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ALEX FALA

TACKLING OBESITY
A FAMILY OF
PHILANTHROPISTS
INSIDE 95BFM
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From the Vice-Chancellor

Welcome to this, the first issue of the new look Ingenio, which resulted from a review of our publications that we undertook in my first year as Vice-Chancellor. The review identified that we could be doing more to tailor Ingenio to the needs of our alumni and friends, and so we set about addressing that issue. This new version is the result and I hope it will come to be regarded as a “must read” by all of you.

During my first year at The University of Auckland I have been particularly struck by the sheer breadth of what it accomplishes. We are, for example, the only university in New Zealand with both Medical and Engineering faculties – along with faculties of Law, Arts, Science, Education, Business and Economics, and the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries. This creates unique and exciting opportunities for teaching and research across traditional discipline boundaries.

We are also a very international university, with many students joining us from overseas and many graduates living outside New Zealand. This produces a highly diverse group of alumni with a range of affiliations and interests. While it may be difficult to meet the needs of everyone, such diversity is a great strength. And of course all alumni share one thing in common – they have a degree or diploma from The University of Auckland and the reputation of the University has a direct bearing on the “standing” of that qualification. It is thus in the interests of all alumni and friends to ensure that the University continues to go from strength to strength.

The achievements of our alumni, and the support of our friends, are in turn important drivers of the success of the University. It is thus incumbent on us to keep in touch with you, and that is what we attempt to do through Ingenio and through a variety of other means such as the Alumni and Friends website, @auckland – our email newsletter, local committees and the various events we invite you to. As it happens, I am writing this editorial on a flight to London as we begin the first of our annual excursions to meet alumni and friends overseas, as well as in New Zealand, and strengthen our relationship with them.

This year we expect to meet with hundreds of alumni and friends in about 15 cities around the world. I hope that you may be among them, and that you will continue to tell us about how we can best stay in touch with you and inform you of the many successes of your University. From the next issue of Ingenio we will publish a “Letters to the Editor” page so I invite you to write to us with your comments on the content of this issue and other matters concerning the University. Letters can be posted to the editor, Tess Redgrave, Communications and Marketing, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, or emailed to: t.redgrave@auckland.ac.nz

STUART McCUTCHEON
Capping ceremonies reach record high

Autumn Graduation broke new records this year with 5890 students capped during 13 ceremonies and the youngest graduate by three years, 16-year-old Jesse Wu, awarded a BSc in Mathematics and computer science.

In time-honoured tradition, graduands and staff processed through the city in colourful academic regalia during a record four days of ceremonies.

The faculty of Business and economics had the most graduates with 1428 followed by education (1134), science (1124) and Arts (1106).

There were 580 in Medical and health sciences, 454 in Engineering, 428 in Creative Arts and Industries, 226 in Law and 32 in Theology.

A total of 84 PhDs were awarded (including seven to staff) as well as six Doctor of Clinical Psychology degrees, seven Doctors of Education, one Doctor of Medicine and one Doctor of Science. Allan Adair, a retired GP and Doctor of Medicine, who runs the Teaching of General Practice at the Faculty of Medical Health Sciences, was the first person to gain distinction for his EdD.

Other firsts this year include the first PhD in Nursing awarded to Dr Thomas Harding for his thesis on “Being a man and a nurse” and the first MSc in Speech Science awarded to Russian immigrant, Elena Antipova, for her research into stuttering.

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Chancellor Hugh Fletcher personally conferred 5045 degrees and diplomas with the rest (1465) bestowed “in absentia”; one was also awarded posthumously.

Speakers at the 13 ceremonies included writer, actor and television host Oscar Kightley, former Silver Ferns captain Bernice Mene, John Haigh QC, and Dr Judy McGregor from the Human Rights Commission.

Institute tackles energy and infrastructure problems

A seismic evaluation of the Northland petroleum basin, and geotechnical and catchment studies of Auckland’s urban area.

These are two projects currently being pursued by the University’s new Institute of Earth Science and Engineering.

Launched late last year as a joint initiative between the faculties of Engineering and Science, the Institute has absorbed the work of a former, smaller geothermal institute. Its aim is to tackle key geological and engineering problems facing the country, with a particular focus on Auckland’s urban infrastructure and national energy supplies.

“In New Zealand, and in particular Auckland as its largest city, we face critical issues relating to infrastructure and energy,” says Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon. “We need to ensure that our construction is safe and efficient, that our infrastructure lifelines are adequately protected from natural hazards, and that the growing demand for energy is properly managed.”

The University has committed $600,000 over the next two years to the Institute which will work closely with other agencies, including the Government, local authorities, Crown Research Institutes, the private sector and overseas research bodies.

It will be managed by a governance board and an internationally recruited advisory board of industry professionals; appointment of the first director is due to be announced soon.

Targeting tobacco usage

New Zealand’s first research centre dedicated to reducing tobacco usage has been established at the School of Population Health.

Initiated by Dr Marewa Glover, a senior lecturer in Social and Community Health, and former chair of the National Tobacco Control Research Strategy steering group, the Centre’s membership includes researchers from across the University as well as representatives...
Herbal and complementary medicines will come under professional scrutiny as the result of a new appointment in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.

Dr Joanne Barnes, a herbal and complementary medicine specialist from Britain, has been appointed Associate Professor in Herbal Medicines in the School of Pharmacy.

Joanne, who has a PhD in Pharmacy and Pharmacognosy (the scientific study of medicinal plants and other natural products) from the University of London, brings considerable international expertise to the new position. She is an honorary consultant to the World Health Organisation’s Swedish-based international drug safety monitoring programme, and has worked extensively on the topic.

At The University of Auckland, Joanne wants to build research capacity into the safety and clinical efficacy of herbal medicines in New Zealand, developing tools for monitoring the safety of herbal medicines and for analysing consumer behaviours towards and use of herbal medicines.

“At present there is very little known about how widely these medicines are used in New Zealand, and the benefits and risks of using them,” she says.

“There is reasonable evidence that certain herbal medicines can be very effective but, as with all medicines, there are also safety issues surrounding their use.”

Joanne is currently teaching a short postgraduate course on the critical evaluation of complementary medical products.

One of the functions of the Centre will be to conduct research that establishes which interventions are the most effective.
Weighing in

University researchers are tackling New Zealand’s escalating obesity epidemic. Tess Redgrave investigates.

Fifteen-year-old Mangere College student Siosaia Folau gently throws his head of handsome, black hair back and laughs.

“I’m the water man,” he says. “I always used to get a fizzy drink on my way to school but now I just do the water thing; I have breakfast too. I never used get up early enough – but I do now.”

Down the road at nearby Auckland Seventh Day Adventist High (ASDAH), Year 13 student Aunofo Lea is about to embark on a ten-week challenge, which incorporates discounted visits to a local community gym, the services of a personal trainer, a meal plan and free nutritional food products.

Weighing in at 110 kilos mid last year, the 17-year-old is now 103 kg. “But my goal is get down into the 90s,” she says, explaining that she used to eat “anything and everything. But now I’m much more alert about food and my portion sizes are smaller.”

These two South Auckland teenagers are taking part in a groundbreaking obesity prevention study under way at The University of Auckland.

While recent newspaper headlines have underlined New Zealand’s rapidly escalating obesity epidemic (about half a million New Zealand adults are obese – twice as many as 25 years ago – and some 250,000 school-age children are overweight or obese), University researchers have been tackling the issue from differing angles.

The largest project is the New Zealand arm of an international study called Obesity Prevention in Communities (OPIC) being run by Associate Professor of Epidemiology Robert Scragg and a team of researchers based at the School of Population Health.

In 2002 the Auckland team linked up with researchers at Deakin University in Melbourne, the Fiji School of Medicine and the Tongan Ministry of Health to win one of 11 Pacific-based projects being funded by Britain’s prestigious Wellcome Trust.

“The theory is that the best way of preventing obesity is to target programmes at young people in community settings,” explains Robert, “but there has not been any rigorous research to test if this approach delivers significant benefits. OPIC will examine the effectiveness of intervention strategies in schools, churches, villages and neighbourhoods in New Zealand and the Pacific. It will also build Pacific research capacity in the four countries.”

While the Wellcome Trust is funding research in Tonga and Fiji, the New Zealand Health Research Council has given $2.86 million to the Auckland project. This got off the ground in 2004 when Robert’s team chose four intervention high schools (Mangere College, ASDAH, Aorere College and Southern Cross Campus) in South Auckland where, based on national figures for prevalence of obesity among Maori and Pacific Island children, some 50 percent of students are overweight or obese.

Meeting with teachers, students and representatives from bodies like Manukau District Health Board and Manukau City Council, the OPIC team looked at the causes of obesity among 13- to 18-year-olds and came up with five things that could be changed within the school environment to prevent obesity.

These were:
1) lowering the numbers of students missing breakfast
2) decreasing the consumption of high sugar drinks and increasing water consumption
3) increasing the healthiness of school food consumption in places like tuckshops
4) decreasing the amount of television watching
5) and increasing physical exercise activities at lunchtime and after school.

To record these behaviours and track changes, the OPIC team rolled out a baseline survey last year in the four intervention schools as well as three control schools. Over four years to the end of 2008, more
than 3,500 students will twice have their height and weight recorded and answer questions on eating and exercise patterns using cutting edge Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) with eSTePs software developed by the World Health Organisation.

At the same time, former teacher Jody Warbrick has been recruited onto the oPic team to implement obesity prevention strategies, called Living 4 Life, in the four intervention schools.

Last year Jody set up a Student Health Council (or committee) in each school to foster education and information about nutrition and health, encouraging council members to then go back and educate their peers. A three-day OPIC-funded workshop Jody ran at Mangere’s Pukaki Marae last year gave council members from each school a chance to meet as well as hear University speakers on topics like healthy and unhealthy foods, marketing influences and the impact of television watching on health.

This year some 60 students on the four councils are meeting with Jody each week to work on nutrition and health issues. In a big push to get students off fizzy drinks, $50,000 from the OPIC budget has funded 20 state-of-the-art drinking fountains in the four schools. These were recently launched by the Student Health Councils with thousands of students given a water bottle with a Living 4 Life logo emblazoned on it.

Jody has also purchased a manual developed by Pediatric and Medicine Associate Professor Thomas N. Robinson at Stanford University Medical Centre, which incorporates 16 50-minute lessons on the implications of television watching. Called SMART (Student Media Awareness to Reduce Television), the manual’s programme is now part of the health curriculum for Year nine and ten students at Aorere College and ASDAH.

While results of the OPIC interventions will not emerge until late 2008, school principals are already enthusiastic about its impact.

“OPIC has given students a whole new lease of life in terms of their health,” says John Heyes, principal of Mangere College. “The Student Health Committee members in our school have taken the messages into their homes and into their own communities and have been affirmed; adults from their cultures are now looking to them for guidance on health and diet.”

As a result of OPIC, Aorere College has put a health policy in place at the school and last year the Student Health Council ran a health week, which included a student-run basketball tournament, free breakfasts and talks by invited speakers.

“It was a wonderful week,” enthuses Principal Mike Williams. “The council is keeping issues of obesity in front of students,” he adds, “and that’s a key part of it, keeping the healthy eating message percolating there all the time.”

OPIC is spreading its net beyond schools too. Earlier this year Robert and his team met with representatives of 20 Pacific Island churches in South Auckland.

“At least 300 students, maybe more, from our intervention schools go to these churches,” he explains. “We’re hoping to go through the same process with them in terms of looking at key interventions their church can put in place to reduce obesity rates.”

As part of the Pacific research-building component of OPIC, seven doctoral and masters students have joined the project. For example, Pacific health PhD student Tasileta Te’evalo is looking at socio-cultural factors that influence eating habits.

In another study masters student Gavin Faeamani is looking at the cost utilities of OPIC.

“Our goal is to get a measurement from this project that will compare favourably with other health projects so the Government may be prepared to roll out the intervention more widely if we can show it lowers obesity levels,” says Robert.

He is hopeful that by the end of 2008 his team
will be able to provide specific, rigorous data on interventions to prevent obesity and will also have a greater understanding of the socio-cultural and policy contexts of the disease.

“The full economic case for obesity prevention that we develop will be an important tool for advocacy,” he suggests. “The overall outcome [of the international study] will be the generation of crucial evidence for public health action on obesity in both low- and high-income countries.”

At the same time as Robert and his team were getting OPIIC under way, Business School assistant lecturer Ekant Veer was weighing up topics for his PhD in marketing.

“I decided to do something on obesity reduction advertising because I’ve always struggled with my weight,” he says. “In particular, I became interested to know what does or doesn’t motivate people to lose weight. Forget body size. How do we get people who are not motivated, to be motivated? And how do we encourage those people who are motivated, to stay motivated?”

Designing a questionnaire and two advertisements – one educational (building awareness and communicating facts) and one motivational (encouraging and inspiring) – Ekant randomly surveyed 320 Year 9 to Year 12 students investigating which type of advertising messages made them want to lose weight.

The results, incorporating eight co-variants, indicated a significant change in the liking of certain advertisements depending on students’ level of obesity salience (how aware a student is about his or her size) and body satisfaction (how satisfied a student is about his or her size). For example students who were concentrating on their physical size (high obesity salience) liked the educational advertisement while students who were not concentrating on their size (low obesity salience) liked the motivational advertisement.

Ekant suggests his study is the first to show “here’s where a motivational ad works best and here’s where an educational ad works best and this is why. “Theoretically a social marketer could now go into a population and say ‘well 90 percent of people here think about their weight a lot and love the way they look so we need to focus on educational rather than motivational ads’.”

The University’s Clinical Trials Research Unit (CTRU) is also tackling obesity by looking at strategies that could be put in place across New Zealand for improving nutrition. The unit has just finished a 15-month pilot study in collaboration with Foodstuffs Wellington, who run Pak’N Save, looking at interventions like targeted discounts and tailored nutrition information to encourage Pak’N Save customers to buy healthy foods.

“If a full study proves interventions work, then there’s big policy implications,” says Senior Research Fellow Cliona Ni Mhurchu.

Another CTRU pilot study is investigating children’s energy expenditure using active versus passive video-games, while initiatives looking at ways to decrease children’s television watching, the use of cell phones to help people lose weight and trialing GPS as a method of measuring physical activity are also in the pipeline.

But what causes obesity? Is it simply a chronic excess of energy intake (food and beverage consumption) over energy expenditure (physical activity)? Or are some people really genetically susceptible and if they are can we predict this from an early stage and come up with safe medical treatments?

At the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Senior Research Fellow Dr Kathy Mountjoy and her team in the Molecular Neuroendocrinology laboratory are trying to understand these questions by studying the body’s melanocortin system. This comprises a group of pituitary and brain-deprived peptide hormones, which bind to five key

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melanocortin receptors in many parts of the body including the brain.

In the early 1990s, it was discovered the melanocortin system was critical for the regulation of appetite and body weight. Since then one receptor, the melanocortin-4 receptor (MC4R), has been implicated in causing obesity with as many as five percent of morbidly obese children with a mutation in this gene.

Obese humans have also been found to have high circulating levels of the hormone leptin, which normally regulates melanocortin peptides to control appetite and body weight, but puzzlingly does not in these individuals.

“We don’t understand the mechanisms behind leptin and melanocortin peptides regulating body weight,” cautions Kathy, “and we don’t know how leptin is acting on the melanocortin peptides. We also don’t understand how the MC4R in the brain is signalling to regulate appetite. What is the mechanism for its action?”

Last year Kathy won a half a million dollar grant from the Government’s new International Investment Opportunities Fund (IIOF) which she is using to collaborate with the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research on the mechanism of action for melanocortin peptides. Working principally with cell cultures and studying gene mutations in obese mice, Kathy’s aim is to understand the normal physiology and mechanisms of the melanocortin peptidergic axis.

“If we can understand the normal physiology then we may be able to come up with tests that predict and monitor obesity, and possibly find therapeutic treatments.”

Obesity is a complex issue that needs to be tackled on many fronts, concludes Robert Scragg. He is currently organising a one-day workshop for July which will focus on new strategies the Government could develop to tackle the problem. In line with recent calls by American researchers to legislate against causes of obesity, he suggests measures like a tax on soft drinks need to be considered.

In the meantime, the University’s work is already causing a quiet revolution in some young people’s lives.

When Samoan-born Maluatai Ah Kee became an inaugural member of Aorere College’s Student Health Council last year, her family were eating KFC, Pizza and McDonald’s three or four times a week washed down with five or six 1.5 litre bottles of fizzy drink; her 69-year-old father was also suffering from type-2 diabetes.

Now Maluatai does the family shopping and has carved mountains of sugar-laden soft drinks and fat-filled takeaways out of their diet, instead putting meals like stir-fry and chow mein on the dinner table, and offering wholemeal instead of white bread, fruit and cereal or porridge, for breakfast.

Maluatai’s father has lost weight and his diabetes has stabilised. She runs two or three times a week, plays basketball, netball, touch and rugby.

“I am determined to never be overweight,” she smiles, proudly sporting a Living 4 Life badge on her blue school uniform.

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Jade Reidy meets a University team breaking new ground in robotics.

Seek out Grant Sargent and you will find a Kiwi male perennially knee-deep in disassembled body parts.

Nothing unusual about that, except in Grant’s case the body is a robot and it is being designed for a race against the odds in America to become, not the world’s fastest Indian, but the world’s most autonomous robotic driver.

Grant, by day, is a technician in the Robotics and Intelligent Systems research laboratory at the University’s School of Engineering. Nights and weekends he dedicates to a team called Grand Challenge. The team will not be spending weeks aboard ship as Bert Munro did. “Kupe” will pack down into a suitcase – a unique achievement as every other competitor in the DARPA1 Grand Challenge from prestigious US and European universities will be transporting trucks and spending several million dollars on their entry.

“Because we’re so far away, we have to think outside the box,” says Grant.

Which is an irony in that Kupe is a box, a rectangular metal container that fits into the space behind a steering wheel that a human would occupy, and plugs into the cigarette lighter. While the robot has a leg to push the foot pedals and an arm to turn the steering wheel, that is the extent of its anthropomorphism.

“We haven’t aimed at a human shape,” says Grant. “Robotics researchers have discovered people feel threatened by robots that look too lifelike.”

Kupe’s first motor was an electric drill from Bunnings. The parts for the initial prototype cost $12 all up and came from derelict cars. And that’s where the do-it-yourself Kiwi ingenuity story ends and a leading edge commercial venture began.

In mid-2004, Grant Sargent met Glen Slater on a University Leading and Managing Entrepreneurial Growth course run by visiting professor Jana Matthews, whose academic career spans London, Yale and Harvard universities and who works directly with business leaders to build organisations that can sustain growth.

“Grant and Glen were top students on my course,” says Professor Matthews. “They understand the various stages of company growth, critical transitions, and changes required.”

From that meeting of convergent skills, Grand Challenge was born with Glen as its CEO, bringing his background in strategic planning consultancy, and a University masters in International Business, to the business of raising venture capital. He also set about protecting the intellectual property while Grant and his largely student-led research team of about 50 volunteers concentrated on creating increasingly robust versions of Kupe.

Within a year, the new company had won the University’s 2005 Spark $40K Challenge, aimed at turning first-class ideas into world-class businesses.

“To win Spark was one of our original goals,” says Glen, “but actually the due diligence process we went through along the way made winning a bonus. The judges and mentors demand that you strip away false ideas. It’s pretty tough. You have to be able to throw yourself into it and take the knocks along the way, and there are some.”

With the prize of $20,000 and a residency at the Business School’s Icehouse to incubate further development, the next goal is to successfully compete in the 2007 Pentagon-funded race.

But Grand Challenge is not just about finish lines. While robots could drive whole convoys in war-torn areas without risking human life, Kupe’s “democratisation” from military beginnings to mass market (in the hallowed tradition of the Internet, GPS, microwave ovens and Velcro) could see them drive in irradiated or diseased zones, inside volcanoes and over ice flows. There would be a low cost, mass producible robotic driver, first in specialised warehouses then fanning out to other industries. The technology has the potential to boost productivity in roadworks, agriculture and airport terminals.

It has what one of the Spark judges, John Blackham, CEO of business technology company xSol Limited, describes as a rarity for a new technology venture.

“Grand Challenge isn’t just a commercial venture,” Blackham says. “They’ve established a unique IP development relationship with the University to support it in becoming world renowned in both the field of robotics and a stream of leading edge innovation, in a market worth over a trillion dollars.”
Robotics cutting edge development requires the input of many specialist research areas: embedded electronic and mechanical systems; geographic information; computer and engineering science; and product design.

Kupe is controlled by a microchip that relays data to and from a computer via a wireless internet connection. Based on a pre-programmed destination, the robot builds a simple 3D model of how to get there, taking into account obstacles such as trees and traffic, using GPS navigation and lasers that scan environmental information in much the same way that barcode scanners work in supermarkets, radars and cameras.

The biggest challenge is getting Kupe to respond rapidly to changeable situations.

“Robots aren’t crash-hot at things they haven’t dealt with before,” says Grant. “They have little common sense – that it’s better to drive over a bush than a rock for instance – and still need to learn to multi-task, to do ten things a second, the way humans can.”

That skill in hand, service robots could relieve the downtime we spend idling in traffic. But would you trust a robot to drive you to work while you caught up on email in the back seat?

“About 120 people die each year on our roads from human error. Robots don’t get drunk, their eyesight doesn’t fail and they aren’t easily distracted,” says Glen. “People used to be scared of microwave ovens. ABS brakes were scary and now the safest people on the road have them. Proving the technology is what counts. By the time it reaches the market it will be fail-safe. We’ll all get used to it.”

At present, however, fail-safe is still off the radar. The Grand Challenge team aims for “safe fails” when they take Kupe out for test runs in off-road places.

Only five of the original 195 original entrants into the 2005 DARPA Grand Challenge went on to complete the 28 km race in the Nevada desert, the fastest at an average speed of 30kmph. The 2007 race is likely to be held in an urban environment. Grand Challenge made it to the quarter-finals last year before being hampered by a lack of funds. To compete next time will cost the equivalent of $1 million in sponsorship and donated time and equipment.

“It’s a global challenge and we’re every bit as world-class as the other competitors,” says Glen. “We’ve got the right minds, people who understand and work through the problems. The students involved meet of their own accord and go where their curiosity takes them. The University is very willing to support entrepreneurship and it’s a great place for students to develop themselves.”

Visit www.grandchallenge.co.nz for more information.
New anti-cancer drug

The most persistent problem in treating cancer with chemotherapy and radiation has been the treatment agents’ inability to differentiate between healthy and cancerous cells.

But now two world-leading University of Auckland researchers may have come up with a solution.

Professors Bill Denny and Bill Wilson, who work in the University’s Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre, have entered the clinical trials stage of a compound drug that is designed to leave healthy tissue undamaged while destroying what is known as hypoxic cells within solid tumours. PR-104 can also spread to and kill surrounding tumour cells.

Hypoxic cells are significantly present in more than 65 percent of the ten million people diagnosed each year with cancer. These cells are defined by having low oxygen; they are largely resistant to both radiation and chemotherapy and frequently responsible for malignant progression of the disease.

When Professors Denny and Wilson began research into hypoxia nearly 25 years ago, they were heading into unmapped but potentially fruitful territory.

“The theoretical argument for a hypoxia-targeted drug was so strong,” says Professor Wilson, “that we were prepared to invest the time and people into its development.”

The risk has paid off. Safety and anti-cancer activity trials of PR-104 have attracted $12 million in funding from a who’s who of global research, led by GBS Venture Partners, Genentech, the Roche Venture Fund, No 8 Ventures of New Zealand, Endeavour i-Cap and Alta Partners in the United States. The trials, due to be completed by the middle of this year, are taking place at Waikato Hospital, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne and the University of California in Los Angeles. The first hypoxia drugs expected to reach commercialisation will target lung, breast, prostate and ovarian cancers.

Professors Denny and Wilson are the founder scientists of Proacta Therapeutics Ltd, a subsidiary of Proacta Inc, an early-stage biotech company established by The University of Auckland and Stanford University. The company holds over 20 patents for new generation cancer drugs.

For more information see: www.proactatherapeutics.com

Leading generations

Good leaders connect effectively with individuals rather than being seduced by popular generational stereotypes.

This is the conclusion of a pilot study by Excelerator, the New Zealand Leadership Institute based at the University’s Business School.

Researchers conducted an extensive literature review and then sat down with Generation X (aged 28 to 40) and Generation Y (aged 11 to 27) New Zealanders and Australians to test whether each generation has its own well-defined and unmistakable characteristics.

Surprisingly, what resulted were more similarities than differences. Disparate views on the leadership they see and experience in workplaces were attributable to life stages such as depth of personal development and financial and family commitments, rather than to generations.

The study results appear in the Generational Mirage report, which was launched last November to the wider business community in both Australia and New Zealand. Dr Lester Levy, chief executive of Excelerator, believes it sounds a healthy warning for organisations employing people from either generation.

“One of the popular literature about generational distinctions is intuitively appealing,” he says, “but there’s simply not enough evidence to justify re-contouring the strategic approach to leadership and workplace development, based on what it tells us. Generations X are no more disloyal than Generation Y are over-indulged. Both generations, in fact, come through as resourceful, collaborative and seeking personal challenge from meaningful work.”

The pilot study, commissioned by Hudson recruitment and human resources company, one of seven partners of the Business school in Excelerator, will form the basis of a further study testing stereotypes of the post-war baby boomers, and the silent generation (born 1929-1945). Following that, researchers will create a survey for a large-scale study of 2000 individuals in New Zealand and Australia, looking at possible differences in attitudes to leadership between the two countries.

Excelerator was created in 2003 to grow and build leadership capability in New Zealand. For more information see: www.business.auckland.ac.nz/excelerator
Sustainable behaviour

The weight of evidence that we are living beyond the constraints of ambient energy, and therefore beyond the earth’s carrying capacity, is driving ongoing research into sustainable urban design.

Much of the literature has focused on redesigning the physical aspects of buildings and neighbourhoods, say Professor Brenda Vale and Associate Professor Robert Vale, both from the School of Architecture and Planning, ignoring a greater potential for reducing environmental impacts.

They have been assessing sustainability projects both in Britain and New Zealand and have found changes in occupants’ behaviour are likely to be both cheaper to achieve and more effective than simply building better houses or increasing urban residential density.

A study of a sustainable housing development near London called BedZED showed that behavioural changes by some residents, such as using public transport and buying locally produced organic food, were almost twice as effective as built environment changes in reducing what is known as an “ecological footprint” on the earth.

Another assessment by Planning Professor Jenny Dixon, of a medium-density housing development in Waitakere City, revealed that only one person within the 300 units had changed from car to public transport use, despite the close proximity of both train and bus facilities.

“The notion of compact urban form as a means of reducing car dependency has been much advocated, particularly for the Auckland region,” says Robert.

“Yet, if we are to live within the earth’s carrying capacity we will also need to adopt more appropriate behaviours. In fact, without such changes it’s almost possible to say that changes to the built environment are largely ineffectual.”

A major research project with Landcare Research is now under way within the School looking at low impact urban design using case studies from within New Zealand. One of its key objectives will be to explore how consumers, as well as councils and developers, can be encouraged to adopt sustainable practices.

Powering medical devices

Thousands of people around the world die each year waiting for scarce organ transplants.

The next generation of implantable medical devices is capable of keeping damaged body organs functioning but their pathway to the marketplace has been stalled by a core problem – power.

Now Telemetry Research, a company based at the University’s Bioengineering Institute, has come up with a wireless solution to powering medical devices like miniature sensors, stimulators and pumps. These are designed to treat conditions such as diabetes, heart failure and Parkinson’s disease and draw heavily on power supplies.

“Our technology will result in smaller, lighter devices that are easier to transplant,” claim Telemetry’s partners, acting CEO Dr Simon Malpas from the Department of Physiology and engineer David Budgett from the Bioengineering Institute. “Recipients will wear a belt with a coil that generates a magnetic field. Inside the body they’ll have a smaller coil to pick up the magnetic field, which then powers the implanted device.”

Traditionally, high-power implantable devices run on external batteries requiring a wire to pass through the skin, which often causes problems with infection and tissue damage. Telemetry’s wireless technology will address such side effects.

The potential market for implantable devices is enormous, with the current market size for just cardiovascular devices estimated at US$10 billion and expected to double in value over the next decade. Telemetry Research holds an exclusive licence to patents for its wireless power technology and is in discussion with a number of international companies to develop next generation prototypes.

Telemetry Research sprung out of a research project into physiological monitoring and got a huge boost when it won the University’s 2004 Spark Entrepreneurship Challenge. Earlier this year the company walked off with the Innovation of the Year Award at the Telecom New Zealand Incubator Awards for its enabling power transfer technology. For more information see: www.telemetryresearch.com
LETS INDIVIDUALS SHINE
Stem cells and brain disease: fact and fantasy, challenges and opportunities

One of the most exciting developments in biology is the realisation that stem cells may provide a possible treatment for tragic brain diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, Huntington’s and motor neuron disease.

Stem cells are the foundation cells of life – they are “magic cells” because they are pluripotential cells which comprise the early embryo; during development they multiply and mature in the most perfect and precise way to give rise to all the various cell types and complex organs which ultimately make up the human body.

Most excitingly, recent scientific research has developed methods for growing and culturing these “magic” embryonic stem cells in the laboratory. This means a resource of stem cells can be established which “theoretically” could be used to generate new replacement cells for diseased organs in any part of the human body – for example to make replacement cells for brain diseases.

Over recent years, media and scientific hype (and scientific fraud) have unrealistically raised the expectations of patients, families and the community in the belief that effective stem cell therapy for human brain diseases is literally just around the corner. However, this scientific utopia is still a hope and a dream because there are major issues and scientific challenges which have to be addressed.

Firstly, there are the wide-ranging ethical and cultural issues of utilising the “unborn” embryo as a source of stem cells to grow in the laboratory. Secondly, there are the scientific challenges of determining the precise environment and range of growth and other chemical factors necessary for stem cells to develop and mature into specifically the cells that die in, for example, Parkinson’s or Alzheimer’s. Also, there are major dangers in using stem cells before we fully understand the “biology” of their growth and development – animal and human studies have shown that stem cell transplants can proliferate “out of control” and form tumours.

Nevertheless, we should be excited about the potential of stem cells but we need a reality check – there is still much more fundamental scientific research to undertake before we can effectively harness their potential.

Our recent research on stem cells in the human brain at The University of Auckland is exciting and groundbreaking. We have shown that, like the animal brain, stem cells are still present in the adult human brain and that they have the potential to form new replacement brain cells. In fact, in diseases such as Huntington’s, we have shown that stem cells multiply and make increased numbers of new brain cells (i.e. neurogenesis) in a vain attempt to repair the brain. Unfortunately, it is too little too late.

What is exciting is that, contrary to all previous dogma, the adult human brain does make new brain cells throughout life. Furthermore, studies on neurogenesis in animals have conclusively shown that a stimulating and enhanced environment results in increased numbers of new brain cells. If we extrapolate these results to the human, then the more stimulating and challenging our lives the greater the numbers of new brain cells – the old adage of “use it or lose it” may well apply to the human brain. It all sounds so logical.

Our challenge is to study the biology of these stem cells which are still present in the adult human brain in health and disease. We need to unravel their scientific secrets so that we can enhance and maximise their repair potential – that is our hope and our passion.

Professor Richard Faull
Department of Anatomy with Radiology
Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences

Above: Professor Richard Faull heads a multi-disciplinary research programme on neurodegenerative diseases of the human brain and spinal cord, which in 2003 discovered the human brain has the potential to repair itself by generating new neurons.
The road less travelled

Rhodes Scholar and University alumnus Alex Fala talks to Joanna Wane about being a Pacific Islander in business.

One of Alex Fala’s most vivid childhood memories is of sitting in the back of a station-wagon clinging to a dead pig as his family drove from Masterton to Wellington for a cousin’s wedding.

“I had to hold onto it so it wouldn’t roll around,” he laughs.

It sounds like a scene straight out of the recent New Zealand film No.2, which highlights the cultural chasm between three generations of a Fijian family living in Mt Roskill. When the ageing matriarch, Nanna Maria, demands that a pig be slaughtered for a backyard feast, her exasperated grandchildren don’t understand why she can’t just buy pork chops from the supermarket like everyone else.

Alex, who is just back from a month-long honeymoon overseas, has not seen the film yet but he sure gets the joke. Only the second Pacific Islander to win a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford, the 26-year-old University of Auckland finance graduate is part of what has been called the transition generation. And pride in his own success is tempered by concern that so many others within the Samoan community risk being left behind.

“The thing that worries me most is that there’s more and more of a divide between young and old,” he says. “But I understand people’s reluctance to change – especially among minority groups where culture is extremely important.

“I’m half-Samoan and I’m very passionate about that side of my life. And because there are very few Pacific Islanders in business, I’ve always felt it was one area in which I could potentially give back to a culture that has given me so much.”

A management consultant at international firm McKinsey & Company’s Auckland office as well as doing pro bono work for a mentoring programme in South Auckland, Alex has become the very role model he lacked when he decided on a career in business. The courage to beat a path less travelled, however, runs in the family.

Alex’s father, Iole, was born in Samoa. The youngest of 11, he was the first in his village to pass School Certificate and University Entrance, before immigrating to New Zealand. His mother Barbara, a first-generation New Zealander, is half-Swiss and half-Polish.

Alex describes his father as a strong, independent thinker who encouraged him to appreciate what he had, but also to challenge the status quo. Growing up in the comparative cultural isolation of Masterton brought them close and although his upbringing was that of a typical “Kiwi kid”, he felt a strong connection to his Samoan roots.

“It wasn’t easy being the only Island kid in class,” he says. “But I drew a line under that when I left and I think of my college years in Wellington as being the years that made me who I am.”

With the encouragement of a supportive family, Alex flourished at St Patrick’s. He played in the first XV and took part in cultural groups, but focused strongly on academic goals. “I never cared about being uncool; I didn’t want to be the proverbial nerd, but I didn’t want to be a jock, either. I wanted to be able to choose.”

That choice was not so readily available to some of his peers. “There were people with a huge amount of potential that was not being realised, and it just wasn’t right,” says Alex, recalling friends who would miss days at school because they were kept home to look after siblings. “Family values are important but education should come much higher on the list.”

He believes cultural tensions are a significant influence on the low number of Pacific Islanders studying accounting and finance at university, where he once again found himself the only brown face, this time in his BCom (Honours) class.

In part, he suspects that is because young Polynesians lack confidence in what is viewed as a more difficult discipline and tend to be channelled into more traditional careers such as law or medicine.
"But there’s also a view in the community that business is about money, and if it’s about money then you must be greedy, which I find quite paradoxical given that Pacific Island families come here with the objective of becoming more financially successful.”

That paradigm formed the framework for Alex’s two years as a Rhodes Scholar at Trinity College, Oxford, where he studied politics and economics – his thesis was an economic analysis of the Pacific Island culture of gift-giving.

This is delicate ground and Alex treads it softly, his respect for tradition tempered by the harm caused when it is abused. He believes church ministers who turn down donations or refuse to accept more than a certain percentage of people’s incomes are to be applauded for showing real leadership.

“It’s easy to get caught up in cultural demands and many people do that ahead of the prosperity of their family,” he says. “For each individual, that’s a choice they have to make and giving to people in need is a worthy value. But if your children aren’t being fed and don’t have school lunch, there’s something wrong with the system.”

Alex’s father, Iole, sent money back to Samoa and one of Alex’s proudest moments was returning to his father’s village and seeing the house that money had built. But Iole’s own children’s needs came first.

Being at Oxford gave Alex the breathing space to explore the apparent contradictions between his social conscience and his understanding of economic theory. Intense one-on-one tutorials challenged him on every level, shaping what he describes as an “academic grounding for compassion”.

“Everything I believed was up for grabs,” he says. “But I learnt as much in the bars, cafes and in various people’s rooms as I did in the classroom. Particularly in the Rhodes community, where people are so conscious of world events, there’s constant discussion and debate.

“By nature I’m a pretty analytical person. I have affection for and really identify with the Pacific Island community, but I’m also very aware of the poverty in that community, and a lot of what drives me seemed to be in conflict with my finance training. That exposure [in Oxford] to a broader range of perspectives – and a little bit of maturity – has shifted my views and in a lot of ways has given me the confidence to know that I’m doing the right thing.”

Alex headed home last September straight back to his old firm, McKinsey & Co, where he had worked for two years before taking up his scholarship. He has worked with major Australasian companies in at least ten different industries on a variety of strategic and operational issues. Few of his clients are Polynesian but in only his third year in the workforce, he is grateful to have had exposure to some of the real decision-makers in business.

At the Pacific Prosperity Conference held in Auckland last November, a key message for Alex was that his greatest responsibility right now is to be successful and in doing so, to raise the aspirations of those following behind him.
Summer Celebration: 
Human rights, emergency sex and marriage

A seminar on human rights hosted at Simpson Grierson’s 28th-floor panoramic meeting space; a chance to hear United Nations aid worker Dr Andrew Thomson explain “emergency sex”; and a night out at the Royal New Zealand Ballet’s dazzling The Wedding in the company of ballet author Witi Ihimaera.

These were just some of the activities on offer at the University’s inaugural two-day Alumni Summer Celebration in early March.

Hoping to lure some of the University’s 110,000-odd alumni back to their alma mater to “revisit, reconnect, revitalise”, the celebration was launched with a seminar titled “A world of human rights” by the Honourable Michael J. Beloff QC, president of Oxford University’s Trinity College since 1996.

Beloff, who practises as a barrister in the fields of administrative, commercial, employment, media, EC, human rights and sports law, traced the history of human rights since “templates” were established by the French and American revolutions. He looked at imperfections in nations’ subsequent treatment of human rights and posed such “heretical” questions as “whether we give excessive priority to human rights... as a solvent for all issues” for example “to justify the invasion of Kosovo and retrospectively Iraq”?

Beloff provided more food for thought at the Distinguished Alumni Awards gala dinner – the centrepiece of the summer celebration. Nearly 500 alumni, alumni scholars, staff and invited dignitaries including Dr Don Brash, Dame Cath Tizard, Mayor of Waitakere City Bob Harvey and (briefly) Prime Minister Helen Clark packed the alumni marquee on Old Government House’s front lawn to celebrate the seven Distinguished Alumni Award winners for 2006 (see profiles page 22-23).

Beloff’s after dinner speech titled “In defence of elites” argued that “…in the sphere of education as elsewhere, merit, and merit alone should be the key to advancement”.

“The problem,” replied Law Associate Professor Scott Optican in thanking Beloff “…is that in a society characterised by various structured inequalities, the capacity to express one’s merit, the recognition of merit, and the ability to have one’s merit recognised, are influenced by numerous social, political, cultural, and economic factors having nothing to do with merit itself. It may therefore be the case that admissions decisions factoring race, ethnicity, gender or class, simply allow a university
to hedge against possibility that we have missed the
true merit of a deserving candidate.”

The gala dinner ended on a lighter note when
the Rikki Morris Band plugged in and guests took to
the dance floor.

Many were back on campus early the next day
to hear individual talks by the Distinguished Alumni
Award winners including Dr Andrew Thomson who
sold personally-signed copies of his bestselling book:
Emergency Sex and Other Desperate Measures: True
Stories from a War Zone.

There was also time to picnic on the lawn at Old
Government House, listen to jazz and taste wine
made by alumni vintners as well as sample the new
2005 Fossil Bay Chardonnay brewed in the vats of
the University’s Wine Science programme.

The weekend’s activities ended on a romantic
note with a night out at The Wedding and a
glittering supper afterwards where English Professor
Witi Ihimaera related his personal experiences of
New Zealand weddings including his own, at which
the small invited guest list suddenly ballooned when
his family turned up by the bus-load – though
fortunately bringing their own ready to roast pig!

To read the speeches delivered during the Alumni
Summer Celebration and for more photos see the
Alumni & Friends website: www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz
The University honoured seven outstanding New Zealanders in medicine, the arts, education, business and law at its annual Distinguished Alumni Awards gala dinner.

JUDITH AITKEN (ARTS) BA (1971)
Educationalist Dr Judith Aitken has had a distinguished career as a public servant, author and community worker.

She was Chief Executive of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (1988-91) and Chief Review Officer of the Education Review Office (1992-2000). Under her pioneering leadership, ERO reviews of schools became an accepted form of accountability, ensuring transparent, public and student-focused evaluation. The ERO report published in 1996 on the state of schooling in Mangere and Otara forced a response from the Ministry of Education and government that eventually led to the most successful school improvement initiative this country has seen.

Judith attended The University of Auckland from 1956-1958 studying with people like historians Keith Sinclair and Professor Willis Airey, to whom she paid special tribute in her acceptance speech. She returned to the University to complete her Bachelor of Arts in 1971 and later went to Victoria University where she took a Masters in Public Policy and a PhD in Political Science.

In 1997 she was awarded the QSO for services to education and in 1999 she was made New Zealander of the Year by the National Business Review which described her as “the best thing in New Zealand education”. Judith has also published extensively, A Woman’s Place: A Study of the Changing Roles of Women and Men in New Zealand (1975), being her first major publication.

JONATHAN HUNT (ARTS) BA (1959), MA (1961)
The Right Honourable Jonathan Hunt ONZ is currently New Zealand High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Ambassador to Ireland. His award was presented at an alumni function in London on 20 March.

Jonathan attended The University of Auckland gaining an MA (Hons) in 1961 before becoming a teacher at Kelston Boys High School (1961-1966) and tutor in history at the University (1964-1966). He was President of the Princes Street Branch of the Labour Party and stood successfully for the seat of New Lynn in 1966, entering Parliament as the country’s youngest MP. He held the seat until 1996 when he became a List MP.

Known as “Father of the House”, Jonathan was the longest-serving Member of Parliament until he resigned in March 2005 to take up his current position. He served as Whip, Deputy Speaker and was a Minister in the Fourth Labour Government from 1984-1990, holding the portfolios of Telecommunications and Broadcasting, Postmaster General, Tourism and Housing. He was leader of the House from 1987-1990 and was also the instigator of the Adult Adoption Information Act 1985. In November 1989 he was appointed to the Privy Council. He was unanimously elected Speaker in December 1999 and returned to the position in 2002.

Jonathan was appointed to the Order of New Zealand (the country’s highest honour, restricted to 20 members) for services to Parliament in the New Year Honours List 2005.

MARK WELDON (BUSINESS AND ARTS) BA/BCOM (1991), MCOM (1993)
Mark Weldon is a distinguished scholar, Olympic swimmer and a successful businessman, all before the age of 40.

Academically, Mark has a Juris Doctor degree from Columbia University, New York, a degree in International Law (Hons) also from Columbia, a masters degree (first class honours) in Economics, and bachelor degrees in Commerce and Arts from The University of Auckland.

He worked as an attorney in New York, a senior adviser to CEOs at a number of Fortune 500 companies for McKinsey & Company, and in June 2002 became one of the youngest CEOs of the New Zealand Exchange (NZX) when he was appointed to the role, aged 34. Since then he has led the Exchange through its transformation into a mutual listed company, changed its overall approach, and brought home the role and relevance of capital markets to New Zealand’s future to both the public and government. His leadership of the NZX has marked a turning point, creating investor confidence in the New Zealand market, and attracting both national and international buyers.

Mark is on the board of the New Zealand Olympic Committee, was an inaugural recipient of a Peter Blake Emerging Leader award, and is on the board of Springboard Trust, which strives to improve capabilities of charities.

ANDREW THOMSON (MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES) MBCHB (1988)
“When I got news of this wonderful award a few months ago I was sitting in an Internet café in Phnom Penh wearing shorts and a paint-splattered shirt,” Dr Andrew Thomson told the audience at the Awards dinner.

“And my first thought, to be honest with you, after having left New Zealand in 1989, and not returned since
then, was how on earth did they find me?"

Whilst a student at the University’s School of Medicine from 1981 to 1987 Andrew befriended a refugee doctor, one of about 60 doctors out of 600 who survived Pol Pot’s killing fields in Cambodia. After graduating in a class of 140 and working briefly at Auckland Hospital he went to Cambodia to work for the Red Cross. He then spent 13 years with the United Nations as a peacekeeper and medical doctor in Cambodia, Haiti, Rwanda and Bosnia where he documented and investigated war crimes including exhumation of mass graves, and regularly risked his life. He has made a positive contribution to conflict resolution and international war crimes prosecutions.

Andrew is co-author of the whistle-blowing book, Emergency Sex and Other Desperate Measures: True Stories from a War Zone, which charges the UN with negligence, corruption and inadequate leadership and failure to prevent genocide. After the UN refused to renew his contract in 2004 it was pressured to do so by an international firm of lawyers. Andrew continues to work for the UN as Senior Medical Officer but at the time of his trip to New Zealand was taking time out to work on his house in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

PHILIPPA BOYENS (ARTS) BA (1994)

“If any of your children or grandchildren .. tell you they have no idea what they want to do with their life, but they’re thinking about doing a BA at Auckland University, you can tell them from me that’s not a bad thing.”

These were Oscar winner, Philippa Boyens’ concluding remarks on accepting her Distinguished Alumni Award. Philippa completed her Bachelor of Arts (majoring in English and History) at Auckland in 1994 and is now best known as principal script-writer, along with Fran Walsh and Peter Jackson, for the screen adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien’s The Lord of the Rings trilogy. The script was honoured with an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay at the Academy Awards. In 2004 Philippa won an Oscar and a BAFTA for The Return of the King (Best Adapted Screenplay) and was nominated for both of these categories in 2002 for The Fellowship of the Ring. Her success in adapting Tolkien’s work to the screen has helped bring international recognition for the New Zealand film industry and New Zealand in general. More recently she worked on the script for King Kong and is now penning a screen adaptation of US author Alice Seabold’s bestelling book The Lovely Bones. Earlier in her career Philippa worked in theatre as a playwright, was a teacher, producer and editor, and was also the Director of the New Zealand Writers Guild. In 2000 she was named by Variety magazine in its list of Ten Best Writers to Watch.

DAVID BARAGWANATH (LAW) LLB (1964)

The Honourable Justice David Baragwanath QC graduated from Auckland with a Bachelor of Laws in 1964 and gained a Rhodes Scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford, where he completed a Bachelor of Civil Law degree (first class honours) in 1966. He was granted a Fulbright Travel Award to the University of Virginia in 1983 to study freedom of information and an Inns of Court Fellowship (London) in 2004.

David became a barrister in 1977 and was made a silk in 1983. Since 1995 he has sat as a High Court Justice in the High Court and in Divisional Courts of Appeal; between 1996 and 2001 he was President of the New Zealand Law Commission. He has also been a part-time law lecturer in civil procedure and administrative law at the University.

David played a key part in radically altering the legal status of Māori in New Zealand through his work as senior counsel for the New Zealand Māori Council, and in securing a proper place for the Treaty of Waitangi in New Zealand’s constitutional and legal framework. He has also served the university sector, notably in 1988 when he acted as senior counsel for the Universities of Auckland and Canterbury successfully challenging Government restructuring proposals and preserving university autonomy.


Dr David Skilling is the founding Chief Executive of the New Zealand Institute, a think-tank established to contribute new and creative thinking to the public debate on issues that matter for New Zealand’s future. From 2003, he worked with a broad group of business, community, and education leaders (including our former Vice-Chancellor, Dr John Hood and Distinguished Alumnus Chris Liddell) to set up the New Zealand Institute.

Since its public launch in July 2004, the Institute has undertaken work on creating an ownership society, arguing for policies that encourage personal savings and asset ownership, and has recently launched a project that looks to increase the extent of international engagement of the New Zealand economy.

David was previously a principal adviser at the New Zealand Treasury where he worked primarily on economic growth issues. He has a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Accounting and Finance as well as a Master of Commerce (Honors) degree in Economics from The University of Auckland. He also has a Master in Public Policy and a PhD in Public Policy from Harvard University.

David was a teaching Fellow at Harvard University for three years, and has also worked at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris, at McKinsey & Company, and Deloitte. David has recently been appointed to the Advisory Board of The University of Auckland Business School.
Cast your mind back to 1978 and scan through archived copies of Craccum – the University’s weekly student newspaper – and you will find a fascinating record of the potent political issues of the day.

For instance, stories on white South Africa’s apartheid policies, East Timor’s struggle for independence, and Palestine’s occupation by Israel. Closer to home, reports of pro-abortion rallies, women’s and gay rights marches on campus, Ngati Whatu’s land occupation at Bastion Point and Auckland Peace Squadron protests at the arrival of the USS Pintado – a nuclear-powered submarine invited into New Zealand waters by then Prime Minister Rob Muldoon.

“All those issues,” exclaims Louise Chunn as she excitedly pores over the then black and white A4 size newspaper, old memories triggered as she turns each yellowing page. “Craccum’s probably the most political I’ve ever been.”

In 1978, fresh out of the University with an Arts degree majoring in History, Louise spent a year as one of Craccum’s first female editors. Paid $60 a week (topped up with two nights’ waitressing for the same wage), she ran the student rag with a gang of volunteer helpers, working through the nights on Thursdays to send the typeset pages to Wanganui for printing on Fridays. There was always a huge sigh of relief when the newspaper returned the following week “because the printers reserved the right not to print anything they thought obviously libellous”.

Zoom forward nearly 30 years and Louise, turning 50 this year, is about to take up the editorial reins of Good Housekeeping – one of Britain’s biggest selling women’s magazines. She was head hunted from the editor’s chair at UK InStyle magazine and her new role marks a high point in a career that has spanned work on such esteemed titles as Elle, The Guardian, British Vogue and The Evening Standard’s ES magazine.

Married to a British journalist who works on The Observer, and mother of three children (a five year old and two young adults studying at Oxford and East Anglia universities) Louise has a high profile in London. She is regularly quoted in the media on topics ranging from teenagers’ obsession with fashion to why she might employ a New Zealander. She is also a committee member of UK networking/campaigning organisation Women In Journalism and is responsible for Founders’ Lunches, which feature talks by international media high-flyers like CNN reporter Christiane Amanpour and New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd, author of controversial book Are Men Necessary?

All of which sounds a world away from burning the midnight oil on a student newspaper, yet back at her alma mater recently to give a seminar to Arts students on working in the media, there is a sense that Louise is coming full circle back to the roots of a journalism career launched here.

“Good Housekeeping has obviously not got a great name,” she laughs. “But it’s actually an incredibly long-established, very well-respected magazine, one of the few women’s magazines that can write about anything. Most people know it for the Good Housekeeping Institute where there are about 20 people full-time triple-testing every recipe, every iPod, every pair of glasses, vacuum cleaner, every teabag – but the magazine is also political. It has campaigns for things like higher sentences for rapists or children’s school dinners.

“For me it is coming back to working on features and writing and what I’m interested in,” she adds. “I’m the sort of person who sits at the breakfast table reading the newspaper and thinks ’I can’t believe this guy only got five years for battering his wife to death whereas on the next page some women who’s been abused for 20 years and has finally quite rightly, stuck a knife in him [the perpetrator], is going to be put away for 20.”

Visiting New Zealand when the verdict on the Louise Nicholas trial, in which three police officers were acquitted on all charges of rape, came out, Louise Chunn closely followed the ensuing protests from women’s groups around the country and says it’s the sort of story she would love to follow up behind the scenes in the UK.

It is also the sort of story she might have pursued
at Craccum, where in 1978 her byline appeared on stories such as an interview with Shere Hite, renowned author of The Hite Report (the first big study of female sexuality in the US); a report of a women’s abortion rights conference on campus; and a personal opinion piece calling for an end to student apathy.

After her year-long tenure at Craccum finished, Louise edited two trade weeklies, then joined the former Auckland Star where she had her own music column. When her first husband, University Law alumnus Dominic Free, went to Cornell University to study postgraduate law, she accompanied him, picking up part-time work on Cornell’s alumni magazine.

In 1982, she arrived in London shocked to find the only place that would employ her was a trade magazine called Fashion Weekly.

“I hacked away for nearly a year as my applications for more glamorous jobs dropped in wastepaper baskets all over town,” she says in an interview published in the Independent in 2004. “But one day I was called into a poky Soho office to be interviewed by a (then) chain-smoking, sandy-haired Yorkshireman with a rubbery face and a big laugh. Dave Hepworth told me he was starting up a teenage girls’ magazine (Just Seventeen) that was going to be entirely different to anything I’d read before. Great, said I, simply because I wanted any other job to the one I had.”

Louise got a job on Just Seventeen and by the time she left in 1986 had moved into the editor’s chair. Her dream of a “glamorous career” had begun as she then landed a deputy editorship at Elle and then in 1989 was appointed editor of the women’s pages on The Guardian where she says she was “re-politicised to a point”.

“The women’s pages had a reputation for being very political but this was changing when I arrived, it was the time of post-feminism and Madonna.”

She laughs remembering sitting in an editorial meeting suggesting a story on female genital mutilation. “The guys all round the table – because they were all guys – groaned loudly ‘oh no, not you too! Can’t we possibly get a women’s pages editor that’s not going to do these stories’.”

From The Guardian Louise went to a features, then deputy, editorship at British Vogue and then the editorship of the Evening Standard’s ES magazine. In November 2000 she was appointed deputy editor of new start up UK InStyle fashion magazine; in 2002 she moved into the editor’s chair and is credited with helping the magazine find its feet (it now boasts a readership of 307,000). And that despite claiming she is not really interested in fashion.

“At InStyle we love fashion but we also think it can turn fee if you let it, pushing and pulling you into all sorts of knots.”

Which brings us back to Good Housekeeping – a magazine that, with a readership of 1.5 million, mainly women, median age 50, and “probably a mix of Tory and Labour voters” fits perfectly with who Louise is now, probably just as Croccum did in 1978.

“Good Housekeeping should make its readers feel good,” she says. “A lot of magazines about botox and fashion can make you feel terrible if you’re not careful. In the UK publications like Tatler and Harpers, and Vogue to a lesser extent, can make you feel you’re not grand enough or rich enough. Good Housekeeping is about real people. The stories are not based on how beautiful they are, or how famous, or because they’ve been on TV.

“Its readers are women who’ve got kids and probably parents near the end of their lives; they’re the sandwich generation with a lot of responsibility.

“Good Housekeeping should make them feel good, it should make them feel ‘yes there are a whole group of women who are like me and who cares if our bums are sagging – life can be good’.”

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ALUMNI APLENTY AT PRESTIGIOUS AUCTIONEERS

A recent head count among staff at Peter Webb Galleries Ltd, New Zealand’s largest auctioneer of fine paintings, decorative arts, wine, jewellery and rare books, revealed that six are graduates of The University of Auckland. Fittingly they are pictured here at Webb’s Epsom premises in the new annex to the main gallery with two (of four) Colin McCahon works from the collection of late University Political Studies Professor Robert Chapman, hanging on the wall behind. Pictured from front: Miriam Shaw (BA 1998, Dip Tchg 1999), manager of Bethunes rare books department; second left Jessica Pearless (BFA 2003), an assistant in the fine art department; third left Erika Chambrian (BA 1996), a research assistant in the valuations department; second right, Christopher Devereaux (BSc 1969, MSc 1972), jewellery consultant and independent licensed auctioneer and valuer; third right Simon Mickleon (BA 1992), manager of the fine wine department. Also a graduate but not in the photo is Sophie Coupland (BA 1993), head of the fine art department.

ALUMNI GATHER IN UK AND US

Alumni of all ages gathered in London, New York and San Francisco in March to meet the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon and the alumni team and to hear more about The University of Auckland going forward.

In London, with over 80 alumni and friends present, the Rt Honourable Jonathan Hunt, High Commissioner to London, was presented with his Distinguished Alumni Award. Jonathan responded by announcing his intention to create two scholarships to be awarded to Political Studies students in honour of his time as a student at Auckland. Rhodes Scholar and Arts alumnna Emily Baragwanath spoke about her time at Auckland and the value of her scholarship to Oxford, which is allowing her extraordinary opportunities as a classicist.

In New York, after a stimulating question and answer session with the Vice-Chancellor, over 40 alumni and friends heard Law and Arts alumna Nina Khouri speak about the study she is undertaking at New York University. “Hard work but my University education has prepared me well,” she said urging alumni to support scholarships so that others could have similar opportunities.

In San Francisco, a presentation on the University’s ambitious plans to transform the Leigh Marine Laboratory into a world-class centre for research and education (see: www.marine.auckland.ac.nz) was made to around 40 alumni and friends, with testimony by Brian Service, who is married to alumna Sue Service, our alumni co-ordinator in San Francisco. Brian spoke movingly about his long association with the Matheson’s Bay/Leigh area. The evening continued with networking and stimulating discussion. Guests all commented on how much they had enjoyed the interactive nature of the evening.

See picture (middle left) from the San Francisco event. From left: Lily Li, Steve Nunns, Mary Rogan, Peter Rhodes, Brian Service.

ALUMNUS APPOINTED NEW GOVERNOR-GENERAL

University of Auckland alumnus Judge Anand Satyanand has been appointed New Zealand’s new Governor-General and will assume office in August, succeeding Dame Sylvia Cartwright.

Anand graduated with a Law degree from the University in 1970. He was President of the Law Students Association in 1969, and informally introduced student evaluations of teachers at the Law School. In 1993 he returned to the School on a visiting sabbatical to write a book The New Zealand Criminal Courts in Action.

On completing his degree, Anand spent 12 years in practice in Auckland, before becoming a District Court Judge in 1982; in 1993 he was made an Ombudsman, a position he held for two consecutive five-year terms.

Anand has contributed to professional legal education both in New Zealand and overseas, and has been involved in law reform and prison parole work. In June, 2005 his contributions to New Zealand were acknowledged when he was made a Distinguished Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (DCNZM).

GRADUATE WOMEN FUND AWARDS

During May Graduation, a cocktail function was held in the Alumni Marquee to launch the Kate Edger Educational Charitable Trust (KEECT) and celebrate contributions made by members of the Federation of Graduate Women to education of women in the Auckland region over the past 60 years.

The Trust was inaugurated in 2005 to promote and encourage education for women involved in undergraduate and postgraduate research, professional development and artistic or creative activities. In the inaugural year over $200,000 was awarded to women enrolled at Auckland tertiary institutions through awards administered by the Auckland Branch of the NZ Federation of Graduate Women (NZFGW). These are funded through the hire of academic dress; the Trust owns and operates Academic Dress Hire and the Regalia Boutique which supply academic regalia for graduations and other events. To find out more about Auckland Graduate Women see: www.auckgradwomen.org.nz

Local fashion designer and alumnna Liz Mitchell, BFA, 1980, has designed a t-shirt exclusively for The University of Auckland. This is the first in what is envisaged to be a designer series of t-shirts to celebrate graduation. The t-shirt is available for sale to all alumni at the University Bookshop and via www.alumniauckland.ac.nz
REUNIONS

Netball Club
Did you play netball at University? Join others who did at The University of Auckland Netball Club 80th anniversary reunion on Queen’s Birthday Weekend 2 to 3 June. Events include a mix and mingle night on Friday, 2 June at the new netball complex opposite the Tamaki Campus and a dinner on Saturday, 3 June at Alexandra Park. Those interested should contact Mike Ringrose at sportsmiker@hotmail.com phone 64 9 636 1550 or Doris Ranfurly at tumata@xtra.co.nz phone 64 9 372 5256.

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences
Alumni Reunion Dinner
July 16, 2023, Auckland, Alumni Reunion Dinner
Thursday 21 September; Alumni Marquee
A fantastic evening/dinner with guest speaker, His Honour Judge David Carruthers.
For more information, please contact Toni Durant on 64 9 373 7599 ext 86514 or t.durant@auckland.ac.nz. See also: www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz and to find out more about the Society see: www.library.auckland.ac.nz/about/am_policy.htm

Faculty of Engineering Centennial Reunion
Weekend and Annual Alumni Dinner
24-26 November (dinner on 25 November)
For more information and an up-to-date alumni event listing, please visit www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/calendar

LIBRARY SERVICES FOR ALUMNI

One of the benefits offered to alumni is continued membership of The University of Auckland library at a discounted rate. Alumni receive a 10 percent discount and society members a 30 percent discount off the normal membership.

In 2006 the Library has revised its membership policy to provide new service options that include borrowing only or electronic access only. The electronic only membership includes access to most LEARN electronic databases from Library workstations and a select list of databases from the home or office; the full list is available at: www.library.auckland.ac.nz/access/offcampus_associate.htm

The fees listed below include GST.
Borrowing (undergraduate privileges) and Electronic Access
12 month membership:
Society $350
Alumni members $450
6 month membership:
Society $175
Alumni members $225

Associate Membership – Borrowing Only (undergraduate privileges)
12 month membership:
Society $199.50
Alumni members $256.50
6 month membership:
Society $99.75
Alumni members $128.25

Associate Membership – Electronic Access Only
12 month membership:
Society $199.50
Alumni members $256.50
6 month membership:
Society $99.75
Alumni members $128.25

Further information is available at: www.library.auckland.ac.nz/about/am_policy.htm

COMING EVENTS
Alumni and friends receptions will be held on:
20 June 2023, Melbourne, Alumni Reunion Weekend
21 June 2023, Sydney, Alumni Reunion Weekend
26 June 2023, Singapore, Alumni Reunion Weekend
27 June 2023, Kuala Lumpur, Alumni Reunion Weekend
2 August 2023, Brisbane, Alumni Reunion Weekend
9 August 2023, Hamilton, Alumni Reunion Weekend
29 August 2023, Wellington, Alumni Reunion Weekend
31 August 2023, Christchurch, Alumni Reunion Weekend
5 September 2023, Hong Kong, Alumni Reunion Weekend
6 September 2023, Tauranga, Alumni Reunion Weekend
7 September 2023, Shanghai, Alumni Reunion Weekend
8 September 2023, Beijing, Alumni Reunion Weekend
11 September 2023, Seoul, Alumni Reunion Weekend
21 September 2023, Auckland, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences reunion
22-23 September 2023, Auckland, Faculty of Education 125th Jubilee
27 October 2023, Auckland, The Auckland MBA reunion
5-8 November 2023, Wellington, Alumni Convention
8 November 2023, Auckland, Golden Graduates
9 November 2023, Auckland, At Home for overseas alumni attending the Alumni Convention in Wellington
24-26 November 2023, Auckland, Faculty of Engineering Centennial reunion weekend
For more information and an up-to-date alumni event listing, please visit www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/calendar

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN AUCKLAND ALUMNUM
Did you know that each graduate of The University of Auckland automatically becomes an alumni/alumnus upon graduation?
You don’t have to join anything to be a member of the alumni. Once you graduate, you are part of our alumni community, which now numbers over 110,000. Being one of the benefits offered to alumni is continued membership of The University of Auckland library. If you live in or near any of the areas below and would like to be involved, we encourage you to make contact with your local volunteer co-ordinator.

Australia
Brisbane – Allannah Johnston ajohnston@business.usq.edu.au
Melbourne – Rupert Saint rnaint@cambridgefisher.com.au
Perth – Margaret Sims m.sims@ecu.edu.au
Sydney – George Barker BarkerG@law.anu.edu.au
Canada – Calgary – Allison Hall allisonhall77@hotmail.com
Vancouver – Nigel Toy nrttoy@st.georges.bc.ca

China
Beijing – Pei Xie peixe003@yahoo.com
Canton – Howard Scott howard@asiaonline.net.nz
Chengdu – Hua Xiang xianghua@swufe.edu.cn
Hong Kong – Raymond Tam tkmraymond@yahoo.com.hk
Shanghai – We are currently looking for a volunteer

India – Chandigarh – Rahul Gautam mthugautam@yahoo.com.au

Indonesia – John Wishart jwishart@nedu.or.id

Israel – Ofr Goren ofr.goren@oikon.co.il

Japan – Tokyo – Simon Hollander nhizkazaeemon@yahoo.co.jp
Korea – Seoul – We are currently looking for a volunteer

Malaysia – Kuala Lumpur

New Zealand – Auckland

USA
New Hampshire – Rushan Simnaduray rizadosu@exetercouncilchurch.org

USA
New York – Rosena Sammi rosen@rosenasammi.com
San Francisco – Sue Service sue@sueconsulting.com
Justice Noel Anderson (LLB 1967) has been appointed a judge of the Supreme Court, New Zealand’s final appellate court. He was appointed a Queen’s Counsel in 1986, to the High Court the following year, and to the Court of Appeal in 2001. Two years ago he was awarded the DCNZM for services to the judiciary.

Lee Auton (BA 1973, MA 1975, DIPTP 1977, MTP 1981) is the new chief executive of Manukau City. He was previously the Director of Environmental Management and had been a planner with Manukau City for 28 years.

John Fitzmaurice (BE 1952) has received the 2006 Fulton-Downer Gold Medal, the President’s Award for services to the engineering profession, from the Institution of Professional Engineers (IPENZ). John currently does part time consultancy work in environmental engineering.

Supi Foliaki (BHB 2002, MBChB 2005) is the first graduate of the Tertiary Foundation Certificate (TFC) to qualify as a doctor and he has now started training in surgery. The TFC course (formerly the Wellesley Programme) prepares adult students for entry into University degree programmes.

David Hodge (BA 1977, MEDMG (HONS) 1999) is the new principal of Rangitoto College, New Zealand’s biggest school. He had been principal of Tamaki College in the Auckland suburb of Glen Innes for seven years, taking the roll from 304 to 700 students.

Stephen Jacobi (BA 1981, MA 1983) took over as executive director of the New Zealand United States Council late last year. He has an extensive background in international affairs and trade development and was most recently Chief Executive of the New Zealand Forest Industries Council. He also joined the Fulbright New Zealand Board earlier this year.

David Jea (BCom, BSC 2004) was one of five Kiwis to carry the Olympic torch in the relay through Italy to Turin for the twentieth Winter Games. She came to New Zealand with her family in 1990 after spending the first nine years of her life in a refugee camp in Vietnam and now works as an IT applications analyst for the HealthAlliance of Counties Manukau and Waitemata District Health Boards.

Sarah Munro (BFA 1992, MFA 2001, DOCFA 2005) holds the 2006 Frances Hodgkins Fellowship at the University of Otago. She is creating highly stylised three-dimensional paintings which build on discoveries from her doctoral research project involving subtle colour and focus effects.

Lillian Ng (BHB 1992, MBChB 1995, DipPaed 1999, Certificate of Public Health 2002) is combining a medical career with television journalism. She works three days a week at Health Pacifica (a Pacific health clinic) and two days a week as medical correspondent for TV3.

Linda Olsson (BA (HONS) 2005) has published her first novel, Let Me Sing You Gentle Songs, which one reviewer called “an emotionally satisfying, superbly constructed work”. Once employed in banking and finance she won the Sunday Star-Times short story competition in 2003 and is a graduate of the creative writing course run by Professor Witi Ihimaera.

Nicola Railton (BA 2002) is Māori Values Coordinator at the Auckland Museum. In this role she assists and supports the Māori values team throughout the institution through training programmes, and helping with Māori events and exhibitions.

Bruce Sheridan (BA 2000, BA (HONS) 2001) chairs the Film and Video Department at Columbia College Chicago. He has had more than 20 years as a director, producer and writer of drama, documentary, music and commercial projects for cinema and television. In 1999 he received New Zealand’s Best Drama Award for the tele-feature Lawless.

Dr Satupaitea Viali (BHB 1987, MBChB 1990) is now Dean of Medicine at the Oceania University of Medicine (OUM), a private medical school based in Apia, Western Samoa. OUM, operating in Samoa in partnership with the government, provides medical education through modern, computer-assisted learning.

If you would like your University contemporaries to know what you are up to drop a line c/- Bill Williams: wrs.williams@auckland.ac.nz
A new prize in memory of renowned New Zealand botanist and University alumna, Dr Lucy Beatrice Moore, 1906-1987, has been established in the Science Faculty.

Timed to mark the centenary of Dr Moore’s birth, the prize was gifted by her great niece Kathryn and husband Neil McEntee, who works in the University’s Graduation Office. It comprises $500 awarded annually to the top MSc student in Environmental Science.

Lucy Moore graduated from Auckland University College with an MSc with first class honours in 1929; in 1938 she joined the Botany Division of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), retiring in 1971 as Senior Botanist.

During a wide-ranging and productive career Dr Moore edited Volumes 1 and 11 of Flora of New Zealand, published with illustrator Nancy Adams’ Plants of the New Zealand Coast and wrote the well-known Oxford Book of New Zealand Plants. In 1947 she was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand and in 1959 was awarded an MBE.
It can be hard to pinpoint just where a story begins, but this story of philanthropy to The University of Auckland could be said to originate from the time two families were joined.

One was the Goodfellow family, best known for its business acumen and for the leading part its members have played in developing New Zealand industry.

The other was the Maclaurins, whose members also had distinguished careers – in science, education and farming. Notable among them was Richard Cockburn Maclaurin, an alumnus of Auckland University College, who was first Professor of Mathematics and Dean of Law at Victoria University College in Wellington and later President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston.

These two families with much in common – their origins in Scotland, their passionate interest in education, and their strong involvement with the Presbyterian church – came together through the marriage of Thomas Goodfellow and Jane Maclaurin in the 1870s.

Of the four sons of this union, tragically only one survived early adulthood. Two were killed in action in World War One while another died of illness after a visit overseas.

The surviving son, William – later Sir William – Goodfellow has left his mark on the country and on the University, not only through his own contributions but also through the values he passed on to succeeding generations.

Dr Bruce Goodfellow, grandson of Sir William – and an alumnus of Auckland with a PhD in Engineering – describes his grandfather as “a fine but firm gentleman, astute in business, with a compassion for humanity and a passion for education, who worked until the day he died in 1974 at the age of 94”. He acknowledges that this description could also be applied to his father Douglas who later took over, further developed and diversified the family business and, at 88, is still working.

Sir William’s contribution to the New Zealand dairy industry is widely known. He formed the Waikato Co-operative Dairy Company in 1910, introduced modern technology to advance efficiency, and within ten years merged his company with the New Zealand Dairy Association and other cooperatives.

As managing director of Amalgamated Dairies Ltd, at that time the largest New Zealand dairy company, he then advanced the industry with such innovative moves as establishing the first national radio broadcasting system to communicate with isolated dairy farmers, and consolidating the British market for dairy products while also exploring and developing non-traditional markets. His national radio broadcasting system was taken over by the New Zealand Government in 1931.

Among his many contributions to the University...
were tributes to his brothers and son, lost in war, and to his uncle, brother of his mother, credited with restoring the fortunes of MIT.

Three University prizes and scholarships endowed by the Goodfellow family are named for the two brothers who died in World War One: James Gordon Goodfellow, an engineer, and Eric Hector Goodfellow, who served in the medical corps.

The Maclaurin Chapel, named to honour Richard Cockburn Maclaurin, was completed in 1964 in memory of Sir William’s son, Lieutenant Richard Maclaurin Goodfellow, who died at the age of 24 in World War Two. At the same time a Trust was established to fund the chaplaincy in perpetuity, and a house was provided for the chaplain in Parnell.

Bruce Goodfellow still attends services in the chapel, designed to be the spiritual heart of the University.

In 1963, Sir William – with Mr Norman B Spenser – received an LL.D, one of the first two honorary degrees ever to be awarded by The University of Auckland.

Sir William’s son Douglas, and later his grandsons, Bruce, and Peter – also an alumnus of Auckland with an LL.B and an MCom – continued the family tradition of philanthropy, with the University as a major recipient and St Kentigern School and College also generously supported.

Douglas was to follow his father in another way as well – by receiving an honorary doctorate from the University in 1999.

“Mr Goodfellow’s genius is commercial, as he rightly recognised,” said Professor Nicholas Tarling at the conferral ceremony. “The evidence is before our eyes, in the prosperity of Amalgamated Dairies, of Fernz and of the more recent acquisition, Sanford. At 81, Mr Goodfellow remains much involved. He has enjoyed it. And he enjoys the charitable side too.”

The family’s contributions to the University are eminently practical, with recognisable outcomes at the grassroots level. Many are concerned with the continuing education of general practitioners, which links back, says Bruce Goodfellow, to his grandfather’s desire to help make quality medical advice available to all people at all times.

Funding was provided for a Postgraduate Medical Committee operating as an independent society and responsible for delivering postgraduate education for doctors. The chair of this committee, Dr Cam Maclaurin, a second cousin of Douglas Goodfellow’s and an Associate Dean in the University, proposed to Douglas Goodfellow that a senior position be established at the University to assist with postgraduate education of GPs.

To mark the fiftieth anniversary of Amalgamated Dairies and in memory of his father William, Douglas Goodfellow provided funding to establish and maintain the Goodfellow Unit in the School of Population Health with a mission to support general practice.

Later in 1996 the family gave funding for the Goodfellow Postgraduate Chair in General Practice, currently held by Professor Ross McCormick.

A more recent gift in 2003 provided for 50 percent of a professorial salary in Theology, enabling the establishment of the Richard Maclaurin Goodfellow Chair, held by Professor Elaine Wainwright. The purpose was to provide a central academic focus for theological education in Auckland, with the ultimate intention of adding quality to the ministry and to the standards of pastoral care.

In addition the Goodfellow family provides funds to the Auckland Medical Research Foundation and therefore indirectly to the University research which it supports.

Warwick Nicoll, former University Registrar, estimates that the family’s gifts to the University substantially exceed those of any other family, trust or corporate.

The satisfactions of philanthropy, Bruce Goodfellow says, lie in the pleasure of seeing good outcomes and playing a part in bringing them about.

“I think one of the satisfactions is to be able to sit on the board of these various organisations – in many ways not with a lot of direct power, but being able to see what developments are made possible through the money that has been invested as seed capital.

“The gift must go to something that contributes towards society.”

He and the other members of his family, as astute and successful business people, gain most satisfaction from enterprises that can eventually generate their own momentum.

“The Goodfellow Unit will bring a proposition to us, requesting seed capital to further advance medical practice. We will look at the proposition and will perhaps provide funding to get it off the ground, but the aim is always that it will become ongoing and self-funding.

“What has made the Goodfellow Unit so valuable is that the two directors have both had a very commercial philosophy in making it self-funding.”

A case in point is online learning for general practitioners, invaluable in providing continuing education, particularly for rural doctors or those in the Pacific Islands. Seeding capital has been needed to get this started but Bruce expects it will become economically self-sufficient.

The habit of giving is one of the values he inherited from his parents and has endeavoured to pass on to his children.

“The philosophy of our family comes from the Presbyterian faith and its belief in service to others,” says Bruce. “Once you’ve created enough wealth for your family’s needs, it becomes a duty to give something back to society.

“That is the answer my father would give, and that my grandfather would have given.”

Above: Sir William Goodfellow, photographed in Britain at the age of about 90.
In 1970 there was a minor realignment of those planets above central Auckland which affected the teaching and the practice of law. Indirectly it would lead to New Zealand’s most bumpy political decade, the 80s, and to the occupancy as Prime Minister of the country’s most eloquent and charismatic politician. Yes, in 1970, in Kitchener Street, a new firm, Nixon & Lange, was established.

David Lange, a 26-stone, highly successful tutor in the Law Faculty (1969-71) departed to the city practice to do mainly Magistrate’s Court pleading, and Allan Nixon came “up the hill” to a senior lectureship in Criminology.

The two men owned some things in common. They had outsized consciences and intellects, a devotion to seeking a just and good society, the inability to take themselves over seriously, and an intense concern with their clients, and very little idea of how to make money out of them.

Years later, David said: “Rolled up, Nixon and I made three-and-a-half Rumpoles and without the earning capacity to keep half a Rumpole in claret.”

Allan spent five or six years at Auckland’s Law School – the place where David graduated LLM in 1971 with such high marks in two papers that the external assessor was reactivated. (One of Lange’s papers, graded at 90, came back upped to 93).

In the late 60s when he practised in Kaikohe, and at Kitchener Street during the 70s, David’s leading bugbear was the Police Offences Act 1927. He vowed to see it repealed and I heard him condemn it before a particularly grizzled Stipendiary Magistrate. “That’s a matter for Parliament, not for this court,” the beak said (correctly). “Get yourself to Wellington Mr Lange.” In 1977 he did. And in Opposition, as Justice spokesman, he helped the Minister, Jim McLay (and others on the Select Committee), to put that monster down.

David’s more enduring contributions were made as Prime Minister and in Cabinet portfolios. There were reforms of sexual laws, the famous “nuclear-free” legislation, the Bill of Rights, an avalanche of SOE enactments, a new Labour Relations Act and the groundwork for the Resource Management Act. As Minister of Education he introduced the principle of self-management of schools. Ideologically, he would have disliked the great wadge of de-regulatory
legislation that passed, but he made a good fist of promoting it.

When I encountered David as a law student in 1962, he had more words than anybody I have ever met. And he matched them to ideas and to figures of speech – aphorisms, metaphors, alliteration. Within two weeks he had (effortlessly) reversed our roles. Thereafter I listened. He orated. Forty-three years later that still obtained.

Language and power are familiar bedfellows. When “in power” one sensed Lange quite liked eloquently exercising it. Yet I think he always mildly mistrusted power. “The truth is,” he said, “that Prime Ministers are not as powerful as some of the public imagine. Nor are Ministers.” He went on: “As Minister of Education I received a number of letters from schoolchildren asking me to sack their teachers. Now the simple fact is our system of government sadly but sensibly does not afford any minister that power. In the end,” he said, “you know that if you were forever serious in this job you could go mad.”

Serious? David Lange! Sometimes he tried hard to be. But it would last only a matter of seconds. Remember his handover of the leadership to Sir Geoffrey Palmer. (“Well, thank you for all those compliments, Geoffrey. I think I’ll stay.”) Remember the persistent journalist along the corridor who stuck a mike in his face and beseeched him “Prime Minister. Just a word. Just one word.” And he shot back, “Wombat.”

A few years ago David agreed to launch an unspuckably serious book for me. He arrived at the venue drawn and ill. I said, “Don’t do it. I’ll ring your doctor.” He said “No. There’s a big crowd. An audience is my best medicine.” He plunged his hand into a cavernous pocket, pulled out my book and held it aloft. It was unrecognisable. The cover was blanched. The pages were stuck fast. “Alas, your Honours, ladies and gentlemen, I have not read it,” he said. “My profound apology. Last night I was running a bath for my small daughter and trying to scan the book when it fell into the bath water. And look at it now” [a pause] “nevertheless ladies and gentlemen,” he boomed, “this is a unique occasion. This is the first time in history that a book has been floated before it was launched.”

It brought the house down. So have thousands of his speeches over 50 years. I’m sure I can speak for all the lawyers and judges and law teachers in saying: David – in 1977 you were a great loss to the criminal law. But what a huge, exciting gain that was to your country and to the world. And to the English language. Rest in peace, dear eloquent, wickedly-witty friend of the people. David, the last word, as ever, is yours. Wombat! An abridged version of the eulogy retired Associate Professor Bernard Brown, who taught at the School of Law from 1962 to 2000 (with a three-year break 1966 to 1969), delivered at a public memorial service for David Lange.
Ace cricketer

BY TESS REDGRAVE

When Alumnus Tim Lythe (LLB 2005) made his first-class cricket debut for the Auckland Aces last December it was the culmination of a long and difficult journey.


Tim, 25, joined his first cricket club, Eden-Roskill when he was just four years old. Progressing quickly through the ranks to Eden-Roskill’s top team, he earned a reputation as a formidable spin-bowler and promising batsman.

Sports-mad and keen to pursue a cricket career as far as he could, Tim finished school and in 1998 enrolled in a University of Auckland BSc in Sports Science. At the same time he joined the Auckland University Cricket Club’s top men’s team, and then later that year was selected as the 12th man (reserve) for Auckland’s provincial team, the Aces.

In 1999 the promising young cricketer took time out from University study to go and play cricket at Clifton Flax-Bourton club in Bristol, England. A high-flying cricket career looked increasingly on the cards but returning to New Zealand late that year, he was “devastated” to discover a lump on the back of his left leg was osteosarcoma – a rare form of bone cancer.

As a result, Tim spent the first year of the new millennium having surgery to remove part of his upper femur bone and knee, which were replaced with prosthetic joints; he also underwent two intensive courses of chemotherapy.

“I was told I’d never run or jump or play sport again,” he recalls, “so in terms of my University career I decided to switch direction; as a disabled person, I just didn’t feel comfortable doing sports science anymore.”

In 2001 Tim enrolled at the University’s School of Law. He also began regular gym work, as well as some swimming and later cycling, to try and strengthen his leg muscles.

“Gradually I got more mobility so I played a bit of social cricket. That was okay so I tried club cricket and that was okay. My doctor basically said ‘life isn’t a dress rehearsal so go for it’.”

At the end of 2002 Tim was again playing for the University’s top men’s team, eventually capturing it to win the Auckland First Grade championship and earn promotion to the First Grade Premier competition for the 2003/04 season.

Since then his gritty determination has brought sweet rewards: at the end of 2004 he finished his Law degree and in February 2005 was employed on the employment team of Auckland law firm MinterEllisonRuddWatts; in June he gained one of the 11 Auckland Aces contracts on offer at first-class provincial level; in September he won the BNZ Most Meritorious Sporting Performance Award at the University’s annual Sporting and Cultural Blues Awards dinner; and then in December he debuted for the Aces against Central Districts in Napier, scoring 63 runs and taking two wickets.

“Tim is a gutsy slow-bowler,” observes Aces coach Mark O’Donnell. “He’s fitted into the team very well and had an outstanding season. His batting has been exceptional scoring an average of 38 runs per game, which is very good for a first season in first-class cricket.”

The ace cricket-player has continued to pursue his law career too and earlier this year was admitted to the Bar.

Swimming for Gold

The University was well-represented among New Zealand’s female swimmers at the recent Melbourne Commonwealth Games. Alumna Hannah McLean (BA, 1994) won bronze in the 200m backstroke and was fourth in the 50m backstroke, 4 x 4 100m freestyle relay and 4 x 100m medley relay during which she swam a new 100m backstroke Games record.

Current Arts students Melissa Ingram and Elizabeth Coster, joint University Blues Sportswomen of the Year in 2005, also competed. Melissa was a member of the women’s 4 x 4 200m freestyle relay which won bronze and Elizabeth swam with Hannah in the 4 x 100m women’s medley relay.
City of Enterprise

A key book published by Auckland University Press this year is City of Enterprise: Perspectives on Auckland Business History edited by Ian Hunter, senior lecturer in the Business School’s Department of Management and Employment Relations, and professional historian Diana Morroe.

A part of The University of Auckland Business History Project (see Ingenio, Autumn 2005) the 270-page hardback book sets out to understand “how and why business has flourished in Auckland” offering “vital insight into New Zealand’s economic development, past and present”.

Written by leading scholars, chapters cover Māori commercial enterprise from the time of first European contact, Auckland’s maritime development, important companies such as the Auckland Gas Company, the Kauri Timber Company, Farmers Trading Company and Ross and Glendining, the stock and station business and Auckland newspaper industry. In the concluding chapter, accounting historian Rachel Morley focuses on one of the key trends shaping the city at present: the movement of accounting firms from traditional professional partnerships to global corporate professional networks.

The afterward by renowned Auckland historian Emeritus Professor Russell Stone discusses “the myth of the crassly commercial city of the north” and examines why the “exceptionalism” of Auckland has never dissipated.

Ian Hunter says City of Enterprise vividly demonstrates the insights as well as the lively interest this type of history, too long neglected, can provide.

“The overriding goal of the Business History Project is to highlight the themes, ideas and lessons from the past and stimulate discussions about how we can best advance the practice and theory of management and entrepreneurship.”

Searchings


Selections from 26 journals are chosen and arranged by well-known poet and painter (and Holloway Press co-founder), Alan Loney. A striking feature is the inclusion in each copy of two original works on paper by Gimblett (a visiting professor in the University’s National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries) in the medium of hot inks. As a consequence every copy of the book (of which 64 are for sale) is unique, a factor reflected in the asking price of $NZ$1200.

The Holloway Press is a unique institution, which had its genesis in a gift of equipment and other material to the University from well-known Auckland printer Ronald Holloway (1909-2003). In 1994 it was established in the Library at the Tamaki Campus by Loney and Associate Professor Peter Simpson, now Head of English. Loney resigned in 1998 and moved to Melbourne and in 2001, Tara McLeod (of The Pear Tree Press) took over as printer.

Since its inception, the Press has published around 20 titles, including previously unpublished texts and images by some of New Zealand’s most important writers, scholars and artists such as Allen Curnow, Colin McCahon, Robin Hyde, Len Lye, Kendrick Smithyman, Michele Leggott, John Reynolds, and R.A.K. Mason.

The next production will be Journey to Portugal, poems by Michele Leggott, images by Gretchen Albrecht. Further information can be gleaned at: www.hollowaypress.auckland.ac.nz. For copies of Searchings contact Peter Simpson through the English Department or email p.simpson@auckland.ac.nz.
The collection, comprising more than 5,000 works of art collected over 40 years and spanning centuries, nevertheless has the unmistakable stamp of being shaped by the context in which it has grown.

Walking through the Tamaki Campus, for example, is an experience different from what you would find in any other university, says Linda, with a host of works inspired by marine life and the landscape, and a wealth of Polynesian art that cannot be found elsewhere.

The Centre, based within the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries, aims to support and advance scholarship and learning in the visual arts and promote links between the University and the community. The art collection is one of three bases underpinning it. The other two are the Gus Fisher Gallery in Shortland Street, and the “Window”, a student-led initiative comprising both an actual display window near the entrance to the University Library and an online exhibition “space” (see: www.window.auckland.ac.nz).

The Centre will provide a formal framework for the advancement of the three bases, with the ultimate goal of creating a centre of excellence for the curation and exhibition of historical and contemporary New Zealand art.

It will manage, document and develop the University art collection, and will liaise with staff and students from other parts of the University – such as Art History, Architecture and Elam School of Fine Arts – to develop teaching and research related to New Zealand art, and to curate and present exhibitions.

Linda, who has an MA in Art History from the University of Canterbury, has spent the last eight years at the Hocken Library in Dunedin, which maintains a gallery as part of its esteemed historical collection. Her role was to promote the collection, develop the relationship between the gallery and the university, and curate and present exhibitions, some of which toured nationally – in short, it has much in common with her present role.

However, at Auckland she has more scope for contemporary art research and development because of the bigger population base and the broader scope encompassed by the Centre.

Linda plans to double the number of exhibitions in the Gus Fisher Gallery and to use its smaller display space to showcase the University’s collection.

She also intends to advance the move to digital processing, to put together a database of images, which can be made available outside the University, and to look at developing an online collection with an electronic record of exhibitions, which could then be used for research.

Fostering University art

THE UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTION IS UNIQUE TO NEW ZEALAND AND TO THE WORLD, SAYS LINDA TYLER, INAUGURAL DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY’S NEW CENTRE FOR NEW ZEALAND ART RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY.

Above: Linda Tyler (left) with Pennie Hunt, a curatorial assistant on the Centre’s staff, based in the Gus Fisher Gallery. The painting is Schwarze und weiße Rechteckform vor Rot (1979) by Hermann Gribek.
ever wondered what the small b stands for in 95bFM? Or tuned into The University of Auckland student radio station at seven o’clock on a weekday morning and listened, bemused, to the introduction to the Breakfast Show: “Another wonderful morning in the bosom of Auckland ...”

Bosom?
The first student radio station established in New Zealand, bFM had its genesis in a capping stunt in 1969. On 5 May, a group of students frustrated at the lack of pop music on the nation’s airwaves, set sail on the Waitemata in a hired 30-foot ketch Mangawai, hoisting a transmitter up the mast. Calling themselves Radio Bosom “because we wanted a name that was outrageous but wasn’t rude”, they planned to broadcast over 300 hours of pre-recorded material including an interview with an American general in Vietnam. But unfortunately, as former history student Scott Kelly relates in his 1997 masters dissertation “Bosom: A history of Auckland’s student radio”, the pirate station came to a premature end when the Mangawai was nearly wrecked on rocks at Okahu Bay.

Nonetheless Radio Bosom was born and the next year, under its name, music was piped, via a telephone line, into sound systems in the Student Union building. The following year there were regular internal broadcasts, a soap opera serial called “Amanda” and interviews with politicians like Rob Muldoon.

Another illegal attempt to join the radio waves in 1972 was stymied when Post Office inspectors found the transmitter hidden in a tunnel under the University. Then in 1974, a breakthrough came when Radio Bosom got a four-week AM licence to broadcast during Orientation; for the next few years it repeated this as well as daily, internal broadcasts.

“We had a tiny office, stacked with LPs, on the Student Union’s first floor,” remembers alumnus Richard Foster, now Business Support Manager for the Thames/Coromandel District Council. “In fact, to put it into context, today the room is a toilet!”

Richard joined Radio B (as it was called by then) in 1977 when he began his Arts degree in

Radio Bosom

Tess Redgrave charts the rise of 95bFM.
Ancient History.

“We were mostly a bunch of guys who wore t-shirts with a breast on them and played a lot of music that wasn’t in the top 20 – or even 30,” he remembers, “punk music like the Ramones or the Sex Pistols before they really became fashionable.”

At end of 1978, with funding from the Auckland University Students’ Association (AUS), Radio B moved out of its toilet-sized room into newly refurbished premises. In 1982 it got its first full AM licence and then in 1985 with support from the then Minister of Broadcasting Jonathan Hunt (a 2006 Distinguished Alumnus, see page profile page 22), the fledging station got an FM frequency.

Today 95bFM broadcasts from a transmitter on the Sky Tower, playing six minutes of advertising per hour and well above its 35 percent New Zealand music quota. With 15 staff on the payroll, the station runs iconic Auckland events like the Summer Series (free music festivals) in Albert Park, has thousands of b discount-card members, and is about to start touring rock ‘n roll bands to Auckland high schools.

Renowned for its distinctive patios of alternative music, news, interviews and quirky advertisements, bFM has an Auckland audience of up to 50,000 as well as a dedicated fan base around the world who listen to the shows streaming live online at www.95bfm.com.

On air 24 hours a day, seven days a week, bFM also boasts a huge diversity of DJs. Tune in on any weekday morning and you are as likely to hear seasoned breakfast show host Wallace Chapman in conversation with renowned US political activist Noam Chomsky, as asking Tessa Hoffe, the New Zealand-born director the fledging station got an FM frequency. (Indian classical, African pop, Latin American dance)

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