealand – where Elaine delivered a paper in September entitled: “A women’s work is never done: continuing the negotiation of gender politics in the church and in society”.

Elaine is a Catholic Sister of Mercy as well as a theologian who has won international renown for her feminist interpretation of the scriptures, seen most recently in her latest book, published this year by Equinox, Women Healing/Healing Women: The Genderization of Healing in Early Christianity.

“I think there are emerging theologies coming out of this part of the world, and it is important for some of us to stay and do our theology here.”

I ask her whether she has ever felt impeded in her progress because she was a woman.

“On one level,” she says, “the answer is ‘No’ in that I have had a good education and doors have kept opening. However, I’m very conscious of the fact that I’m in a church where there is no possibility for women to be engaged at the decision-making level because of the authority and leadership structure.”

As a theologian of “transformation”, Elaine believes this will change. As a realist she believes the change will be slow.

“The image that comes to my mind is of the Berlin Wall,” she says, with a smile. “There were many people metaphorically moving the bricks, and no-one knew what the last brick was that brought the wall down.

“So to bring about change towards equality in such a profoundly patriarchal structure, I think we’re all just quietly moving bricks in different ways.”
Strall westwards along Wynyard Street which hems the southern edge of the City Campus and your attention will probably be drawn to new buildings reflecting the University’s distinctive modern heart: Waipapa Marae for example, the magnificent Fale Pasifika and, at the street’s end, the imposing, architectural east-wing of the new Business School.

Yet Wynyard Street has buildings that tell another story. Stand outside the History Department at number 5 and 7 and you will find a two-storeyed Victorian building featuring a formidable battlement tower at one end and buttressed by a row of roller-door garages underneath its concrete forecourt. During the 1920s, 30s and 40s this was home to the city’s “biggest and best-known boarding house” – the Royal Court Private Hotel.

Exactly what went on at the 40-room royal Court in its heyday has long been the subject of speculation among history students. Now 78-year old alumna Kath Pring (BA 2002, MA History 2007) has set the record straight in her masters dissertation “Transit Gloria Mundi: A house and its neighbourhood."

“One Sunday evening in 1947, I partook of ‘tea’ at royal Court,” writes Kath. “This rather sparse, cold collation was provided by the proprietor, Dolly Farquhar who ruled the place for 30 years with a benevolent, yet iron rod. royal Court was where, just after the war, one of my brothers boarded in a cabin in the back yard. At the same time the girl who was to become my sister-in-law shared a room with two of her sisters in the main house.

“All this appears to contradict the titillating myth perpetuated by University students since the 1960s that No 5 Wynyard Street had been a brothel. Aunt Dolly would have had none of that, although according to the story as passed on to me, one power board shift worker ‘had arranged to keep the washing machine running sufficiently to warrant his board free. He had an average a different woman in his cabin weekly but it was hardly a brothel. More a mutual arrangement of consensual sex.’”

Interestingly, Kath discovered Number 5 Wynyard Street was originally built in the late 1890s by Edward Russell and his wife Corisande (early descendants of the Russell side of prominent Auckland law firm Russell McVeagh). It was a substantial two-storeyed wooden house erected at 17 Jermyn Street next to Admiralty House – “a guaranteed respectable address” – adjacent to Emily Place.

But some years later when Jermyn Street was marked for demolition to make way for Anzac Avenue, the house was sold and re-erected as a boarding house-cum-hotel on Presbyterian Church land at Wynyard Street. In 1921 it was sold to Mrs Una Hale whose sister, Emma Regina Farquhar (Aunt Dolly) opened it for business that year.

Over the next 30-odd years Aunt Dolly (as she was affectionately called by six nieces and nephews and countless hotel guests) built an empire in Wynyard Street occupying the neighbouring number 7 St Christopher’s house and running it as Royal Court Apartments, and establishing the Royal Court Annex in an eight-room bungalow across the road.

“royal Court’s guests included some interesting and often eccentric personalities,” writes Kath. “In fact it was aptly described as ‘more diverse and fascinating than the inhabitants of Balzac’s Maison Vauquer’.

“One man regularly fed scavenging seagulls out on Constitution Hill with scraps from the kitchen, while a retired Auckland Savings Bank manager challenged everyone to endless games of ‘indoor’ golf out on the concrete forecourt above the garages.”

References Kath uncovered reveal writer Frank Sargeson lived in Wynyard Street during the heyday of Royal Court and that the hotel may have provided fodder for his Memoirs of a Peon.

Initially the Royal Court’s regular guests included sea captains, court officials, touring theatre companies, artists, actors, musicians and their managers. But as the University began to expand up on “Albert Hill” during the 1930s and 40s, students increasingly occupied rooms at Royal Court and according to Kath were carried by Aunt Dolly when funds were low.

“She visited the markets and concocted hearty meals from the assortment of produce she obtained, determined to keep her charges in good health. At times she was called upon to nurse her students through measles, mumps, football injuries or anything else that developed. Her standards were high; she never missed a trick, and many a bibulous student coming home late discovered that she had no hesitation administering a dressing down if she thought it was needed. On the
other hand she did not suffer intolerance towards ‘her students’ from older residents.”

After the Second World War, Royal Court’s clientele consisted “mainly of students and elderly ladies, who loved a flutter at the races and playing house or conducting a sing-song”. In 1955, Aunt Dolly struggling to keep up with the hotel’s maintenance, sold it and moved into the neighbouring St Christopher’s house with her two widowed sisters. Four years later in August 1959, she died aged 80.

“Tireless Aunt Dolly Rests At Last” announced an obituary in the Auckland Weekly News heralding the hotel proprietor as someone “who truly loved her fellow men”.

“Her guests were her family, and with the exception of her visits to the races, her family was her life,” wrote obituary author B.M. “A fascinating cross-section of the community found its way down the short cut by St Andrew’s Hall, through the clothesline and into the house…. Money entered the negotiations only because people had to be housed and fed, and well fed we were.”

One of B.M.’s “most joyous recollections” of Aunt Dolly was “when, suffering from rheumatism or some kindred ill she firmly lashed two hot water bottles to her back with a long woollen scarf and stumped gamely about her household affairs going ‘glug, glug’ as she walked”.

In 1963 the Royal Court building was bought by the University and over the next few years the History Department moved into it and the adjoining St Christopher’s house at Number 7 Wynyard Street.

In 1975 St Christopher’s burnt down but was quickly “replaced with a ‘temporary’ building which does have a resemblance to the old residence at least from the road”. Today both remain the headquarters for the History Department “and there are no plans to change that,” confirms the University Property Services Planning Manager, Terry Young.

For Kath Pring both buildings are a symbol of continuity, “having in differing degrees survived name changes, ownership changes, destruction by fire and up until the present, the demolition hammers…..”

“The story of the house is also a microcosm of the history of Auckland,” she writes, “where buildings, both grand and modest change their utility or completely disappear as the urban scene is developed and re-developed. In the light of rapid change, I believe that social urban history is important, if one is to understand the ‘now’ that we occupy.”
Brothers Christopher Chandler (BCom 1981, LLB 1982) and Richard Chandler (BCom 1979, MCom 1981) are two of three Business School alumni in the top ten of the National Business Review’s 2007 Rich List. Last December the brothers dissolved their 20-year partnership in their private investment firm, Sovereign Global Investment, and are now both listed as worth $2 billion, and four and five on the list respectively.

Stephen Jennings (MPhil Economics 1984) worth around $1 billion, is seventh on the list. Stephen runs the Moscow-based global investment bank Renaissance Capital which has offices in New York, Geneva, Dubai, Hong Kong, London and Laos and is currently expanding into sub-Saharan Africa.

Tim Frank (BTheo 2003) is currently taking part in the Lahav Research Project, an American archaeological excavation in south Israel which aims to find out more about the daily lives of common people in Judah during the 8th century BC. Of the 18 volunteers on the project, 15 are from the US, one is from Canada, one is from Australia and Tim is the only New Zealander.

Renee Liang (BHB 1994, MBchB 1997) won the inaugural short story competition at the University Business School’s recent Bananas NZ Going Global conference which promotes Chinese achievement. Renee is a registered paediatrician and her story “The Stove” is about the truths a woman discovers whilst cleaning her parents’ house. Renee is currently enrolled in the University’s Master of Creative Writing programme. Readers can check out her writing and poetry at http://chinglish-renee.blogspot.com

Vicki McCall (LLB(Hons)/BA 2005) has embarked on a year’s postgraduate study at Harvard University with three scholarships to her name. She won a prestigious $80,000 Frank Knox Memorial Fellowship, one of only two awarded this year to New Zealanders to attend Harvard. In addition she secured a William Georgetti Scholarship for $15,000 and a Spencer Mason Travelling Scholarship in Law for $12,000. At Harvard Vicki is studying for a LLM specialising in constitutional law and legal theory. She plans to write a research paper on legal method, exploring “the way judges decide cases and the principles they use”.

Margaret Medlyn (BMus 1979) has just played the principal role of Princess Turandot in New Zealand Opera’s season of Turandot. It was her debut in one of the great roles in the soprano repertoire. In recent years Margaret has sung the title role in Strauss’s Salome, Marie in Berg’s Wozzeck, Maddalena in Giordano’s Andrea Chenier and Kundry in Wagner’s Parsifal.

Tim Ritson (BE/BA 2007) who used his Bachelor of Arts majoring in German to study Engineering at Fachhochschule Konstanz (Konstanz University of Applied Sciences) is now employed by American firm Schlumberger and is working as an oil field engineer in China.

Peter Thornton (BA/BCom 2004) is producer of the popular golf magazine show The ING Golf Club as well as co-producing ING Golf (a highlights show). He also freelance writes for the Herald on Sunday sports section and Rip It Up music magazine.

Richard Yan (BCom/BA 1985) a mainland Chinese businessman, was recently named by Time magazine as among the world’s 100 top future leaders to look out for. Four years ago Richard left his job working for Bankers Trust in New York City and Hong Kong and set up a venture-capital fund targeting new businesses in China. Today his Richina Group with global investors from New York to New Zealand has revenues of $270 million and 1,850 employees making leather, running a jazzy Beijing aquarium and turning out computer magazines.
HELP US FIND OUR LOST ALUMNI

With an alumni community now numbering over 125,000, it is a big job trying to keep contact information for all of them. Our Alumni Relations Office has up-to-date contact details for most of our alumni and email addresses for an increasing number.

However, we are very keen to get back in touch with the alumni we have "lost" touch with and would welcome your help. Please see our “Lost Alumni” service on our website – www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/lost – which lets you search by year of graduation, faculty/school and/or name to see the alumni we want to find.

If you have any information which could help us to locate someone, please let us know.

125TH JUBILEE

The University is celebrating its 125th Jubilee in 2008 and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon and other staff would be delighted to celebrate and reconnect with you at any or several of the Alumni & Friends events listed below.

ALUMNI & FRIENDS 125TH JUBILEE EVENTS WILL BE HELD IN:

Local/National events

- Auckland Friday 7 March, Friday 9 May
- Tauranga Thursday 3 July
- Whangarei Wednesday 6 August
- Wellington Wednesday 12 November
- Auckland (Golden Graduates) Wednesday 19 November

International events

- London Tuesday 20 May
- New York Thursday 22 May
- Washington DC Tuesday 27 May
- Melbourne Tuesday 22 July
- Sydney Thursday 24 July
- Brisbane Friday 25 July
- Hong Kong Friday 10 October
- Beijing Tuesday 14 October
- Shanghai Thursday 16 October
- Seoul Saturday 18 October

Help Us to Locate Someone

If you have any information which could help us to locate someone, please let us know.

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Alumni Relations and Auckland University Press are delighted to offer ALL University of Auckland alumni a special 15 percent discount, and free postage and packaging within New Zealand, on AUP books purchased through the order form on the Alumni Relations website: www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/uaaformalumni/xxxx.xm

Please note: The University of Auckland Society members will continue to receive a 20 percent discount. For further information on how to join The University of Auckland Society, please see the advertisement left or contact Judith Grey at j.grey@auckland.ac.nz or telephone 64 9 373 7599 ext. 82309.

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 contact us.

Australia

Brisbane – Allison Johnston
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Melbourne – Rupert Saint
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Perth – Margaret Sims m.sims@ecu.edu.au
Sydney – George Barker
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Texas – Jyati Maisuria
j.maisuria@gmail.com
Washington, DC – Ruby Manukia
ruby@manukiaconsulting.com
**Tax changes encourage donations**

A more generous tax treatment for charitable donations will apply from next year.

The new regime, which comes into force in April 2008, is intended to encourage charitable giving by allowing a more generous tax rebate for donations to registered charitable organisations, including educational institutions such as The University of Auckland.

Previously a tax limit on charitable donations stood at $1,189 for individuals and five percent of a company’s profits. This limit, which was extremely low by international standards, effectively discouraged charitable donations by imposing a substantial tax cost on the generosity of donors.

Those limits have now been removed. There is now no limit on the amount that can be claimed as a tax rebate for charitable donations. Individuals and companies can claim tax rebates up to the full amount of their donations. For example, a donation of $3,000 under the old rules, gave the donor a tax rebate of $630. Under the new rules, a $3,000 donation will give a tax rebate of $1,000 – an increase of $370.

Without the previous limits, there are now few restrictions on the tax savings that can be claimed on charitable donations. The result will be that charitable donations can be used to substantially reduce the amount of tax paid by the donor. The bigger the donations – the less tax you pay.

The new regime brings New Zealand into line with Australia, the UK, Ireland and other OECD countries. By introducing the new regime, the Government hopes the increased tax benefits will encourage individuals and companies to give more generously to charities. Charitable donations amounted to $356 million in 2006, but the Government hopes donations will increase to $500 million by 2010.

In the education field it has long been recognised that world-class universities require substantial endowments to maintain their leading role. The large endowments made to overseas universities have been made possible by the kind of tax rebates that will soon apply in New Zealand.

The largest and most well known fund is the Harvard Endowment, which currently has US $34 billion. Smaller Ivy League Universities, such as Cornell and Dartmouth, each have endowments of up to US$5 billion. Even public universities in the US have taken advantage of tax rebates on charitable giving to amass substantial endowments, such as New York University’s fund of $1.8 billion.

More recently, UK and Australian universities have also utilised the generous tax rebates offered in those countries to encourage post students to establish endowment funds.

It is hoped University of Auckland alumni will take advantage of these tax changes to make donations and settle endowments.

Mark Keating
Director of Master of Taxation Studies Programme, The University of Auckland Business School

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**Aiming for the stars**

Like the early navigators who followed the stars to reach their destination, the University’s Starpath Project is charting exciting new territory as it strives to improve the future of young people in New Zealand.

A Partnership for Excellence between The University of Auckland and the Tertiary Education Commission, Starpath is a collaborative initiative dedicated to raising educational and economic outcomes for groups currently under-represented in higher education – specifically, New Zealand Māori, Pacific Islanders and students from low decile schools.

The ASB Charitable Trust is a major supporter of Starpath, having last year committed $1 million, at $200,000 per year. The gift has created a Crown match of $1 million, which has already been received. The ASB Trust has also provisionally committed a further gift of $500,000 for a programme in Northland.

“Starpath is undertaking research that is vital to the future of some of the most vulnerable and overlooked students in our community and we are grateful for the support of both the ASB Trust, the Todd Foundation and the government,” says Faculty of Education Associate Professor Elizabeth McKinley, the project’s interim director.

For more information on Starpath see: www.starpath.auckland.ac.nz

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**MATES success**

Another innovative University of Auckland scheme is raising educational achievement among traditionally lower-achieving groups.

In 2004, in partnership with The Pacific Foundation and supported by The Todd Foundation, the University established MATES (Mentoring and Tutoring Education Scheme) which links students from low and middle decile schools with successful University students.

Since inception of the scheme the number of former MATES mentees going on to attend the University has increased from 3 out of 34 in 2004, to 12 out of 42 in 2005, 38 out of 90 in 2006 and 58 out of 90 this year.

Overall, from the 121 students mentored in 2006, 92 are attending universities and 99 have enrolled for Tertiary Education.

**NCEA results**

Of the 121 students that completed the MATES programme in 2006 73 sets of NCEA results have been obtained. Highlights:

- 57/73 have gained University Entrance
- 68/73 students have enrolled with a tertiary provider.
Playing the blues

“It’s very prestigious; something to keep forever.”

This is how second-year undergraduate student, Chris Smith described winning a Sporting Blue at the University’s 2007 Sports and Cultural Blues Awards dinner held in September.

A tradition derived from Oxford and Cambridge universities, the Blues Awards acknowledge students who excel in sport while simultaneously achieving academically.

As well as studying for a conjoint Arts and Law degree, Chris is one of New Zealand’s rising rugby stars: he is a flanker for the North Harbour provincial rugby team and in April this year captained the New Zealand Under-19 rugby team to World Cup victory in Belfast, blowing away a powerful South African side 31-7.

Combining sport and study “is pretty hard,” admits Chris who was named the University of Auckland Sportsman of the Year at the Blues Awards and won the Most Meritorious Sporting Performance Award. “It all comes down to time management,” he adds.

Chris was one of 38 students, representing 18 sports, awarded sporting Blues this year. Others included BCom student Elizabeth Coster, named 2007 University of Auckland Sportswoman of the Year and current New Zealand record holder for the 50 and 100 metre butterfly; Ziheng Zou, New Zealand’s seventh ranked badminton player; and water-skier Cole Atkinson, ranked second at the 2007 national championship.

Blues recipients are chosen by a panel of staff, students and past Blues recipients chaired by alumna Jane Skeen (BSc 1972, MBChB 1976, DipObstetrics 1978), a one-time member of the University badminton team and a Blues recipient, and also current chair of the New Zealand Universities Blues panel.

To get a University Blue in the past, says Jane, a sportsperson had to be a member of the University’s national team and a member of New Zealand’s international University Games team.

“But now we’re looking at provincial standard – Auckland A or B,” she says. “We’d like people to have played for the University Club but sometimes that’s not possible because the clubs aren’t very active or don’t have the numbers to feature in the top competitions. When it comes to national and international university tournaments, top sportspeople may have other commitments.”

Since the first University of Auckland Blue was given to athlete H.J. Wiley in 1922, some of New Zealand’s leading sportspeople have joined the Blues Roll of Honour: former All Black Graham Thorne in 1966 for example; Olympic swimmer Anthony Mosse in 1983; America’s Cup sailor Russell Coutts in 1984; Black Cap cricketer Adam Parore in 1991; and Silver Fern netballer Linda Vagna in 1996.

“The Blues Awards raise the bar,” reflects Jane. “There can be a lot of negative publicity about students; how they’re all drunk and so on. But the Blues acknowledges that students are excelling in sport and achieving academically. If you look at past winners, many have gone on to do well.”

Raising the game

While the Blues Awards acknowledge the University’s top sportspeople, some feel more needs to be done to nurture University sport at the grass roots level.

“Sport is massive in New Zealand and that should be reflected as a part of University life,” says third-year BCom student Tim Brightwell, recently re-elected Sports Officer for the Auckland University Students Association (AUSA), and a member of the 2007 Blues selection panel.

Tim points out that although AUSA supports some 20 sports clubs from Frisbee, handball and surfing, to badminton, fencing and soccer, the major competitive sports like netball, rugby and rugby league are currently not among them.

“We want to offer students greater services and encouragement to play sport here at the University,” says Tim, “and we want to give our clubs the best pool of talent we can.”

Tim is currently talking with University administrators about a possible sporting strategy.

“Eventually I’d would like to see a structured, well-defined sporting programme established at the University supported by a number of high-performing partnerships with external sporting bodies,” he says.

“I’d also like to see University students competing at the highest level both individually and collectively in New Zealand and overseas; and I’d like to see them competing under The University of Auckland banner, and wanting to compete under The University of Auckland banner.”
Bow ties not bow windows

By Linda Tyler

Amongst lecturing staff at the University’s School of Architecture and Planning there have historically been many mavericks and strong personalities. One, who dominated teaching for 22 years, was a tall Liverpudlian with abundant energy, a caustic turn of phrase, and an enthusiasm for all things characteristic of his adopted country. This memorable character’s contribution to the development of architecture in New Zealand is celebrated in the exhibition Vernon Brown – From the Architecture Archive on at the Gus Fisher Gallery until 24 November.

Deploying the extensive collection of drawings, photographs and papers donated by Vernon’s family to the University after his death in 1965 alongside models built by current students, the exhibition examines how Vernon came to be credited with the development of a distinctively New Zealand style of domestic architecture in the mid-twentieth century.

There are also portraits of the man himself. Despite his reputation as a beach-dwelling home handyman and bohemian artist, Vernon’s appearance was perennially neat and dapper: a collar and bow tie with manicured goatee beard and moustache. Christchurch architect Peter Beaven recalls: “The person there [at the Auckland University College School of Architecture] without question was Vernon Brown. He was the one, and the reason why he was so impressive was not what he did but what he was: the way he looked, the way he talked, the way he was simply an abstraction of a gentleman.”

Like him, his architecture was buttoned-down and impressive. Characterised by minimalist Georgian stylised detailing and a low pitched roof, his own house at 91 Arney Road, Remuera, renounced the English cottage tradition and showed how the inventor of the hot air balloon, inspired by Vernon’s suggestion that it should be possible to get some ideas off the ground with the amount of hot air generated by discussion. Encouraged by Vernon, the Architectural Group was inaugurated in 1946, publishing their manifesto Planning in 1947, and forming the Group Construction Company in 1949.

By the time of his death, Vernon was recognised as having pioneered a vernacular style suited to a Pacific climate. By valuing what was unique and unsophisticated about the informality of the New Zealand character and lifestyle, he had enabled New Zealand architecture to escape from the straitjacket of dependence on English prototypes. Just as important as his friend Fairburn was for literature, Vernon’s role in architecture made him one of the midwives of a mid-century cultural revolution in New Zealand.
Natural History of Rangitoto

Originally conceived as a field trip handbook for a major botanical symposium held at the University, this is the first comprehensive account of Rangitoto Island’s natural history. It is published by the Auckland Botanical Society and incorporates detailed information and colour illustrations on the island’s flowering plants, conifers, ferns and fern allies, masses, liverworts, lichens, fungi, and algae – including species lists, as well as accounts of the geology, history, vegetation ecology, and animal life.

University teachers such as alumnus and Associate Professor Laurie Milliner (MSc Botany 1940) led generations of Auckland students to Rangitoto on field trips and numerous MSc and PhD thesis projects are cited in the book. Alumnus also feature prominently among the contributors, notably the current president of the Botanical Society, Mike Wilcox (BSc 1964), who is also editor of the book.

Natural History of Rangitoto is available from bookshops, including the University Book Shop (UBS) and other book stores or from MWPress@landcareresearch.co.nz

Kiwi Keith

Alumnus Barry Gustafson (BA 1960, MA 1962, PhD 1974), a former head of the University’s Department of Political Studies and author of the bestselling biography of Robert Muldoon His Way, has written a definitive life of another prime minister, “Kiwi” Keith Holyoake. One of our great farming politicians, Holyoake was Prime Minister for over 11 years, Governor General 1977-1980 and an MP for over 40 years. Kiwi Keith, published by Auckland University Press (AUP), explores Holyoake’s performance as Minister of Foreign Affairs, shows his support of economic diversification, and covers Holyoake’s impressive skills as a party politician, his love of hard work and lively debate.

Logan Campbell’s Auckland

Alumnus and Emeritus Professor of History, Russell Stone (BA 1945, MA 1949, PhD 1970) recounts 15 tales from his encyclopaedic knowledge of nineteenth-century Auckland. They include the stories of the tree on One Tree Hill, of a newspaper printed on a mangle, of two aborted duels, the wreck of the Orpheus, of how Ngati Whatua became the tangata whenua of the region, and more.

Published by AUP, Logan Campbell’s Auckland: Tales from the Early Years brings personalities, feats and dramas to life offering a cosmopolitan twenty-first century city some revealing glimpses of its past. Professor Stone is the highly respected author of a two-volume life of John Logan Campbell, the “Father of Auckland.”

Crisis of Identity?

Alumnus and Emeritus Professor of History, Nicholas Tarling (Honorary Doctorate of Literature, 1996) has joined with the former Vice-Chancellor of Waikato University, Wilf Malcolm to write this book on how New Zealand universities need to resist managerialism and return to their core values.

Published by Dunmore Press, Crisis of Identity? The Mission and Management of Universities in New Zealand puts forward a set of principles that both authors say should be the basis for managing universities into the future. Core values include research coupled with teaching, collegial responsibility and the protection of academic freedom.

In brief

Ngā Mōteatea, Volume Four published by Auckland University Press (AUP). Alumnus and Māori scholar Hinini Moko Mead (BA 1964, MA 1965) of Ngati Awa has translated and annotated this fourth volume of songs and chants from the iwi of Aotearoa originally collected by Sir Apiarana Ngata of Ngati Porou over a period of 40 years. The translation to English opens up to a wide readership of Māori and non-Māori, nationally and internationally, the beauty of the poetic language of the waiata and a wealth of information about historic events and cultural practices of Māori life.

Not just passing through: the making of Mt Roskill published by the Mt Roskill Community Board. Alumna Jade Reidy (PG Dip Broadcast Communication 1985) has written this lively history of Mt Roskill – today one of Auckland’s most diverse suburbs and home to more than 140 different ethnic groups.

Making Lists for Frances Hodgkins published by AUP is a poetic memoir “in the light of art”. Inspired by an invitation from the Auckland City Art Gallery to talk about their 2005 Frances Hodgkins exhibition, poet and alumna Paula Green (BA 1992, MA 1995, PhD 2005) opens this collection with eight poems that focus on eight Hodgkins paintings.

The Year of Adverbs published by AUP. In a poem responding to an Edward Gorey calendar, poet and alumna Elizabeth Smither (DLit 2004) proposes a year in which adjectives are pushed aside and adverbs, often sadly maligned, are celebrated and encouraged.

Contract Law in New Zealand: Lawyers’ Handbook published by Southern Cross Publishing. Alumnus Ian Bassett LLB (Hons), 1994, provides an outline of the principles of contract law in New Zealand for busy legal practitioners and students. The focus of the book is on discharge/cancellation and remedies rather than contract formation and is intended as a framework for analysing contract law problems. For sale at www.contract-law.co.nz or at the UBS Bookshop.

If you have published a book in the last six months, or will do so in the next, email the editor ingenio@auckland.ac.nz
The Tuākana programme

By Caitlin Sinclair

An hour spent with Tuākana mentor Sam Blackman may be dead quiet one day and frantic the next. Such is the nature of his job within the Department of Philosophy that he faces both extremes.

Sam is at once a tutor, counsellor and role model. Students see him with coursework inquiries, family issues, or even practical questions: where to find the latest edition textbook, how to find the computer room – no question is too small.

Tuākana is a Māori concept, also known by Pacific peoples, referring to the position elder siblings and cousins occupy within the family. The Equal Opportunities Office at The University of Auckland adapted the concept, so that Tuākana mentors (usually more senior and academically able students) assist their teina (or mentees), usually younger and less academically able students.

The Tuākana programme is directed primarily towards first-year Māori and Pacific students, though some past participants occasionally return in their second and third years of study. More specialised Tuākana programmes exist at honours, masters and doctoral levels.

In Sam’s case, his position as a third-year Arts student of Tongan heritage made him perfect for the mentoring role. As a first-year, he was mentored, attending various academic workshops and social events to improve his chances at academic success. He found alternative teaching methods in Tuākana workshops effective because of the one-on-one support he received and felt more confident asking questions. Today, he is a member of the Tuākana Arts Leadership Programme (designed for high-achieving Māori and Pacific Island students), and works part-time as a Tuākana mentor in the Department of Philosophy, while simultaneously pursuing full-time study.

“I can help with almost anything, be it academic support or pastoral care, and forward people on to the right sources when it’s required,” he says. Tuākana mentors are well versed in the other programmes available to students at the University, and are able to refer mentees on to specialist support networks such as Health and Counselling and the Student Learning Centre.

Being a mentor can be challenging in terms of time management, working around a variety of student timetables. But Sam is adamant that the positives of his job outweigh the cons.

“I’m grateful I can pass on knowledge to people who were in my position two years ago, and see the before and after picture.”

Mentors receive training at the start of the year and have ongoing support from faculty coordinators and other mentors. By the end of their stint as mentors, they’ve developed strong leadership skills, communication skills and a capacity to empathise with their mentees.

The programme started informally in the School of Biological Sciences almost 20 years ago, when Dr Michael Walker, now Professor of Biological Sciences and Joint Director of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga (the Māori Centre of Research Excellence), allowed students to participate in non-traditional forms of study. Today, there are 38 Tuākana programmes across the University’s eight faculties and the School of Theology.

The Tuākana programme has two main aims: first, to improve and maintain pass rates, completion rates and retention rates in Māori and Pacific students at undergraduate and graduate levels. The second objective is to provide practical, specific support catering to the needs of students by giving them working spaces, resources and access to support groups.

Anecdotally the programme has been successful in achieving its aims, but its progress is difficult to track because of the many factors involved in assessing student participation and academic achievement. Although there is a continual drive to improve outcomes for Māori and Pacific students, they are still under-achieving compared with other ethnicities. Project Manager Lee Cooper hopes that eventually, Tuākana won’t be necessary. “I tell new mentors, ‘your task is to make yourselves redundant’.”

In future, it is hoped that participants will in turn contribute time and knowledge to their families and communities. As Lee says: “The programmes have grown organically, but the overall aim is to have Māori and Pacific students successfully complete their studies and create lifelong friendships along the way.”
This year we are aiming to help kids in Harlem do better at school

Now used in most New Zealand schools, this year the pioneering asTTle teaching software developed by Professor John Hattie’s team at The University of Auckland began pilot trials with 21 schools in Harlem and nearby areas in New York.

The New York City Department of Education engaged UniServices to conduct the pilot, based on its very good results in New Zealand classrooms and are keen to see if it can deliver where it’s most needed – in helping kids really lift performance.

Taking asTTle overseas is just one of the things UniServices is doing to generate benefits for society and clients. As the University’s research and technology company at UniServices we are proud to be able to help ideas like this realise their full potential.

Our success is all based on the University’s researchers who are among the best in the world. We identify and protect intellectual property – and help generate gains for everyone who benefits from new research, like kids in New York schools.

We invite academic staff to keep contacting us directly with great ideas at 09 373 7522 – or for anyone wanting to find out more please visit us at www.uniservices.co.nz
"I decided on postgraduate study here because I was inspired by the passion of my teachers."

For Jessie Jacobsen, postgraduate study at The University of Auckland is helping her make a difference to the world through her research into Huntington’s disease. Her own talent and passion combined with our state-of-the-art facilities, world-class teachers and commitment to pushing the boundaries of knowledge through research have given her the perfect tools to pursue her PhD and help in the quest to find ways to treat Huntington’s.

As the 2007 Young Scientist of the Year, Jessie is another example of one of our postgraduate students thriving at New Zealand’s leading research university.

To find out more about what Jessie and other postgraduate students have to say, visit www.ourownwords.ac.nz

Jessie Jacobsen – PhD in Neurogenetics and Neuroanatomy.

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