

# Ingenio ET LABORE

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SPRING 2006

YOUNG SCIENTIST  
OF THE YEAR



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF AUCKLAND

NEW ZEALAND

Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau

SHAPING AUCKLAND  
INTERNATIONALISATION

THE ALUMNUS BEHIND  
FIREFOX

CHAMPION SCULLER

# In this issue . . .

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# From the Vice-Chancellor

One of the striking things about New Zealand is the way we invest in tertiary education.

Although much is made of supposed “under funding” in the system, it is a fact – little known, but a fact nonetheless – that our investment in tertiary education is, at 1.7 percent of GDP, among the highest in the OECD! Yet, because of the way investment is distributed between student financial support versus institutional funding, and between different parts of the tertiary system, our universities receive a very low level of investment relative to comparable universities overseas.

This was brought home to me in a recent discussion with a colleague who heads a major Australian university of similar size to The University of Auckland. His institution has an annual budget of A\$1.4 billion and is ranked in the top 20 in the world. Ours has a budget of NZ\$650 million per annum and is ranked (in the same system) at 52.

The conclusion is obvious. If we want New Zealand to have a top quality university – and I see no reason why our students should not have access to university education of truly international quality – then we are going to have to be prepared to invest at an appropriate level.

The tertiary reforms announced in July by the Minister for Tertiary Education, Dr Michael Cullen, will thus be critical to the future of New Zealand’s university system and indeed to the economic and social development of our nation.

It seems likely that the universities will, for the first time in many years, have a different funding system from other parts of the tertiary sector. This will apparently recognise the higher costs that are associated with teaching programmes in an environment informed by original research – an environment characteristic only of universities. It is a change we have sought for many years and one we will welcome.

Throughout the 1990s, successive governments spent about 60 percent of their investment in tertiary education in the universities. Over the last five years, however, that proportion has fallen to less than 50 percent.

This is not, of course, a logical investment pattern in a country that seeks to develop a knowledge society, and it is inconsistent with what has been happening in other developed countries. Rather, it reflects uncontrolled growth in parts of the sector that are funded at the same level as universities, despite not being required to underpin their academic programmes with research.

Under the new proposals, the government’s investment in the tertiary sector will have two basic components, one related to the number and types of students taught and the other to negotiated institutional contributions to education, research and community services. This reflects the desire of Government to move away from the “bums on seats” model to a more strategic engagement with the institutions. If, as was suggested in the original Cabinet papers on the reforms, the total envelope of investment is not to rise, then a large institutional component will mean a smaller per student investment in tuition (and vice versa). This balance will be critical in determining how the institutions respond to the signals given to them in the new system.

For example, too great a balance in favour of the institutional component would run the risk of reducing an institution’s commitment to the recruitment, support and success of students. Conversely, a substantial institutional component would reduce emphasis on the competition for students and allow Government to invest in activities unique to a particular institution. One example is the unique contribution that The University of Auckland, New Zealand’s largest research enterprise, can make to economic development in the country’s largest business centre.

Alumni have, of course, a special appreciation of such matters because the ongoing quality and performance of their alma mater reflects directly on the standing of their qualifications. For that reason, and because we all care about the University, I would encourage you to take an active interest in these developments as they unfold over the next 12 months.



STUART McCUTCHEON

## Prevailing apathy

I am a New Zealand Registered Nurse studying for nursing registration in Western Australia, and found this article ["Weighing in: University researchers are tackling New Zealand's escalating obesity epidemic" Autumn 2006] really interesting. It is very positive in application and concepts. There is currently debate here in Western Australia about whether to instigate weigh-ins at schools, to identify overweight/obese school children, a sort of name and shame concept, I think, that sounds positively draconian... albeit it may have arisen from desperation and good intentions.

There are widespread campaigns here to get people to do lifestyle changes, including major dietary changes, but there seems to be a prevailing apathy and a concept of "it doesn't apply to us".

It is a bit like tobacco smoking, where the major effects are cumulative over time, and as such people don't make the connection.

I was very interested to read about the MC4R research too. Hope to read more about these projects in future, and it could work very well here. Good luck.

**Anita Hill (BA 1991)**  
Western Australia

## Another Craccum editor

It was fun to read about Louise Chunn ["From *Craccum* to the world" Autumn 2006] – I'm another *Craccum* editor, 1983! After my stint (a very controversial year) I moved back to my native California and began freelancing. I've been writing ever since, have published seven books of varying stripes, and many articles in venues from the *New York Times* to – yes! – the (US) *Ladies Home Journal*. Funny world.

I returned to NZ and AU this year only to find it fairly unrecognisable. I am planning another trip this December, to do a few travel articles as well as some reports for public radio. Great to get *Ingenio*.

**Louise Rafkin (Editor *Craccum* 1983)**  
Oakland, California

## Correction

Please correct in your article on *Classic NZ Poets in Performance* (under Books, Autumn *Ingenio*) the following: I have a BA 1970 and an MA(Hons) 1974 from The University of Auckland. Perhaps confusion arose as I was once called Jan Caris – now corrected to Jan Kemp – I am one and the same person.

Having got the further degree I would certainly like it mentioned. You might also add, if you want to, "Jan Kemp MNZM" as I was awarded this in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2005 and also add my latest collection of poems which is titled *Dante's Heaven* (Puriri Press, Auckland 2006). Many thanks.

**Jan Kemp BA 1970, MA (Hons) 1974**  
Auckland

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Preference will be given to letters that address the content of the magazine. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for style and content.

## Eminent Māori professor dies



Above: Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon (left) with Sir Hugh Kawharu.

Emeritus Professor of Māori Studies and one of Māoridom's most eminent and respected figures, Sir Hugh Kawharu died in Auckland in September.

Sir Hugh was born in Ashburton in 1927 and educated at Auckland Grammar School. He studied geology and physics at the universities of Auckland and Victoria and graduated with a BSc from Victoria in 1955. He then completed a masters in anthropology at Cambridge University and gained a MLitt and DPhil from Oxford University.

Sir Hugh taught anthropology and Māori at Auckland from 1965 to 1970 and returned again in 1985 to become Professor of Māori Studies. During his seven-year tenure, he presided over the creation of a separate Department of Māori Studies and the building of the University Marae, opened in 1988.

"Sir Hugh's courtesy, patience and wisdom, and his talents as a conciliator and a negotiator brought the University many benefits, and greatly enhanced its relationships with Māori," said Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon.

"This continued throughout his retirement when chairmanship of the Ngāti Whatua o Ōrakei Māori Trust Board consumed much of Sir Hugh's considerable energy. A 2003 Memorandum of Understanding formalising the links between the University and Ngāti Whatua as mana whenua is a fitting memorial to his aptitude as a champion of Māori and as a bridge-builder between peoples."

In 2004 Sir Hugh represented the University at the installation of Dr John Hood as Vice-Chancellor of Oxford.

Sir Hugh is survived by his five daughters, two of whom are alumni and currently on staff at the University: Merata Kawharu BA 1994, PGDipBus 2004 and Amokura Kawharu BA LLB(Hons) 1997.

## Professor joins London Royal Society

The founding director of the University's Bioengineering Institute, Professor Peter Hunter, has been elected a Fellow of London's prestigious Royal Society.

Peter is the only New Zealander among 44 scientists from Britain and the Commonwealth who were recognised by the Society this year for their exceptional contributions to science, engineering and medicine.

A professor of Engineering Science at the University since 1997, he pioneered mathematical modelling of the human body, most notably of the heart. His work focuses on creating workable computer models of human organs to solve medical problems. The models can be used to predict effects

of defined situations, from individual cell to complete organ level.

Together with Associate Professor of Physiology Bruce Smaill he also founded and built Auckland's Bioengineering Institute which grew out of the Department of Engineering Science in the School of Engineering and the Department of Physiology in the School of Medical Sciences.

The Institute is now recognised internationally for its work on developing sophisticated computer models of living organisms, and has active collaborations with many institutions across the world, including the University of Oxford and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).



## Musicians in spotlight

As *Ingenio* went to press, the debut CD of the University's ensemble-in-residence, the New Zealand Trio, was one of three vying for Best Classical Album at the 2006 New Zealand Music awards.

Called *Spark*, the CD features works by six leading contemporary New Zealand composers including alumni Gareth Farr and Victoria Kelly, as well as Maria Grenfell and John Psathas.

The New Zealand Trio, which took up residency at the University's School of Music in 2004, comprises three artists, each firmly established in their careers.

Violinist Justine Cormack, cellist Ashley Brown and pianist Sarah Watkins have an agenda to commission and perform works by leading New Zealand composers and focus on broadening the community's interest in and appreciation for classical music. In September they toured North Asia with Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon and other University representatives and gave concerts to select audiences in Hong Kong, China, and Korea. They also led master classes at several prestigious music conservatories including the Shanghai Conservatory and Central Conservatory in Beijing.



## University appoints first primatologist

A primatologist credited with discovering a new species of monkey has been appointed a lecturer in Biological Anthropology.

Dr Jean Boubli, the first primatologist employed by the University, specialises in primate ecology, tropical ecology, conservation biology and the biogeography of the Amazon basin. He is carrying out research in one of the least-known areas on the planet – the Pantepui region of the Amazon basin on the Brazil-Venezuela border. While carrying out surveys of the area recently, Jean discovered a new species of monkey, the bearded saki monkey (*Cheropotes israelita*), first publicised in the *American Journal of Primatology* in 2003. He has also discovered what he believes are new taxa of spider monkey, squirrel monkey and capuchin monkey, yet to be confirmed by molecular analysis.

"Unlike the rest of the Amazon basin, which

is mainly flat, this is a mountainous region with incredible biological diversity and is teeming with little-researched species that have had little or no encounter with humans," says Dr Boubli, who undertook the first ever study of the black uakari monkey, one of the least known primates in the world, in the Amazon's Pico da Neblina National Park.

Dr Boubli is also conducting fieldwork in the severely degraded Atlantic Coastal Forest (Minas Gerais) in Brazil, where he is researching the ecology of the endangered woolly spider monkey and carrying out conservation work in the region.

Now based in New Zealand, Dr Boubli plans to carry out his fieldwork in Brazil during the University vacations and says he was attracted to New Zealand by the country's strong conservation ethic and The University of Auckland's reputation for research excellence.





## Marine laboratory hosts international study

An international study based at the University's Leigh Marine Laboratory, and recently published in the American journal *Science*, shows that worldwide protection of marine habitats is ineffectively managed to retain biodiversity.

Led by Dr Camilo Mora, a University post-doctoral fellow from Columbia under the supervision of Dr Mark Costello of Leigh Marine Laboratory, the study shows many so-called "Marine Protected Areas" are under threat from over-harvesting and pollution. Some 40 percent are also smaller than two square kilometres, an insufficient size to protect large fish and other animals, such as tuna, marlin and squid.

Part of the Census of Marine Life ([www.coml.org](http://www.coml.org)) – a global collaboration between marine biologists – the study recommends that each marine protected area be 10-20 kilometres in diameter to protect

species that need large areas of habitat, and similarly spaced to ensure genetic exchange between areas.

"Marine protected areas are the prime strategy for the conservation of coral reefs and other marine habitats worldwide," says Dr Costello, "yet our study found that marine life in most is not actually protected."

New Zealand is world-leading in protecting marine life, with over 50 marine protected areas including 30 "no-take" marine reserves. In fact the first marine reserve in New Zealand was created beside the University's Leigh Marine Laboratory.

Next year the Laboratory will host a meeting of all research programmes involved in the Census of Marine Life, bringing to New Zealand some of the world's top marine biologists.

## Stopping hearts skipping a beat

Researchers at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences have developed a test for Long QT syndrome, an inherited cause of sudden cardiac death.

Each year, around 100 New Zealanders under the age of 40 die suddenly and unexpectedly from Long QT syndrome.

The new test allows specialist clinicians to test patients who have suffered from sudden cardiac episodes, and their family members, to identify those with a defective Long QT gene. Most cardiac arrhythmias, rapid chaotic heart rhythms, in people

positive for a Long QT gene defect are preventable by a simple medication routine or implantation of a defibrillator pacemaker.

"We are excited that our research has developed a robust clinical test and that cardiac specialists are keen and willing to implement it in their diagnosis and management of patients," says Associate Professor Andrew Shelling. "Our ongoing research is looking at other genetic causes of sudden cardiac events, and we hope the use of this, and future tests, will reduce the incidence of sudden death dramatically."

Above: Leigh Marine Laboratory.  
Below: Professor Ted Baker with Hon Trevor Mallard, Minister for Economic Development, who launched the Wilkins Centre.



## New drugs for serious disease

The Maurice Wilkins Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery – a research organisation for developing new drugs for serious disease – was launched at the University recently.

The Maurice Wilkins Centre has morphed from the Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery, one of four Centres of Research Excellence (CoREs) established at the University by the Government in 2002/3. It brings together over 200 researchers to create a world-leading infrastructure for drug discovery and development and includes specialists in biological modelling, structural biology, molecular biology and medicinal chemistry.

Led by Professor Ted Baker from the School of Biological Sciences, the Centre has established

important research collaborations with institutions across New Zealand, including the Malaghan Institute, IRL and the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre, and has strong professional relationships with biopharmaceutical companies such as Neuren, Proacta, Protomix and now New Zealand-based UK company Symansis. Each of these currently has human clinical trials underway testing products such as an anti-tumour compound and an anti-tubercular drug.

The Centre is named after pioneering New Zealand physicist Maurice Wilkins who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine with Francis Crick and James Watson in 1962 for work confirming the double helix structure of DNA.

# Engineering celebrates centenary

BY DANELLE SEAGAR

Consider these milestones – the day the Harbour Bridge opened; the moment Black Magic crossed the line to win the America's Cup in San Diego; the first time a call was made in New Zealand on a mobile phone.

These are all examples of how the University's Faculty of Engineering has impacted on life in New Zealand, and the reasons why it is so proud to look back at 100 years of innovation as it celebrates its centennial year.

The Faculty has been through a century of dramatic change: in how engineering is taught, the way engineers work, and in physical location.

It began life as the "School of Mines" in a makeshift corrugated iron shed in Albert Park. Today, it is the largest engineering school in New Zealand, spanning five disciplines and with nearly 12,000 alumni.

The School of Mines was established in 1906 to provide skilled graduates for the coal and gold mining industries so important to the economy at the time. But from the beginning it faced an uphill struggle. No sooner had it been established than mining began declining in economic importance. What's more, professional engineers could begin their degrees in Auckland, but had to finish them at Canterbury, and despite intense lobbying this arrangement continued until 1939.

Despite these restraints, the School still trained some notable early engineers. Among them Arthur Gray, who had major input into the construction of the Auckland War Memorial Museum in the 1920s.

A shift to sprawling new grounds and buildings at the Ardmore Aerodrome in Papakura in the late 1940s gave the School the space to firmly establish itself as an academic and industry leader. The School's famous culture of camaraderie also began to form. Among the outstanding graduates of the Ardmore years was George Beca, who founded New Zealand's largest engineering consultancy, the Beca Group.

Today Beca employs many Auckland graduates and the company's Chief Executive, Richard Aitken, a graduate of 67, says the flow of skilled engineers from the Faculty is critical to Beca's success going forward.

"Without vibrant, growing centres of

engineering excellence such as the School of Engineering there can be no sustainable future for New Zealand's engineering industry," says Richard.

The relocation to Ardmore was meant to be temporary, but it wasn't until 1969 that the School moved into its first purpose-built, permanent home on the corner of Symonds Street and Grafton Road – right in the middle of the city.

In its new location, the School set about a major reinvention as computers and new technology completely changed the landscape of engineering practice. Tertiary education in New Zealand was growing rapidly too. No longer was the "typical" student a Kiwi lad from the country with a liking for machinery. Women and international students were starting to be more of a feature of the student body. The first woman to graduate from the School was also an international student: Gee Ing Yeow from Malaysia attended the School and was conferred with a Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) in 1970.

By the mid-80s every engineering department was engaged in research of economic importance and the achievements since then have been many. In 1983 the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering developed computer software for synthesising speech; later the same department helped design and plan our mobile radio communications systems. In 1987 mechanical engineers established a Yacht Research Unit which has since contributed to the success of New Zealand's America's Cup campaigns, notably Black Magic's historic win in 1995, captained by alumnus Russell Coutts (BE 1987).

The School's work into alternative fuels for motor vehicles began in the 80s and continues today while the Bioengineering Institute is known all over the world for its work on computer modelling of the heart.

Mechatronics, robotics, wireless power transfer, the list goes on. Today the Faculty of Engineering is an institution of national, regional and international significance. Its graduates are highly sought after and its emphasis on research-based teaching remains strong.

*The Faculty of Engineering has an open day on Saturday, 18 November. See: [www.engineering.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.engineering.auckland.ac.nz)*



Above: Entrance to the first School of Engineering on Princes Street. Below: First Honours students at Ardmore, 1948. From left: William Rainbird, Rob Allan and Jim Wilkinson.

# 125 years of teaching

BY AMBER OLDER



"Milnes was a man's man who loved rugby and physical activities, and he was also admired by the ladies," says Ms Shaw. "When he went off to war in 1916 and died on the front line in 1917, the romantic vision of him became a legend that lived on."

The historian also points to the enduring sense of collegiality that bonded ACE teachers and students alike. When ACE moved to the Epsom campus in 1926, students mucked in to help clear scoria and plant native trees. When the swimming pool opened in the 1930s, the students paid for the water themselves. During both world wars, that collegial connection set the foundation for life-long friendships among students-turned-soldiers.

"The bonds that formed out of the teachers' college experience felt almost like extended family," says Ms Shaw. "During wartime, the college organised for parcels to be sent to the boys who in turn responded with letters and postcards."

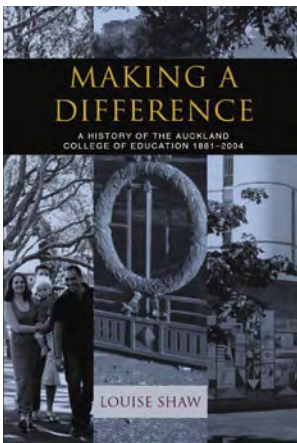
For Sylvia Ashton-Warner Library manager, Peter Hughes, the archives also clarify certain misconceptions about teacher training institutions. For example, many believe that Māori studies was not part of teacher training until the mid-1970s. In reality, the archives show aspects of Māoritanga existed at the college from the 1920s.

Second-year students were taught Māori pronunciation; in 1930 a new haka was created for the college, and Māori language and flax-weaving classes were offered. Māori enrolment grew in the 1930s and 40s and a number of ACE graduates went on to become prominent leaders in education and in Māoridom.

"The archives provide a detailed history of ACE's involvement with Māori and Pasifika students, women entrants, early childhood education and social work courses – all these areas that remain so important within education today," says Mr Hughes.

As well as commissioning *Making a Difference*, the Faculty of Education held a 125th jubilee celebration on 23 September; an art trail has also been established on the Epsom Campus. This is a self-guided, visual arts walking tour comprising the works of arts students who graduated from the Auckland Teachers Colleges between 1945 and 2001. It includes pieces by renowned artists Don Binney, Robin White and Claudi Pond-Eyley.

For more see: <http://alumniandfriends.education.auckland.ac.nz>



When historian Louise Shaw was commissioned to write a history celebrating 125 years of teacher education in the Auckland region, she had a huge resource to draw from.

Deep inside the basement of the Faculty of Education's Sylvia Ashton-Warner Library sit 160 metres of official documents, letters, audio-tapes, film footage, trophies and personal records. These tell the story of the first Auckland Training College established in 1881, then track the development of teacher training and the Auckland College of Education (ACE), which in 2004 was absorbed into the University's new Faculty of Education.

"The archives proved invaluable as I sought to bring to life Auckland's teacher-education history," says Ms Shaw, whose book *Making a Difference: A history of the Auckland College of Education 1881-2004* was published by Auckland University Press in September.

Among her favourite archival discoveries is the hand-written annual report carefully compiled by H.A.E. (Bert) Milnes, a charismatic, larger-than-life educationalist who came to New Zealand from Middlesex, England in 1906. Unaware that he was to be tasked with building a teachers' college from the ground up, Milnes took to the challenge with what became characteristic vigour. A proponent of physical education for men and women, and famous for his love of cold water swimming, Milnes oversaw the Auckland Normal School and Training College. The archives show he was almost universally adored.

Above: Bert Milnes (middle front row) with Auckland Training College students. *Weekly Graphic*, 23 June 1906 (reproduced courtesy of Auckland City Library).



# Venerable house marks 150 years

The University's grand old dame – Old Government House – celebrated its 150th birthday this year.

Quietly aging amidst the protective circle of trees it has grown up with, the house is one of the oldest secular buildings still extant in New Zealand.

"It is the most historic building in Auckland and one might even suggest it is the most historic building in the country," says architectural historian John Stacpoole.

Late Georgian in style with much of the kauri timber façade cut to resemble stone, Old Government House was designed by New Zealand's first resident architect, William Mason. It was built at a time when the Governor's power in the colony was waning with Parliament established in 1854; and it replaced an earlier house built for Governor William Hobson, which had burnt to the ground on the same site in 1848.

The house's first occupants were Colonel Thomas Gore Brown, the fourth Governor of New Zealand, and his family who moved in in late July 1856.

"During parliamentary sessions, the Gore Browns had weekly 'At Homes' where you meet everyone worth knowing, and have excellent music in one room while there [was] ...dancing in another," writes G.A. Wood in *The Governor and his Northern House*.

In 1864 the capital of New Zealand moved to Wellington and Old Government House's role as a centre of power and influence declined.

But in 1869 it was spruced up and a ballroom added for the official visit of his Royal Highness Prince Alfred, son of Queen Victoria, who stayed six weeks while entertaining Auckland society.

During the second half of the 19th century, the House was the site of important meetings of reconciliation between Government and Māori. In 1882 Māori King Tawhiao was welcomed on the lawn and in May 1903, Tawhiao's son King Mahuta and 150 Māori from North Island iwi assembled exchanging speeches with Prime Minister Richard Seddon and his ministers, resulting in Mahuta being appointed to the Legislative Council.

In the late 1890s the House enjoyed a renaissance at the hands of Sir John Ranfurly, fourteenth Governor of New Zealand (1897-1904) but then in 1910 it was threatened with demolition when George Fowlds, Minister of Education, proposed transfer of the property to the adjacent Auckland University



College. However a petition from 16,000 Auckland residents put a stop to the plan and instead the House received a makeover.

During the first half of the 20th century it was again at the social centre of Auckland, and enjoyed numerous visits from members of the Royal Family including the Duke and Duchess of York, Prince of Wales and Duke of Gloucester. In 1953 Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip celebrated Christmas at the House and the Queen delivered her radio broadcast to the Commonwealth, touching on the Christmas Eve Tangiwai train disaster.

One of the last major royal occasions at Old Government House was the lying in state of Queen Salote of Tonga, who died in Auckland on 16 December, 1965.

Four years later the Holyoake Government officially handed the House over to the University, who on 4 June, 1969 marked its formal occupancy with the opening of the Senior Common Room.

"There is a tendency to view Old Government House as a relic of the past that's outlived its usefulness," reflects eminent Auckland historian and Emeritus Professor of History Russell Stone. "But this 150th celebration is a timely reminder of its link with the past.

"The University and Old Government House are in the heart of the city today and they were in the heart of the town plan Felton Matthew [New Zealand's first acting Surveyor-General] drew up [in the 1840s]. So the House is a perpetual reminder of the University's close links with the beginnings of the New Zealand colony and of Auckland itself."

For more on Old Government House see:

[www.auckland.ac.nz/scr](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/scr)

Tess Redgrave

Above: The Royal Christmas message from Old Government House, Auckland – the first time it had been made from outside England. In it Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II made reference to the Tangiwai rail disaster the night before. Photographer unidentified. Reference No: F42173 ½ (AAQT 6538) Archives New Zealand/ Te Rua Mahara o Te Kawanatanga, Wellington Office. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.



# Smart forensics

Young Scientist of the Year Claire French is developing a test that could revolutionise police investigations into sexual assault. Emma Timewell reports.

White lab coat, mad hair and incomprehensible jargon.

This is exactly the cliché of the stereotypical scientist that Claire French hopes to break.

The 25-year-old University of Auckland anatomy PhD student is investigating the mysteries of forensics and is able to fluidly and understandably translate them for the non-scientist. A skill that undoubtedly helped her win the top accolade in the prestigious MacDiarmid Young Scientist of the Year announced in June.

Over 100 young scientists entered the MacDiarmid awards, an initiative from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology designed to recognise excellence and innovation in New Zealand's scientific researchers. (A "Young Scientist" is defined as a postgraduate student or researcher who has held a PhD for less than ten years.)

"I honestly didn't expect to win," says Claire. "The other entrants I met were older and much more experienced than me; some of them were six or seven years into their careers, whereas I've only just started."

Not out of place in a script for *CSI* or any of the myriad other TV police shows, Claire's research

looks at distinguishing between cells from different parts of the body. She is developing an easy-to-use test for police so that the events in assault cases may be a little easier to decipher.

The outcome of the test is simple to understand: samples of human cells, specifically epithelial cells, are processed and then stain a different colour depending on whether they originated from the mouth, skin or vagina.

Inspector John Walker, National Forensic Services Adviser with the New Zealand Police, thinks Claire's "smart research" will yield benefits to future police investigations, particularly in the area of sexual assaults.

"In some sexual assault cases the test should be very useful in assisting police to determine whether DNA has come from the mouth of the victim or from the vagina, for example on a bottle alleged to have been used in an assault.

"At the moment, the police may allege the DNA is on the bottle because it was used in the sexual assault (vagina), whereas the defence allege that it is on the bottle because the victim drank from it (mouth). By being able to determine individual cell origins it

Above: Claire French (far right) talks with her PhD supervisors, Dr Sue McGlashan (far left) and Associate Professor Cynthia Jensen.

may well assist police in determining what actually occurred in a particular case, removing doubt and scenarios, an issue that has occurred in the past.”

In fact, belief in the science prompted the New Zealand Police to contribute funding for Claire’s research.

A Dunedin girl, Claire gained her BSc in biochemistry from the University of Otago. She originally came to Auckland to study for a masters in forensic science, picking up a project that was started in 2003 by another masters student.

“I started my masters research with the full intention of moving into a forensic science career,” she explains. “But in that first year of research, I obtained some exciting results and really wanted to see it through, rather than passing it onto another student in the next year’s class as it had been passed to me. I upgraded my studies to a PhD, and now I’m two years in.”

The idea, and some funding, for the research came from Environmental Science and Research (ESR), sole forensic science provider to the New Zealand Police.

“It’s not really possible to do work of this type in an operational forensic lab,” explains Claire. “The space is all taken up with ongoing investigational work and it isn’t practical for this kind of experimental research.”

In contrast, she says the University provides the resources needed to get results in the right kind of lab atmosphere.

Claire is frank about her methodology and how lucky she is to have got the results she has.

“The first part was a review of all the existing literature and seeing if there were characteristics of different cell types that could be used to distinguish between them. Once in the lab, it’s really a case of applying that knowledge to intelligent trial and error. At first I didn’t know if I was seeing things and kept really quiet as I repeated the experiments over and over again to make sure the results were true. I really didn’t expect the test to be as robust as it is.”

The next stage of development is already underway with patents filed with the New Zealand Patent Office ready for commercialisation of the test – though it may take several years to translate the science into a functional, workable kit for forensic scientists.

“So far we’ve tested the science in a very sterile, experimental environment, using cells that have been collected and stored in a very precise manner,” explains Claire. “We know the best way to store samples, and have tested different circumstances to see when the test might not work. We’ve looked at how hormone levels affect the results, and where in the mouth it’s best to collect samples from. But it’s difficult to know how this will translate to a street environment, where evidence can be hidden for hours, days or even months.”

The Young Scientist of the Year is awarded to

an entry that combines brilliant, innovative research with the ability to communicate it effectively. Claire’s University supervisors Associate Professor Cynthia Jensen and Dr Sue McGlashan say their student is “independent and clear-thinking and will be an excellent ambassador for science in New Zealand!”

For her part, Claire believes that while NZ science is of a superb quality, it is “not communicated well to the public.

“I’m not sure if there is a lack of communication of science in New Zealand, or if the way it is communicated is just not right,” she says. “At the moment, the information doesn’t seem to get to everyone, and only those interested in a subject will read about it.

“As a forensic scientist, you have to be good at presenting information to a jury,” she adds. “The nature of the work teaches you to communicate to the lay audience.

“It’s possible to tailor technical information to a broad audience and show how the knowledge can be applied to society,” she stresses. “Scientists just need to get better at it.”

Claire’s plans for the future are undetermined beyond finishing her PhD, but she is firmly rooted in New Zealand.

“I’d like to do an overseas postdoc in a forensics lab, perhaps in the UK, but to learn new techniques and technology to bring back to New Zealand. Hopefully, I’ll be able to come back here with a bit more knowledge and get a job as a forensic scientist. I can’t see myself being in a research lab for ever.”

So far, being named New Zealand’s best young scientist hasn’t had too much impact on Claire’s life.

“I’m stoked that I’ve won, but a little scared as to what it might mean, and what will be expected of me, in the years to come,” she says. “I’ve had a crash course in speaking to the media, and have been asked to speak at a conference in front of the Prime Minister on the problems that young scientists in New Zealand face. But, at the end of the day, my PhD comes first, and the award can’t get in the way of that.”

In fact, she laughs, “the most nerve-wracking part of the whole experience was the trip to Wellington for the judging. The weather was so bad, the flight was just awful.”

*Other University scientists recognised in this year’s MacDiarmid awards were: Andrew Graham, a mechanical engineering student named joint runner up in the Future Science category for his work designing medical robotics; and Hayley Reynolds, whose research is funded by the Maurice Wilkins Centre for Biomolecular Discovery, was runner up in the Advancing Human Health category for the technology she has developed which may help doctors to monitor and predict the spread of melanoma in cancer patients using 3D computer models.*

# Shaping Auckland

Auckland is New Zealand's fastest growing city: 18,000 people settle here every year and 7,500 new houses are built, while 51 more cars travel on our roads each week. As the debate on how to address issues of traffic congestion, power supply, housing and urban design continues, researchers across The University of Auckland are making a real difference. Tess Redgrave investigates.

From his office on the eleventh floor of the Engineering building, Associate Professor Roger Dunn can catch a fleeting glimpse of the Auckland Harbour Bridge and imagine the Northcote Regional Traffic Control Centre situated on its northern fringe.

The Centre and the traffic signal data it collects from Whangaparaoa to Papakura have occupied much of Roger's time in the last couple of years. As head of the Faculty of Engineering's Transportation Group, he has long dreamed of establishing a transport

systems research centre at the University. This will provide expertise on New Zealand, and in particular, Auckland's transport and land use problems.

Now, as the result of an agreement with Transit New Zealand, and in collaboration with the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering's Structural Engineering group, the first step in realising that dream has just been put in place.

Down on the first floor of Engineering a new state-of-the-art visualisation portal, which comprises five big screens – one 50-inch and four 40-inch





– has been established in a former computer laboratory. Hooking into the Government's new Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network (KAREN) structural engineers can test structures' response to simulated earthquakes in the US. Using the same visualisation facilities, transportation researchers can collect and view traffic data via a fibre optic cable connected to the Northcote Regional Traffic Control Centre.

"There are all sorts of operational problems with public transport, and congestion on Auckland's

roads," says Roger. "The agreement with Transit New Zealand, who manage the Traffic Control Centre, is that they'll give us access to the traffic data [which is recorded via inductance loop detectors and close circuit television], and we will work with them, and the Auckland councils, to try to improve whatever transport problems we think we can."

One project due to get underway is a study of new traffic signalling systems going in on motorway entry points to control the flow of traffic.

"Using data from the visualisation portal we'll

Above: Professor of Planning Jenny Dixon and associate professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering Roger Dunn say transport and land use need to be in sync.

be able to track what happens now, record what happens once the signals have gone in, and then estimate what the benefits or non-benefits are.”

Several other research projects are also being considered such as the operation of the Northern Busway and traffic conditions on the City Campus which straddles busy Symonds Street – the proposed central transit corridor.

While Roger and his team are hoping to make a real difference to Auckland’s transport congestion, which a recent Government report estimates costs Auckland around \$1 billion per year (including congestion caused by traffic accidents), Geography and Environmental Science PhD student Phillipa Mitchell has been analysing what is going on at city bus stops.

In 2003 Auckland City installed 204 Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) signs at bus stops and equipped the city’s entire bus fleet (900+) with companion technology. This includes GPS systems and GPRS communications which allow buses to communicate with the signs and intersections so traffic lights can be adjusted to make bus trips as quick as possible.

However, the Real Time system, which is supposed to regularly update buses’ predicted arrival times at stops, has had a lot of bad press because of teething problems with accuracy and bus driver participation. So Phillipa, a former transport planner with Auckland City Council, decided to analyse the system as part of her PhD looking at how communication and information technologies affect our everyday lives.

For her study, Phillipa chose 15 bus stops on main arterial in-bound routes into the city and

interviewed a 100 travellers (59 women, 41 men) about their use of the Real Time signs.

“Basically it all came down to how much people trusted the information on the signs,” she says. “Only about 58 percent trusted the signs enough to rely on them, which is pretty low!”

Perhaps surprisingly virtually everyone in Phillipa’s study thought the signs were a good idea. “I had very few people say they were a waste of money or anything like that.”

She asked people: “If you could trust the information on the signs would it change how you used the environment around you?” About 30 percent said they currently checked the signs to see when the bus was coming, and then went and did something else. That figure jumped to 70 percent if people thought they could trust the system.

Although more work needs to be done on RTPI, Phillipa, who will produce a summary of her findings to the Auckland Regional Transport Authority (ARTA), concludes that it is positive and will have a positive impact on Auckland’s traffic congestion.

“The Real Time signs are altering the behaviour of people who catch the bus,” she says, “and as levels of trust in the system increases the perception of Auckland’s public transport will improve and more people will consider it a viable option to their car.”

At the first of a series of Sustainable Transport Forums which ARTA held at the University this year, Anna Percy, Sustainable Transport Manager said one of the Authority’s goals was to get 20,000 car trips off Auckland’s road by 2016.

An initiative that has already done a lot to reduce daily car trips in the city is the Walking School Bus (WSB) system, which health geographer Professor Robin Kearns helped establish at Gladstone Primary School, Mt Albert, in 2000. Robin has since tracked the WSB system via four co-written research papers published in international journals.

As well as fostering the funding and development of WSBs in Auckland (at last count there were 177 routes operating at 87 schools), the studies demonstrate that WSBs offer an important alternative to driving as a means of transporting children to and from school; they promote safety, socialising and physical activity.

With ARTA estimating that 40 percent of Auckland’s traffic is education-related, “the contribution of WSBs in getting children and parents out of cars and walking is important in re-establishing neighbourhoods as pedestrian-friendly,” says Robin.

“However,” he adds, “the test of the initiative will be in seeing how many children ‘graduate’ from WSBs to be teenagers and adults who are willing to embrace alternatives to driving short distances in Auckland.”

Getting commuters out of cars is the focus of

Below: Phillipa Mitchell.





Photo courtesy of ARTA

another study underway at the School of Population Health. Dr Alexandra Macmillan, a lecturer in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, has recently embarked on a PhD which will examine how changing commuting habits might impact on someone's health and the health of the community around them.

With the help of a substantial Health Research Council grant, Alex will build a software model that combines disparate pieces of evidence about the effect of commuting on people's health with information from a study-community. She plans to base the study in Greenmount and East Tamaki and will hold workshops with a key stakeholder group that includes members of the local council, health board, regional transport authority, employers, employees and general community.

"We'll then start making simulations using the model about what would happen if we made a policy change," explains Alex. "For example, if a policy was introduced aiming to get 20 percent of people out of their cars to cycle or walk to work, we hope to demonstrate what that would do for people's health.

"At the moment there is a lack of integration of disparate transport and health evidence at a time when regional authorities are actively involved in transport policy change that has the potential to have either positive or negative health effects," she observes.

Promoting walking and cycling for health is increasingly a focus of researchers at the School of Population Health. Last year the School made a submission on the draft regional land transport strategy recommending the investment option that spent the most on public transport and measures that reduce the demand for car travel and the least on new roads; it also advocated for more money to be spent on research into cycling and walking in the city.

Professor David Thomas, Director of the Health Research Methods Advisory Service and the Survey Research Unit, is now keen to develop research projects in this area.

"For example, I think we can develop better indicators for pedestrian travel by developing some of the existing walkability indexes and documenting these for specific areas of the city," he says. "This information can be provided for councils with a recommendation they set minimum walkability standards for key pedestrian routes.

"Urban planning is very motor-vehicle orientated," he adds, "and it seems to me there should be as much thought and resources given to pedestrian access, from both a safety and transport point view, as cars."

**Whatever** the transport system, it needs to be in sync with land use, claim many University researchers.

"One of the problems in New Zealand is that these two are often out of sync; we focus on one without sufficient reference to the other," says Professor of Planning Jenny Dixon.

"What we've got to do is get them in sync, which raises a whole raft of issues about the future shape of Auckland, particularly as the Auckland Regional Council comes under pressure over the boundary of the metropolitan urban limits."

Jenny is leader of the University's Centre for Urban Ecosystem Sustainability (CUES) run in conjunction with Landcare. She is currently co-leading CUES' first major project: a six-year research programme looking at low impact urban design and development (LIUDD).

The purpose of LIUDD is to encourage councils and developers to design subdivisions and infrastructure that use and conserve natural systems. At the same time, these practices typically restore eco-systems and enhance amenity.

Funded by the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST), LIUDD has five objectives ranging from getting people's buy-in, developing science innovations and economic incentives, to changing practices within local government. By its end in 2009, Jenny hopes there will be a web-accessible users' guide on LIUDD, so for example, if someone wants to find out about rainwater tanks, the information will be readily available.

Part of the research team's ongoing work will be looking at how councils (not just in Auckland) can implement LIUDD in terms of everyday urban design and planning practices. The team is also preparing a low impact urban design guide with visual sketches, which will inform councils, developers and consumers.

The long-term, overall goal of LIUDD is to contribute to more sustainable urban form. A critical issue as we move forward, says Jenny, "because it's

Above: Gladstone Primary School's Walking School Bus.

about what kind of settlement patterns we want. How do we integrate ecological considerations with what we want to do socially and culturally?

"A lot of the recent thinking about sustainable cities comes from the theories of new urbanism and smart growth, which argue that you intensify along main transport corridors to maximise chances of people getting around, reducing demand on private cars and maximising public transport.

"But now some interesting findings are coming out that question whether a compact city is as sustainable as people might think. Hence there's quite a lot of work to be done in terms of looking at future urban forms and their overall sustainability."

Urban form is also the focus of Architecture Senior Lecturer Diane Brand, one of three members of the School of Architecture and Planning who are on Auckland City Council's Urban Design panel.

The award-winning designer of public space at the Viaduct Harbour and Manukau Square, Diane directs the University's new (and New Zealand's first) Master of Urban Design. This is a specialist postgraduate qualification for planners and architects who want to design at an urban scale, and also learn how to deal with allied planning issues. Diane is hopeful the qualification will have a positive impact on Auckland's urban environment as graduates' expertise and experience filter out into the city.

She sees Auckland currently facing multiple urban design challenges including the need to create good public spaces, interact with the water on our borders, improve the quality of our buildings, preserve our heritage, and meet issues of housing-densification, transportation and infrastructure.

"There's been so many years of bad practice here, she laments. "I come back from overseas and think what an ugly city Auckland is, but then I think what a fantastic laboratory for my students to work in. It's a kind of wild west here; we're very early on in our

development and there are lots of opportunities.

"But it's going to take time, urban design is not like architecture, it can take decades, even centuries to achieve."

**Adequate** and reliable power supply is another issue that continues to vex Auckland in the wake of the major outage in June caused by a line going down at the Otahuhu substation, as well as memories of the 1998 power blackouts.

Closely watching these issues and the debate on their solutions is the University's new Energy Centre.

A joint collaboration between the Business and Engineering Schools, the Centre aims to be "the independent and balanced authority on New Zealand's energy priorities and initiatives". But, says Centre Executive Director Rob Kirkpatrick, the current focus is on the electricity sector.

"We're attempting to provide a balanced view via submissions to the Electricity Commission and the Minister of Energy on Transpower's proposed grid upgrade [a new 4000,000 volt transmission line from Whakamaru to Otahuhu]," he says.

The Energy Centre is also one of numerous University groups that were involved in a recent charrette (collaborative design workshop) put on by START (Sustaining the Auckland Region Together), an overarching framework for achieving a sustainable Auckland region.

START is being developed in collaboration with local, regional and central government and is another indication that the University has a significant role to play in shaping Auckland.

Concludes Anna Percy, Sustainable Transport Manager with ARTA: "We always base our programmes on best practice so we go to The University of Auckland for good qualitative and quantitative research – real independent research – and we use that research to guide and monitor our programmes."

## CITY'S FIRST GREEN ROOF

An environmental engineer has turned the top of the 12-floor Faculty of Engineering into a large 200-square metre "green roof" – the first to be built in central Auckland and possibly the first in New Zealand to be built on top of an existing commercial building.

Dr Elizabeth Fassman, a lecturer in Civil and Environmental Engineering, in collaboration with Dr Robyn Simcock, an ecologist with

Landcare Research, has created the roof-top garden. It is funded by the Auckland Regional Authority (ARC) and the aim is to develop a blueprint for new construction or retrofitting green roofs throughout the city. While the initial focus is on commercial buildings, it may eventually lead to residential applications.

The roof comprises three extremely lightweight soils made of pumice, zeolite (a lightweight aggregate similar to pumice) or expanded clay (an imported material) and bark fines (a by-product of tree bark waste.) This has been spread out over a drainage layer and planted out with 3,600 plants comprising a combination of natives and sedums. These are a genus of low-lying succulent plants

renowned for their capacity to survive in harsh environments, droughts or floods, and commonly used in green roofs in Germany, the USA, and Japan.

The point of the exercise is to reduce stormwater runoff, which not only creates regular nuisance floods in the urban environment but drags pollutants off impermeable surfaces, which are then dumped into waterways. Overseas research indicates a green roof can absorb 50 to 90 percent of annual stormwater run-off, which is then released slowly into the atmosphere. There are other benefits too. Green roofs create havens for birds and bees in the city, are effective insulators, and extend the life of the roof.



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# Internationalisation

A key challenge in the University's Strategic Plan is to establish itself as a peer of the world's leading universities, and to create a distinctive international experience for its students. Judy Wilford looks at how this is being executed.

Above: Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon and Xu-in, director of the Chinese Ministry of Education national office for teaching Chinese as a foreign language, signing a letter of intent last year for establishing a Confucius Institute at the University.

Dr Erik Lithander, a New Zealand citizen and former Associate Director of International Relations at The University of Auckland, was born of Swedish parents, raised in Latin America, university educated in Belgium and Britain, and has just taken up a position in Ireland

He points out that nationality is just one aspect of a permeable cultural identity that characterises many of Auckland's able and discerning students who know what they want from their education and are willing to move around the world to get it.

These students form part of a wider process known as internationalisation, a phenomenon which is now changing the face of tertiary education all over the world.

This is a highly complex process difficult to define, since it operates on several interrelated levels, encompassing not only individual student choice, but also international research collaborations, bilateral agreements between institutions, and consortiums of major universities worldwide – as well as centres



within the University that focus on particular regions.

All taken together it adds up to what Professor Barry McGaw, OECD Director of Education, referred to at the Australian International Education Forum in April as essentially not so much a “brain drain” as a “brain circulation”.

So, to understand the process where do you start? That depends on who you speak to.

Associate-Professor Chris Tremewan, the University’s Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), says that where it begins is with high aspirations.

“Internationalisation,” he says, “is just a summary of different ways people see the pressures on nations, universities and individuals to be more connected, competitive and intellectually productive.

“Auckland now has to make its way not in comparison with other New Zealand universities but as a global university. That’s where we are compared whether we like it or not.”

Usually we do like it, he might have added, since the comparisons so far have been highly favourable, with the University achieving 52nd place in the *Times Higher Education Supplement* ranking list for 2005, up from 67th in 2004. It was ranked 16th on a recent Asia-Pacific list.

Showing up well in the international arena means conducting leading-edge research and finding ways to fund it. “Without that, you can’t even

get on the radar,” says Chris.

“The other requirement is to connect our teaching and our students’ learning processes to the international context by circulating staff and students from and to partner universities and by innovative collaborative teaching and learning processes.

“This means we need an active policy on internationalisation and we also need to make sure we’re part of major international policy debates on higher education and where it is going.”

One way of achieving the latter is through membership of large international consortia, such as the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) and Universitas 21 (U21), which enable leading universities of diverse geographical, cultural and linguistic backgrounds to discern trends, exchange information and cooperate even as they compete.

“The advantage of such consortia,” says Chris, “is that you can achieve together what no university can do alone. This kind of cooperation is still rare among research universities and Auckland has gained and contributed much in these alliances.”

Extensively discussed at the annual meeting of U21, hosted by The University of Auckland this year, was the scoping of the network for its capability to deal with major scientific, health, environmental and resource issues with a view to attracting large-scale funding for ambitious proposals.

Above: Associate Professor Chris Tremewan, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International).



Above: International students from left; Irene Yap from Malaysia, Von Delizo from the Philippines, Martin Krueger from Germany, Maggie Xu from China and Margaret Chow from Fiji.

Auckland International is now analysing data to decide, in consultation with faculties, the most effective regional strategies for the Middle East, Russia, Northeast Asia, Europe and the United States.

One successful initiative has been the China strategy, which has involved building collaborative links in teaching and research with China's top universities, and forging relationships with funding agencies such as the China Scholarships Council. This resulted recently in an agreement for an initial cohort of 20 PhD students from China to undertake their studies at The University of Auckland. (Another agreement with the Pakistan Higher Education Commission means 60 Pakistani PhD scholars will also study at the University next year.)

A further development is the new Confucius Institute, based at the University. Run in collaboration with the Chinese government and with Fudan University in Shanghai, this institute is one of a number around the world aiming to promote knowledge of Chinese language and culture. It concentrates on improving the teaching of Chinese in New Zealand schools as well as providing targeted programmes for business and other sectors of the community.

Several academic units within the University focus their research and teaching in particular regions: the New Zealand Asia Institute, the Centre for Latin

American Studies and the recently-formed European Institute.

These units, focusing on research and policy, are critical interfaces for the University in its interactions with foreign governments, research institutions, funding bodies and international organisations, says Chris. "If appropriately led and seeded with basic funding, they have the potential to be spectacularly successful in bringing resources, both moral and financial, into the University.

"They also actively deepen Auckland's academic associations in a way which is often not seen directly but which boosts our research and our international profile in highly effective ways."

To Professor Joerg Kistler, Director of the School of Biological Sciences, and one of many senior staff who speak out on the advantages of internationalisation, it is "simply a reality which is unstoppable and is going to increase. Everything has to adapt to the new scenarios, the universities as well as the national economies. If you accept that a university has three mandates: one teaching, one research and the third supporting the country's economic goals, then in each category internationalisation is inevitable. It's just a matter of how one can do it best."

So what is involved in doing it well?

"If you start with teaching I think the programmes should be modular in format so that they become interchangeable with overseas universities," says Joerg.

"There's a huge advantage to students in moving to other countries at a time when they're learning fast. It forces them to become independent, proves they can adapt, can deal with challenges and are amenable to new horizons, which makes them very employable when they return home.

"On the research side, a good university attracts academics with big networks. That's why you recruit overseas. Academics at Auckland have extremely good networks, which you could say is by necessity because we're a bit off the beaten track. But it is very noticeable how much people have international linkages here."

Approximately 40 percent of academic staff in the University were born overseas. In the School of Biological Sciences the figure is even higher; if you count New Zealand-born staff who have worked or trained overseas close to 100 percent could be described as international, observes Joerg.

Biological Sciences is one of several areas in the University which are known for their research culture and readily attract talented academics from overseas.

"We've been recruiting recently for two plant science lectureships," says Joerg, "and also for two microbiology lectureships. I have to say the number of people applying from the United States and Europe is absolutely amazing. For each position we

have 60 applicants, which really says that Auckland is on the map."

To understand the students' point of view on internationalisation, the ideal person to talk to is Andrew Holloway, Director of Auckland International.

Andrew is concerned with student recruitment in all its aspects including student welfare and the student experience, as well as feeding informed information into government policies that stand to influence student choices.

One positive policy change is the decision to allow international PhD students living and studying in New Zealand to pay the same fees as domestic students. Since able postgraduate students raise the University's research capacity and increase its academic networks, the benefit goes both ways.

Another change that perhaps needs reconsideration is the increased IELTS (International English Language Test) score required for general migration to New Zealand. The downturn in general migration from China and other countries impacts negatively on prospective students who are often encouraged to study in countries where they have friends and relatives to support them. Recent studies indicate that more than half the international students from India and China intend to stay as skilled migrants in host countries.

Originally positive and still so but now losing ground, is a measure granting students trained in desired occupations the right to work in New Zealand for six months after graduation, while applying for permanent residence.

"The huge benefit to the country," says Andrew, "is that you bring in skilled migrants who have actually studied in your own country, and have a good knowledge of your culture, work practices and styles of communication."

And the downside? There isn't one – "except that Australia now allows one year, and Ireland and Scotland two, so in international terms we're not as competitive as we could be."

One of Andrew's roles is to work with people from the education sector and Government ministers to look at various policy solutions to problems such as this.

In the meantime recent changes within the University are raising the quality of international student life. For example a student support and pastoral care team now has six staff members, up from 1.5 last year. Two of these work in the International Student Information Centre, three are international student advisers, and one is an activities officer who manages the iSPACE facility and organises excursions for students wishing to learn to sail or to fish, play sport or see New Zealand movies. (iSPACE is a significant meeting-place for international students, which runs information and

cultural events throughout the year.)

Another new service is assisting students with electronic renewal of their visas through Auckland International, giving them a quick and friendly service and saving them from queuing up at Immigration.

International student growth has been spectacular, rising from 1,596 in 2000 to 5,241 in 2005, though a decline in 2006, largely reflecting fewer new enrolments of undergraduate students from China, indicates that continuing growth cannot be assumed.

So, what is it that attracts these students to The University of Auckland?

"First, it's a major English-speaking destination, one of the top five along with Britain, Australia, the US and Canada," says Andrew. "Second it's our status in research, the worldwide recognition of our qualifications, and our education system. Third is the desire for an overseas experience which might provide a benefit in terms of career opportunities. A fourth factor is the opportunity for immigration, and a fifth is the chance for adventure travel, especially for students who come in groups from Europe or the US."

One area of growth is in study abroad exchanges, where students do a semester in Auckland as part of a degree at home (and vice versa). These exchanges have traditionally been commonest among students from the United States and Europe, but are now developing also in Asia, with two of Japan's top universities now sending students here. The University of Auckland's student mobility numbers, through its exchange programme, 360° Auckland Abroad, increased three-fold between 2000 and 2005, and are expected to increase to three times as much again by 2010.

One advantage of these exchanges, as well as more diversity on campus, is that able exchange students are likely to return later for postgraduate study, which fits in with the University's Strategic Plan of achieving 800 masters and 500 doctoral completions (up from 208) per annum by 2012.

"The priority is to at least double the number of postgraduate international students," says Andrew

In a constantly evolving environment, students and staff both contribute to and derive benefits from a dynamic cultural mix. For international students the skills they learn in a foreign university is matched by the intellectual vibrancy they collectively add to the campus. For the University the process of internationalisation adds to its research capacity, contributes to its standing, and helps it to achieve the kind of diverse and dynamic intellectual culture that sustains continuing evolution.

Even at the national level, the process is significant. "Our activities and profile offshore and the relationships we are building enhance the reputation of New Zealand," says Chris Tremewan. "In doing this we are making a key contribution to the country."



# Poetry in transmission

IMAGES: Becky Nunes

Associate Professor  
of English,  
Michele Leggott is  
transforming the way  
New Zealand poetry  
is taught, performed  
and read. She talks  
to Tess Redgrave.

In April this year, 22 poets from all over New Zealand made their way to Bluff during its annual oyster festival and gathered on Te Rau Aroha Marae for a poetry symposium.

Entitled Bluff 06, the symposium featured established names like Aucklanders Michele Leggott and Murray Edmond, Dunedin raconteur David Eggleton and Bluff's own Cilla McQueen, alongside young, fledgling poets.

Over three days, the bards participated in a powhiri and informal kōrero with local iwi, held readings, book and CD launches, Internet author-page launches, a workshop – and enjoyed oyster-eating and guitar-playing. There were also nine academic presentations ranging from an examination of legendary Tuhoe chronicler Elsdon Best's early poetics to tracing writer Robin Hyde's trip to Rakiura (Stewart Island) in 1936, and bringing to light Irish-born US poet Lola Ridge who began her poetry-making on the goldfields of Hokitika in the 1890s.

On the symposium's final day, the poets left Te Rau Aroha and caught the ferry to Oban, on Rakiura: "Easterly rising to 30 knots. Sea rough ... Enough poets on the boat to keep it loose, lyrical and laconic on the third-roughest stretch of water in the world."

That night in the Oban community centre, Rakiura locals helped launch an online anthology *Oban 06* which, intriguingly, comprises the work of 99 poets emailed to symposium organisers' laptops from all over the world during the three days.

"You can read them all here as well as an account

of the symposium and the papers presented," says Michele Leggott as, sitting in her University office, she leans in close to her computer screen scrolling down the anthology's index to show me her own entry:

#### hello and goodbye

there is a path that climbs  
out of sleep with clear notes  
on five fingers  
blown across sweet grassy  
plains there is no holding  
them they move like the wind  
over your sleeping face  
which knows where it has been  
and why it must remember  
the path that climbs  
out of sleep and into the green  
heartstring morning ...

Hailed in a 2005 *New Zealand Listener* review as "arguably our finest living female rhapsodist", Michele is at the forefront of a revolution which is taking New Zealand poetry off bookshelves and putting it into space – "as close as the click of your mouse".

Though she is an experimentalist who has long pushed the boundaries of poetry presentation on the page, Michele's embrace of the Internet is, in part, an innovative and courageous response to gradually deteriorating eyesight.

Diagnosed with pigmentosa retinitis in 1985 and then macular degeneration in the centre of the eye

in the mid-1990s, she can no longer read standard print. Sadly this includes her own poetry collections, of which the fifth, *Milk & Honey*, has just been co-published in Britain, as well as her scholarly works, notably the landmark *Young Knowledge: The Poems of Robin Hyde* in which she edited and introduced, for the first time, a chronological record of the poems of the renowned 1930s New Zealand writer.

But there are ways around standard print.

"This has saved my life," Michele enthuses as she now uses her keyboard to show me the enlargement function on the open-source Firefox web browser.

"See I can zoom Internet text up and down as I need it across differently formatted web pages." (See our story on the University alumnus who led the creation of Firefox, page 26)

A click of the mouse and Michele zaps us onto the home page of the New Zealand Electronic Poetry Centre (nzepc) [www.nzepc.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.nzepc.auckland.ac.nz) which she conceived in 2001, drawing inspiration from a similar resource hosted at the State University of New York, Buffalo, where she was a guest lecturer in the mid-1990s.

Now the major gateway to New Zealand poetry, with more than 165,000 sessions recorded in the first half of this year alone, nzepc is run by Michele in close collaboration with Brian Flaherty, Head of Digital Services at the University Library.

As well as comprehensive author pages on 30 New Zealand poets, nzepc features an academic e-journal called *ka mate ka ora*, essays and interviews, digital and Pasifika poetry, sections guiding researchers to poetry-related archives as well as links to poems by New Zealanders anywhere on the web.

"This is the best possible way I can see of getting poetry a long, long way in terms of transmission," says Michele. "It connects us instantly with the world and the world likes coming in to have a look at what New Zealand poetry is doing."

In Michele's case this includes the delightful digital version of her circular poem "oes & spangs", originally published in her fourth collection *as far as I can see* and now in perpetual circular motion on screen due to the technical wizardry of web designer Andrew Forsberg.

Despite the ongoing need to find funding, nzepc also runs events on the ground: a symposium called *Fugacity 05* in Christchurch last year for example, *Bluff 06* this year and on *Montana Poetry Day* in July, *Bluffing Auckland 06* at which poets from the Bluff event read their work at the Central City Library.

"These events create interest on the ground which feeds back into the wider virtual community," suggests Michele, who uses her experience of attending several international poetry festivals to plan the events.

nzepc is also a teaching resource. "Its reach is vast and it's a particularly powerful medium for

New Zealand poetry," observes head of the University's English Department, Associate Professor Peter Simpson.

The site has also provided the inspiration and resources for Michele to establish New Zealand's first online poetry course: a stage three English paper called "Poetry off the page", which uses the Internet and an array of performance options for studying poetry.

"It's a highly collaborative course," she says.

"Students make a set of web pages that everyone else in the class can access and comment on."

So far students have lapped up "Poetry off the page".

"The course evokes ideas of community and dissemination (of the 'message')," says Joel Harrison, who completed a BA/LLB last year. "Michele dedicates a large part of her time to seeing the work of her students promoted as part of the community's message ... and to providing a space for students to perform at poetry readings."

"I think Michele is very inspirational to younger students," says Elizabeth Caffin, director of Auckland University Press (AUP), which is part of the governing board of nzepc along with representatives from the University Library and Faculty of Arts. "She is a brilliant poet and a brilliant scholar, and when she is on the track of something, she's very exciting to work with."

Michele pushes the boundaries of live poetry performance too. The day *Ingenio* interviewed her she was preparing for Montana Poetry Day and had invited new students on a creative writing paper she is co-teaching to volunteer to perform poetry while riding the escalators (and being videoed for an online anthology) at the Central City Library.

"We've called the exercise 'Moving Right Along' and we think it will be a really good way for breaking the ice and learning at first-hand about poetry in time and (public) space," she says.

"My research now is this kind of organising and web archiving of events, which generate meetings, which generate text, which generate books and other kinds of projects," she observes.

"Because of my eyesight, I've had to move a long way from what I thought I'd be doing at the University when I started. Everything is up for renegotiation.

"If I have a mission here it's to make things possible for those coming in. I want to open doors and say: 'here are the resources, you have the talent, you have the ideas, what can you do?'"

She suggests there are now unprecedented opportunities for text, audio and video transmission of poetry – and a culture that increasingly values performances of multiple kinds.

"If students work collaboratively and trust each other, amazing things will come out of their investigations of the parallel worlds of real and virtual communities in 21st century poetry."



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# Universities and entrepreneurship

“Crossing over to the dark side?”

It was only a few years ago, when the mere mention of entrepreneurship in academic circles at tertiary institutions would have provoked the above question – filled with an undertone of undisguised horror.

It is quite astounding how much can change over a short span of three years.

At The University of Auckland it all started with a vision amongst the higher echelons: “To transform the University from an academic ivory tower to a revving engine of economic growth for New Zealand.” It was a grand vision which, when combined with the enthusiasm of students at the University who were passionate to drive change, resulted in the birth of an initiative called Spark.

Although simplistically put, Spark was a business plan competition aimed at fostering entrepreneurial growth and value creation from world-class research at the University. However, it soon became evident that what Spark had actually created was much more than just a competition. It drove a cultural revolution within the University, hammering the point that entrepreneurship is not just about creating new businesses; it is a totally new mindset that began to be imbued within the staff and student communities.

The realisation came that it is important to be business savvy no matter what your final career goal is. That the best and brightest of The University of Auckland are no longer just engineers, doctors, musicians or scientists, but in fact key drivers of New Zealand’s economy.

Since the inception of Spark in 2003, several ventures have been developed which have been immensely successful in furthering the enterprise spirit across the University: Chiasma: The new link in Biomedical Enterprise fostering a spirit of enterprise among biotech students; the ICT Innovation Academy (linking information and communications technology students with industry); and the new Master in Bioscience Enterprise, to name a few.

When New Zealand slipped from number three to 30 over 30 years on the OECD charts, something needed to be done. Given the speed and urgency with which nations worldwide are realising the need to become entrepreneurial, we in New Zealand are definitely on the right track. But we still have a long way to go. And the faster we move, the higher the rewards.

My involvement with helping drive the growth of enterprise in New Zealand has really honed



my vision for how I want to help our country flourish. I couldn't more passionately endorse the absolute need to harness the value of research that NZ's tertiary institutions generate towards our economic growth.

In this “information age”, the size of economies is governed not just by the size of the nation's workforce, but much more significantly by the innovation that it is capable of producing. For a small country like ours, this is truly the perfect time for us to embrace the entrepreneurial culture as the beacon of light. To bounce back, make a mark, and stand alongside global giants. To ensure that Kiwi ingenuity isn't lost because of our geographical positioning, but brought out to the world because of its excellence.

Alumna Privahini Bradoo

Above: Privahini Bradoo (BTech (Hons) 2002) has just completed a PhD in neuroscience at the University's Liggins Institute and is now studying for an MBA at Harvard Business School courtesy of a \$100,000 Fulbright Platinum Triangle Scholarship in Entrepreneurship awarded to one outstanding New Zealander each year. While studying at The University of Auckland, Privahini was the inaugural CEO of Spark as well as a one-time chairperson; she was also the founding CEO of Chiasma.

# Top fox

US-based alumnus Ben Goodger is at the forefront of international software development. Louise Rafkin tracks him down in California.

Never before had a university student been tapped by a worldwide software company and offered an internship in the United States.

Yet only halfway into his University of Auckland engineering degree, 19-year-old Ben Goodger fielded a summons from Silicon Valley. It was 1999 and he was studying computer engineering and living in Royal Oak with his mum.

While building his first website, Ben had begun toying with computer code in an attempt to better the then popular Netscape Navigator web browser. Soon he was a regular in programmer chat rooms and his tinkering morphed into important contributions to the development of Netscape 5.

"The offer [of an internship] came out of the blue," reports the soft-spoken Ben from his office in Mountain View, California, where now, seven years later, he draws a pay cheque from Internet giant Google.

"It didn't sink in until I actually landed," he adds with an accent that hardly hints at his New Zealand roots. Emerging from the San Francisco airport in a daze, Ben, a car aficionado, was dazzled by the lines of yellow taxis and big American cars. His new boss picked him up and they breakfasted at – where else? – McDonalds.

After a year working on browser development at America Online/Netscape, Ben returned to Auckland to finish his BE in computer systems engineering. He continued to do some long-distance work for Netscape and on graduating in May 2003, headed back to America to take up an offer of a permanent job.

By that time, however, the software landscape had changed: Netscape, suffering stiff competition in the notorious "browser wars" with Microsoft's Internet Explorer, had ceased browser development and a new sister company the Mozilla Foundation rose out of its ashes.

Employed at Mozilla alongside a team of programmers, some even more youthful than he, Ben was tasked with leading the launch of Firefox 1.0, an open-source browser. (Open-source is a common term in Internet parlance that means the product sources are open and available for users to change and develop as they see fit.)

The high drama of Firefox's conception and birth is now Silicon Valley lore and reported from various angles on the web, including on Ben's own blog ([www.bengoodger.com](http://www.bengoodger.com)). As with all mythology, there are good guys and bad guys. Still, Ben has come out on top – as has his browser.

Smaller and smarter is how many refer to Firefox – an example of Kiwi ingenuity. Ben's New Zealand imprint is all over his product, from the code hidden inside, to the names of the various early Firefox versions: Three Kings, Royal Oak, One Tree Hill and Greenlane.

Since launching in November 2004, Firefox 1.0 has quickly and quietly become the browser of choice of a whopping 12 percent of Internet users. Fans say Firefox has more user-friendly features than others, and gives maximum return with the least hassle.

"We want users to feel they are in a familiar and comfortable environment and back to when the Internet was fun and easy to use," explains Ben. During development, he and his team posited the simple question: "Does this help Mum use the web?"

Automatically blocking those annoying pop-ups, Firefox also provides tabbed browsing by hiding the current web page behind a tab, making web surfing easier and faster. Drawing legions of devoted users, including a site of "Firefoxies" – beautiful women touting the reasons they use what they see as a "sexy" browser – Firefox, some say, is poised to dominate the Net. A British journalist, typical of Firefox fans, confessed in *The Guardian* that the wonder of Firefox is "up there with chocolate and sex on the grand scale of great things about being alive".

Asked to explain his whiz-kid abilities, 26-year-old Ben suggests it has to do with being an only child who started seriously tinkering on his first PC at the age of 14. He also credits his education at The University of Auckland with providing a taste of life in software development. "We were often given incomplete specifications and assigned too much work in too short a time," he says. "That's good preparation for this work. You must be able to work under pressure."

One of his former University teachers, Dr Bruce MacDonald, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of

Electrical and Computer Engineering remembers how Ben's assignments were "light years ahead of others."

"He was self-taught and very focused on computer programming."

Now a software engineer at Google, Ben intriguingly still leads the development of the Firefox browser. "Google gets a lot of value out of a lot of different open source projects," he explains, "so they make sure they give back where they can."

Ben gives back when he can too. On visits to Auckland – once or twice a year – he calls on colleagues at his alma mater; as recently as May this year he gave a seminar on the development of the new Firefox 2.0 to a packed room of computer programming students.

Asked about the differences between the US and home, Ben is quick to quip "awful potato chips, no peanut slabs and bad meat pies". One of the first stops he makes on arrival in Auckland is the Mount Eden bakery for a meat pie. On the return flight to America, he uses one of his luggage allotments to bring back a stash of Bluebird chips.

Other than favourite foods, Ben says there is a lot about life in America that is different.

"The Valley vibe is really different," he says. "There's a lot of money here, and lots of perks. People don't work traditional nine-to-five hours, if something is going well, they'll work all night."

American politics interest him, but he has noticed that the main parties are differentiated by moral and value differences, while at home left and right seem more delineated by financial and social politics.

Another curious difference, he notes, is the reliability of salesmen. He says he has learned to listen if he is being wooed to buy anything and has been tricked and taken in a few times by fast-talking US pitchmen.

Still, the career offers have proved to be the real deal, and now he is putting down roots in this fertile valley. There are his cars: an '04 Infiniti G35 Coupe, 6-speed, in caribbean blue with a navigation system, and an Infiniti M45 Sport, which he describes as "a gigantic land yacht with more technology than the space shuttle". He is also thinking of buying a house, and with his fiancée, Leslie Hawthorn, a programme coordinator at Google, is looking in a nearby suburb where lot sizes are big – like the classic quarter-acre sections of his youth.

Ben is not a big fan of the area he finds himself living in – San Jose, which he calls a "dense urban wasteland" – but as long as he is in this business, he says, the self-proclaimed capital of Silicon Valley is the place to be.

"This is the centre of tech universe," he adds, and though it is obvious he is referring to the San Francisco Bay Area's technology hub, you have to wonder if his comment is not literal. Ben Goodger is right there in the hot seat.



IMAGE: Martin Sykes

## Romance blossoms



After meeting at an alumni event in Shanghai last year, two University alumni married in June.

Qiwen Wu (BCom 2004) and Wei Mao (ME 2004) were seated opposite each other at the University-organised dinner at Shanghai's Hilton Hotel.

"People on this table started communications," remembers Qiwen. "Questions were about which year you graduated, which major you were studying and how's the academic life in New Zealand."

At the end of the evening, Qiwen and Wei exchanged business cards and later participated in alumni group conversation via MSN.

"Since Wei's working place [as a global senior

technical support engineer at Microsoft] was quite near to my working bank [Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation], he asked me to have lunch," Qiwen explains.

Qiwen and Wei's relationship developed from there and on 18 June they registered their marriage with the Chinese Government; they will celebrate their union on 6 January.

The couple recently attended this year's alumni event and found other local alumni surprised and interested to hear their story.

"Now we both think the local alumni meeting definitely creates a good opportunity and offers a great communication platform," says Qiwen.

## Alumni divas



"Okay," smiles Frances Wilson as her fingers lightly touch down on the keys of the grand Steinway piano.

She plays the first bars of Cilèa's aria "E la solita storia del pastore" as to her left, New Zealand-born Tongan tenor Jack Bourke starts to sing.

It is cocktail hour at Mollies, a small luxury boutique hotel in Auckland's St Mary's Bay and these two University alumni are performing for dinner guests. It is a routine they repeat on most evenings, often with other noted Auckland singers and sometimes with visiting international opera stars.

Though they graduated from The University of Auckland's School of Music more than 30 years apart – Frances with a Diploma in Music in 1963, Jack with Bachelor of Music in 1999 – the pair have become firm friends, sharing a passion for opera, antiques and interior design.

Frances, a former pupil and chief accompanist at London's Royal Academy and more recently voice coach in New York, and Jack, who made his solo debut in 2000 as Don Jose in Gisborne Opera's *Carmen*, met at an opera summer school in Wanganui in 1999.

"We got on like a house on fire," recalls Frances. "We talked the same language and discovered we had the same eye for detail and the same ear."

When Frances and her husband Stephen Fitzgerald established the award-winning Mollies in 2002, it wasn't long before Jack was on the payroll. Now the rising opera star manages the exquisitely decorated 12-suite Victorian-style hotel, performing for guests and receiving voice-coaching from Frances, as well as appearing as a soloist in opera productions around the country.

Frances is also involved in the day-to-day running of Mollies – "we're all divas here", she laughs – but as well she spends about 15 hours a week giving free voice coaching to up and coming young New Zealand singers.

The coaching comes under the auspices of The Auckland Opera Studio, a charitable trust which also funds specialist workshops. It has put on two operas in Auckland: Mozart's *Idomeneo* in 2004 and Kurt Weill's *The Seven Deadly Sins* with Arnold Schoenberg's *String Quartet No.2* in 2006 – both of which Jack has performed in.

But now, in Mollies' cocktail lounge, the young Tongan tenor's rich, booming voice echoes off the Venetian-styled walls as Frances's fingers come to rest gently on the piano and guests start to clap – many visibly moved by the emotional aria performed in such stylish and intimate surroundings. For more details: [www.mollies.co.nz](http://www.mollies.co.nz)

## NUMBERS UP AT ALUMNI FUNCTIONS

More than 1000 alumni and friends joined the University's Alumni Relations Office at functions in 14 cities in eight countries this year.

Numbers of alumni attending events is building steadily with more than 100 at an inaugural function in Hamilton, and with particular growth in Tauranga, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing.

This year either the Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon, or Chancellor Hugh Fletcher have attended most functions and provided an overview of new developments and achievements at the University.

Alumni have also been able to seek out representatives from their own faculties, with staff from Engineering, Science, Business, Law and the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries present at many functions.

Top University talent has been on show too with ensemble-in-residence, the New Zealand Trio, giving superb performances in Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai and Seoul, and members of the University's String Orchestra impressing audiences in Hamilton and Tauranga.

Dr Paul Kench, Senior Lecturer in Coastal Studies at the School of Geography and Environmental Science, spoke in Tauranga about coastal hazards in the Bay of Plenty, while Professor John Montgomery, the Director of the Leigh Marine Laboratory, spoke at the Wellington function on the exciting science underway at Leigh to secure the future health of our coasts and fisheries.

The University's Young Alumnus of the Year, Dr David Skilling, the Chief Executive of The New Zealand Institute, spoke in Melbourne and Sydney on "The New Zealand economy: Its prospects and priorities".

Next year the Alumni Office is planning a full programme of addresses from some of the University's most distinguished professors.

For more on upcoming events see [www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/calendar](http://www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/calendar)

## HELP US FIND OUR LOST ALUMNI

With an alumni community now numbering over 115,000, it is a big job trying to keep contact information for everyone. The Alumni Relations Office has up-to-date contact details for most of our alumni and email addresses for an increasing number.

However, we are very keen to get back in touch with the alumni we have "lost" touch with and would welcome your help. We have launched a new "Lost Alumni" service on our website – [www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/lost](http://www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/lost) – which lets you search by year of graduation, faculty/school and/or name to see the alumni we want to find.

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

## NEW GOVERNOR-GENERAL SPEAKS AT AWARDS

The new Governor-General and University alumnus, His Excellency Anand Satyanand, will be the guest speaker at the Distinguished Alumni Awards annual dinner to be held next year on 23 February.

The Distinguished Alumni Awards honour alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their professions and communities, both in New Zealand and internationally; a Young Alumnus of the Year award is made to an alumnus aged under 35 showing leadership and potential in his or her career.

All alumni, former staff and friends are warmly invited to attend the dinner. For more information and to register see [www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/daa](http://www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/daa) or contact the Alumni Relations office.

## NEW ALUMNI RELATIONS MANAGER

Justine Munro has taken over from Jan Kerr as the University's new Alumni Relations Manager.



Justine has worked previously as a lawyer specialising in indigenous issues, as a management consultant with McKinsey & Company and as a project manager for Starpath, the University's Partnership for Excellence project to improve Māori, Pacific and low income students' participation in tertiary education.

She sees her new role as an important opportunity to work closely with alumni from all backgrounds "to build meaningful and productive relationships with a university that has the ability to make a real contribution".

## INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI NETWORK

If you live in or near any of the areas below and would like to be involved with local alumni, we encourage you to make contact with your volunteer co-ordinator.

### Australia

**Brisbane** – Allanah Johnston  
[a.johnston@business.uq.edu.au](mailto:a.johnston@business.uq.edu.au)

**Melbourne** – Rupert Saint  
[rsaint@carmichaelfisher.com.au](mailto:rsaint@carmichaelfisher.com.au)

**Perth** – Margaret Sims  
[m.sims@ecu.edu.au](mailto:m.sims@ecu.edu.au)

**Sydney** – George Barker  
[BarkerG@law.anu.edu.au](mailto:BarkerG@law.anu.edu.au)

**Canada – Calgary** – Allison Hall  
[allisonhall77@hotmail.com](mailto:allisonhall77@hotmail.com)

**Vancouver** – Nigel Toy  
[nrttoy@stgeorges.bc.ca](mailto:nrttoy@stgeorges.bc.ca)

### China

**Beijing** – Yang Jiao  
[vivianny@gmail.com](mailto:vivianny@gmail.com)

**Chengdu** – Hua Xiang  
[xianghua@swufe.edu.cn](mailto:xianghua@swufe.edu.cn)

**Guangzhou** – Howard Scott  
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**Hong Kong** – Raymond Tam  
[tmkramond@yahoo.com.hk](mailto:tmkramond@yahoo.com.hk)

**Shanghai** – Paul Rothville  
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**India – Chandigarh** – Rahul Gautam  
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**Indonesia** – John Wishart  
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**Israel** – Ofir Goren  
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**Japan – Tokyo** – Simon Hollander

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**Texas** – Jyoti Maisuria  
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**Washington, DC** – Ruby Manukia  
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# Filmmaker in a nutshell

Alumna Roseanne Liang was named New Zealand's New Filmmaker of the Year for 2005, while her feature-length documentary *Banana in a Nutshell* has wowed local and international film festival audiences. She talks to Judy Wilford.

Roseanne Liang is a woman who could have done anything.

Her combination of creativity, high intelligence and a strong work ethic could take her to the top of any profession – including medicine, which her parents favoured and which her father and both her sisters practise.

But Roseanne's choice was the highly creative and competitive field of filmmaking, and what I, you, the rest of New Zealand and the world can expect, is to see more of her work and to read and hear about it.

One of the unique aspects of her work so far is that it documents the influences shaping her life and choice of career, in the form of her first feature-length film, an honest, compelling and personal story of her own loving family and the conflict that

threatened to wrench her out of it.

"It's my life. I'm too close to it," was what Roseanne said, when Shuchi Kothari, her screenwriting teacher in the University's Department of Film, Television and Media Studies, suggested she switch from the vampire genre which interested her at the time, and focus instead on a drama based on her own circumstances.

But several years later – after graduating with a Master of Creative and Performing Arts in 2003, and advancing her career with three short films that caught the eyes of festival selectors from London, Berlin and Sydney – Roseanne thought again about Shuchi's suggestion.

*Banana in a Nutshell* did not start out to be of feature length, says Roseanne's husband and University

alumnus Stephen Harris (BSc 1999, MSc, 2001), a major – if wryly reluctant – player in the drama.

It started off to be, he says, just “a short little doco” about the events around that time.

“I kind of grumbled. I don’t really like cameras. It was definitely driven from Roseanne’s end. But as it moved along and as time went on, she had a lot of footage and friends started saying, ‘This has to be longer than 15 minutes’, and she began to see it that way too.

“So I told Roseanne: ‘Be aware that I will resist, and when I resist you’ve just got to push, and it will be fine.’ I was true to my word. I didn’t want the camera near me, and I didn’t want any private stuff on the film – but it all made it in, didn’t it? It all made it in.”

Stephen’s headshake and slight indulgent smile says volumes about the relationship that is one of the strengths of the story.

The conflict at the heart of the documentary is a clash between two kinds of love – Roseanne’s love for, and desire to marry, Stephen, a white New Zealander she had known for eight years, and her love and need for the acceptance of her parents, who strongly opposed the marriage on grounds of cultural difference. They are Chinese, originally from Hong Kong, and had always made it clear that they expected Roseanne to marry a Chinese man. Disobedience in this could lead to disownment. The dilemma for Roseanne was acutely painful.

This is the conflict that Shuchi considered interesting and timely for New Zealand – “not the relationship between a Chinese woman and a pakeha man,” says Shuchi. “I think we’ve moved beyond that – but just her own desire to have her parents’ approval, to do something they didn’t want but still to be accepted, to love a man but also feel such profound love and need for your parents. That was something I felt really worth exploring.

“The stuff that’s disturbingly close to your life sometimes makes for the most interesting cinema,” she adds.

The conflict with Roseanne’s father was finally resolved when Stephen fulfilled a task he had set – of learning enough Mandarin Chinese to use the language when asking formal permission to marry Roseanne.

As Roseanne says, it was like the prince who fights the dragon in the fairy tale. It also has psychological validity, proving Stephen’s depth of feeling and his willingness to learn about Roseanne’s culture.

This act was at the centre of the film’s dramatic structure. Roseanne’s mother’s approval, which took longer to obtain, was documented in a 30-minute sequel published as part of the DVD.

If all goes as planned, *Banana in a Nutshell* is now to be made as a dramatic feature movie, in line with a request from John Barnett from South Pacific Pictures, who saw it at the Auckland International Film Festival and was strongly moved by it.

“Dramatic features are my dream, so of course I said ‘Yes,’” says Roseanne, who expects to direct the movie. She is currently writing the script with Angeline Lu, a fellow student from the screenwriting course and from the masters degree at Auckland.

“Feature is my first love. It’s what excites me and makes me passionate, and makes me laugh and cry in the theatre – so that’s the goal, the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow,” says Roseanne.

The direction she wants to move in now “is to explore in more fresh and interesting ways the idea of cultural identity – not in the Amy Tan, Joy Luck Club way, but take it one step further.

“I believe in the redemption of humanity. I’m a sucker for love stories and redemption through love stories, so these are the kinds of stories I want to tell.”

The making of *Banana in a Nutshell* was in itself an act of cultural exploration, in its essence at variance with her background, as she explains.

“Growing up in this [New Zealand] cultural system,” says Roseanne, “I find I best deal with my emotions, and emotional turmoil, by getting them out through a certain catharsis, so I can move on. The traditional Chinese way, though it might be changing now, is to keep all your pain inside and not show your weakness to other people.”

The making of the film was also a journey which took her to a deeper understanding of love.

“In the film I said: ‘I just wish my parents would say they love me’. I don’t need that any more, because through the film and the discussion around it I realise my parents show me that on a daily basis in ways that are so much more meaningful, and I don’t want them to say it in so many words any more, because that’s just not who they are. They come from a different culture and I’m really proud to be part of it, and it’s taken me this film and this many years to decode their ways of expressing feeling and love.”

In the highly competitive business of movie-making, Roseanne Liang, still in her twenties, seems solidly launched on the road to success.

“Roseanne has this great hunger to grow, to get better and better at her craft and to challenge herself,” says Shuchi Kothari. “She has this tenacity combined with the ability to question. Sometimes I’d say ‘Roseanne, this doesn’t work’, and she’d say ‘No, it does. I like it’. But then she’d think about it more – and do another rewrite.”

Says husband Stephen: “She’s incredibly intelligent, she’s very organised and creative, which are two often mutually exclusive things. So there is both potential and talent but these often mean nothing if people don’t pull it off.

“What Roseanne is very good at is getting stuff done.”

For more information, and for DVD copies of *Banana in a Nutshell* see [www.bananafilm.com](http://www.bananafilm.com)



# On the road

ALUMNUS  
CHRIS BENNETT  
IS GIVING BACK  
TO THE  
UNIVERSITY.



"It is never too early to start estate planning, particularly if your job takes you to the backwaters of developing countries and you are driven by people whose belief in reincarnation is greater than their belief in obeying traffic laws!"

This was the reply Chris Bennett, a senior transport specialist with the World Bank, gave when asked why, at age 47, he had set up a bequest to The University of Auckland.

Jokes aside, Chris says he would not be where he is today without "the training, mentoring and guidance Associate Professor Roger Dunn, head of the School of Engineering's transportation section, gave me during my time at the University and afterwards.

"So I've decided to leave ten percent of my estate to the University's needs-based scholarship fund, as a way of giving something back," he explains.

Born in Toronto, Chris finished his Bachelor of Engineering at McMaster University in 1982 and then deciding he had "had enough winter to last

a lifetime", sold everything he owned and went backpacking through the South Pacific.

"I got to Auckland in May 1983," he recalls, "and was immediately taken with the place – not just the lack of snow – but the values, the pace of life, the range of outdoor activities and the beauty."

After hitchhiking to Wellington and convincing the Immigration Department to issue him a visa, Chris completed an ME at Auckland on the computer modelling of road systems in 1985 and a PhD on the same topic in 1994.

He then worked in India, spent 18 months in Malaysia leading an international road study, and was a research fellow at the University of Birmingham before returning to New Zealand with his wife, Lis, in 1996.

Over the next few years he built up two successful companies dealing in consultancy work and equipment for measuring the pavement deterioration of roads, and also went on assignment for the World Bank and Asian Development Bank to places like Laos, the Philippines and Cambodia.

In 2003, having sold his companies, he joined the World Bank in Washington, and is currently a task team leader supervising major expressway construction in China, where typically projects are worth about NZ \$800 million while a new highway he will begin soon will cost US \$1.3 billion.

As well as building roads, Chris has a great passion for cycling on them. A self-confessed "cycleholic" since he was given his first bicycle at seven years old and had "freedom embellished on my soul", he has completed two trans-American cycling trips: a 6,400km bike ride from San Francisco to Maine to mark his 40th birthday in 2000, and a 4,000km ride along the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route from Canada to Mexico in 2002.

In 2005 he led Chinese officials and World Bank colleagues down the brand new 244 km Xiaoxiang Expressway in Hubei, China, cycling most of it during a tropical storm.

"One advantage to the rain was that it gave me the opportunity to check the road's drainage. After all this was an inspection tour!" he jokes on his website [www.lpcb.org](http://www.lpcb.org), where detailed travelogues of all his cycling trips as well as some World Bank projects can be found.

Chris and his wife own a house in Motueka, which means he returns regularly to New Zealand, and to the School of Engineering where he is on a PhD Advisory Committee.

"He gives advice, assistance and goes out of his way to help," says Roger Dunn of his former pupil. "It's extremely valuable for students to work with someone of his expertise and experience and we'd like to get him here more often."

Above: Chris Bennett (green rain coat) cycling along the Xiaoxiang Expressway in Hubei with Wang Yanghong (yellow coat) from the Hubei Provincial Communications Bureau.



# Doing the maths

In 1938 alumna Jean Heywood completed her schooling at Epsom Girls Grammar and enrolled at The University of Auckland intending to become a secondary school teacher.

Not long into her studies, she discovered that while a lot of women were majoring in French or Latin, there were very few in maths. Equally good at maths and Latin, she decided she had more chance of getting a senior teaching position if she majored in maths.

It proved a good decision and although she didn't become a teacher, Jean has had a fascinating career spanning work for the New Zealand Army during the Second World War, to writing programmes for the government's first computer.

Now retired, she is keen to see girls pursue a career involving maths and has recently set up the Jean Heywood Scholarship, which will provide support for up to three Epsom Girls Grammar students a year to complete an undergraduate qualification at the University with maths or statistics as their major subject.

"This scholarship will encourage our talented young women to give serious consideration to a degree in mathematics and perhaps, postgraduate study," says Principal of Epsom Girls Grammar, Annette Sharp.

Jean completed her MA in Mathematics in 1941 and had plans to go to teachers' college when Japan began bombing in the Pacific and an invasion of New Zealand was threatened. Several male University science students were engaged on war projects with the New Zealand Army so she too offered her services and was employed to work on calculations for coastal defence guns.

"These were old British naval guns, which were originally designed to be fired from ships at sea level but were now mounted on hilltops," she explains. "This meant the angle of the gun barrel depended on both the range to the target and the height of the gun above sea level.

"The School of Engineering had devised and manufactured a mechanism to connect the telescope of the range finder to the handles which controlled the angle of the gun barrel, thus allowing immediate firing when the target appeared in the eyepiece of the telescope. The mechanism included a roller moving on a cam, or curved surface, the coordinates of which were calculated for each gun, at each 100 feet of range up to 12000 feet."

Jean worked on these calculations initially using 7-figure logarithms, and then graduating to a primitive calculating machine called "Brunsviga".

In 1943 she was involved in another aspect of

the war effort when she was employed at the Dominion Physical Testing Laboratory to supervise young women who had registered for war work and were involved in gauge measurement for small arms ammunition.

At the end of the war she joined the Department of Agriculture and found herself in the section that analysed the results of field crop and pasture experiments, carried out using the new statistical method called Student and R A Fisher.

During the next few years the R A Fisher theory developed and in 1956 Jean went to Cambridge University to study mathematical statistics. While there she attended a vacation course on the use of the computer the Mathematics Department had just finished building. Her new skills proved invaluable when, on her return to New Zealand, the government in 1960 purchased its first computer and Jean's section of the Department of Agriculture was given time on it for scientific work.

"My Cambridge experience allowed me to teach my staff to write the programmes we needed which was a godsend as the computing load had become almost impossible using hand methods," she says.

Today Jean keeps an active interest in technology as a tutor with Seniomet; she will soon be involved in the selection of students for the first Jean Heywood Scholarships.

"My maths career took me in interesting directions," she concludes. "I hope the girls who win this scholarship will appreciate what good mathematical knowledge can do for you."

ALUMNA JEAN  
HEYWOOD WANTS  
TO ENCOURAGE  
GIRLS TO PURSUE  
CAREERS IN MATHS  
AND STATISTICS.

Below: In 1943 US First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt (far right) visited the Dominion Physical Laboratory and was shown around by Jean Heywood (then Miller), (pictured middle) with Claire McKinnon (far left).





IMAGE: Igor Meijer

Image courtesy of Rowing New Zealand

# Dream row

TEN YEARS AGO ALUMNUS MAHE DRYSDALE JOINED A NOVICE ROWING TEAM AT THE UNIVERSITY. NOW HE IS THE WORLD'S TOP SINGLES SCULLER.

Mahe was into his second year of a BCom in accounting and commercial law at the Business School in 1997, when he decided it would be fun to attend the inter-university Easter Tournament in Dunedin.

"There was a meeting for anyone who wanted to go to the tournament," he remembers. "All the sports co-ordinators were there and rowing was one of the few sports that had opportunities to go as a complete novice, so I signed up."

Along with seven other students, Mahe was taught the basics of rowing by members of the Westend Rowing Club. After 16 training sessions on the water, the University Eight travelled to Dunedin to compete at the Easter Tournament (now called NZ University Games).

"We did very poorly," chuckles Mahe, who rowed in the sixth seat. "I think we came fourth or fifth and even missed one of our races, but it was a lot of fun."

Friends and family had long suggested that Mahe, who is over two metres tall, could do well at rowing. "But I was always reluctant," he says, "because I saw the commitment and the training and thought it was a bit much for me."

However, after his experience with the University Eight, Mahe accepted an invitation to join a novice team at Westend Rowing Club.

During the next couple of years he completed

his BCom and enrolled in a Graduate Diploma in Commerce (in information and management systems), at the same time rowing for Westend during its season, then joining the University Eight for the annual Easter Tournament.

Eventually the pressure of study and part-time work took its toll and he decided to drop rowing.

That could have been the end of Mahe's sporting career. "But then I saw Rob Waddell [today a mentor] win the single sculls at the 2000 Sydney Olympics and I decided to give rowing another crack."

By March 2001, with his University study completed, Mahe was working as an insolvency accountant at Auckland firm Ferrier Hodgson and rowing regularly.

"I'd only been back on the water four months when I was selected for New Zealand Rowing's development team. Suddenly I thought well maybe I've got some potential here; the selectors had taken me aside and said 'look we're very excited about the prospects that you've got!'"

The rest of Mahe's story is history: by mid-2001 he had left his job to row full-time. By 2004 he was a member of the New Zealand Men's coxless four at the Athens Olympics. Soon after, he switched from the single-oar four to the single scull and within a year had won the world championship in Gifu, Japan, crossing the finish line well ahead of Olympic and world champion Olaf Tufte of Norway.

This year Mahe created history by successfully defending his world title at Eton, England in a dramatic closing sprint, beating Germany's Marcel Hacker in the last two strokes and setting a new world best time.

"Ideally I'd have been right in the thick of things in the first half of the race and in the second half I'd have moved into the lead," he tells *Ingenio* while back in Auckland for three weeks' rest.

Reflecting on a sporting career which for now is ultimately focused towards peaking and winning gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the 27-year-old says he is glad he didn't start rowing until he got to The University of Auckland.

"I think university is a very good place to get into rowing because you're older, more mature and you've only got about eight years until you peak.

"Rowers peak in their late 20s, early 30s and I still feel very young in my rowing days," he explains. "It's quite exciting; I feel like I'm still fresh and ready to go."

He suggests sport has an important role to play within universities.

"Obviously I've been in England a lot and sport is huge in the universities there; rowing is massive at Oxford and Cambridge, and at Harvard and Yale. In New Zealand it's quite poor by comparison.

"Sport is sport," he continues. "It's separate from university study but you learn a lot of good lessons from it, and there's definitely a place for it."

**Hamish Brewer (BA 1998)** was named Virginia Cultural Educator of the Year in the United States for excellence in educating US students about New Zealand culture. One of 38 international-exchange teachers from New Zealand, Hamish was chosen from among more than 1,700 teachers from 55 nations teaching in ten US states.

**David Bryant (BCom 1997)** has taken up the position of general manager, corporate services with Federated Farmers of New Zealand (Inc), based in its Hamilton office. He was previously in Auckland as general manager of the New Zealand operations of Invacare New Zealand.

**Dr Giselle Byrnes (PhD 1995)** is currently in Washington, DC as a Fulbright Visiting Lecturer in New Zealand Studies at Georgetown University's Center for Australian and New Zealand Studies. Giselle will teach an introductory course in New Zealand history, with a focus on race relations. Usually based in Wellington, Giselle is the author of *The Waitangi Tribunal and New Zealand History* and is currently editing *The New Oxford History of New Zealand* to be published in 2008.

**Anthony Ford (LLB 1970)** is the Kingdom of Tonga's new Chief Justice. Previously a senior litigation partner with Bell Gully, Anthony was appointed as a Supreme Court Judge in Tonga in 2000.

**Gill Greer (BA 1964)** has just moved to London to take up a new position as Director General of IPPF – the International Planned Parenthood Federation. Gill was the executive director of the Family Planning Association New Zealand (FPANZ) from 1998 until September 2006; she has been awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to family planning and has been involved in numerous New Zealand government delegations to United Nations sessions.

**Professor Patrick Hanan (BA 1948, MA 1949)** was given an honorary Doctor of Literature from the University in May. After gaining his PhD in Chinese at the University of London in 1960, Patrick taught at London, Stanford and Harvard universities and almost single-handedly pioneered the study of pre-modern vernacular Chinese fiction. He is renowned for his translations of early twentieth century Chinese fiction. His work has also advanced understanding of late imperial Chinese literature and of Li Yu, one of the greatest Chinese story-writers.

**The Very Reverend Helen Jacobi (BA 1983)** is the most senior-ranking woman minister of the New Zealand Anglican Church and is into her third year as Dean at Napier's St John's Cathedral.

**Davi 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.

**Richard Knowles (BMus 1989)** has left his job as

orchestral manager of the BBC Symphony Orchestra and is now the head of the Show Department at London's Royal Albert Hall.

**Dame Joan Metge (BA 1951, MA 1952, DLitt 2001)** was awarded the Asia-Pacific Mediation Forum Peace Prize earlier this year. A renowned New Zealand anthropologist, Dame Joan is particularly well-known as a researcher in Māori communities. She was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire for services to anthropology in 1987, the same year she was awarded the Elsdon Best Memorial Medal from the Polynesian Society.

**Richard Penney (BE (Hons) 1979)** led the team that recently won Shell's Middle East Gold Award for Excellence for work on the world's first full-field steam development of a fractured carbonate oil field. Richard is currently subsurface manager of Petroleum Development Oman's Qam Alam Steam Project.

**Paul Rayner (BFA 1989)** is now a full-time professional artist after more than 20 years in art gallery administration. He was formerly curator of the Sarjeant Gallery in Wanganui and mainly paints in acrylic or oil pastels. More recently he has become interested in ceramics, which he says on his website [www.paulrayner.co.nz](http://www.paulrayner.co.nz) "extend the two-dimensional portraits into the third dimension and are a contemporary update of the English Toby jug tradition".

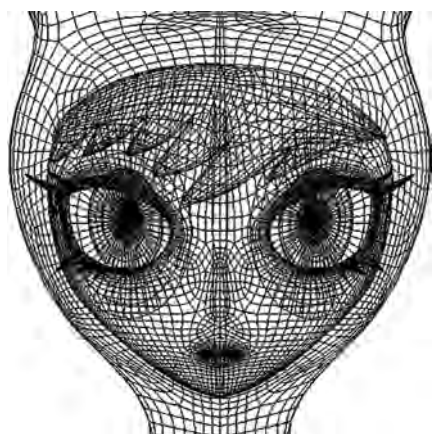
**John Roberts (DipBus 1992)** has been appointed New Zealand country director of Baycorp Advantage, the leading provider in Australasia of credit information and business intelligence services. Previously vice president for international card services at Mastercard International, he spent his career in the communications and marketing sectors before moving to the financial industry.

**Lyn Stevens QC (LLB (Hons) 1970)** has been appointed a Judge of the High Court. Lyn was appointed to the Serious Fraud Office panel of prosecutors in 1990 and became a Queen's Counsel in 1997. He has lectured at the University's Law School throughout his career and was elected to the University Council in 1999 as a Court of Convocation representative. He held the office of Pro-Chancellor from 2001 to 2003. Lyn Stevens's elevation brings the number of Auckland alumni sitting on the High Court as judges to 12 and as associate judges to four.

**David St George (BSc 1997, MBChB 1974)** is the new Auckland District Health Board Group Manager of Quality. David brings 15 years' experience in clinical quality assurance at the Royal Free Hospital in London and Southampton General hospital to the role.

**Graeme Wheeler (MCom 1973)** is one of two recently appointed managing directors of operations for the World Bank. He is a former vice-president and treasurer of the World Bank and before that was treasurer of the New Zealand Debt Management Office and a deputy secretary of the NZ Treasury.

**If you would like your contemporaries to know what you are up to, email the editor [ingenio@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:ingenio@auckland.ac.nz)**



# Cinderella collection enters cyberspace

BY LINDA TYLER

SOON A CONNECTION TO THE INTERNET IS ALL ANYONE WILL NEED TO BE ABLE TO FIND OUT WHAT TREASURES HAVE BEEN HIDDEN AWAY IN THE UNIVERSITY'S ART COLLECTION SINCE 1966.

Thanks to a Lotteries Environment and Heritage funding grant, the Centre for New Zealand Art Research and Discovery now has a searchable database, which lists all the art works as well as their locations on campus.

This was created using Vernon, a specialised art collection management system launched by its designer Bil Vernon in 1985. He had initially developed the software to keep track of artworks at his partner Denis Cohn's dealer gallery in Auckland.

Launched at an International Council of Museums conference in Buenos Aires in 1986, Vernon had the Cincinnati Art Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney as its first clients. There are now hundreds of Vernon users throughout Australasia, the United States and Europe.

Vernon enables curatorial staff to manage acquisitions, loans, condition reports, conservation, insurance and reproduction rights of art works but it also has an export module which means that the University collection – with images of all the works – will soon be available online. A kiosk with touch screen will be set up to permanently display this collection database at the Gus Fisher Gallery in Shortland Street, but the Art Collection will also be accessible everywhere else in the world from the Centre for New Zealand Art Research and Discovery's website. This is not live yet, but to keep track of developments see: [www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/research/centres/cnzard/](http://www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/research/centres/cnzard/)

The Art Collection is well deserving of such attention. It has grown from humble beginnings to become one of the most important public collections of modern New Zealand art. Given a budget of £300 in 1966, the purchasing committee had the wisdom to make its first purchase two works by a member of the Elam School of Fine Arts staff – Colin McCahon.

Forty years on, with gifts, purchases and bequests, the number of works in the collection now numbers in the thousands, with twenty works by McCahon alone. Now the acquisition budget stands at \$50,000, enabling purchases of recent Elam alumni such as Hye Rim Lee and Yuk King Tan, while providing for older works in the collection to be conserved and maintained.

Spread across the Epsom, Grafton, and City campuses, the display of the collection allows staff, students and visitors to experience original works of art first-hand, but their online exhibition will expand this audience exponentially. Significant works by Frances Hodgkins, Toss Woollaston, Ralph Hotere, Robin White and McCahon that have already begun to travel on loan to galleries throughout New Zealand for major exhibitions will become even better known and understood.

The University Art Collection has waited 40 years for this chance to step into the limelight and finally, with the help of the Lotteries Commission as fairy godmother, it can be glamorously clothed, and launched into cyberspace.

Above: From the Art Collection alumna (BFA 2003) Hye Rim Lee's The Birth of TOKI series (from left): Mesh, Patch, Smooth.

## In brief

**The Bookmen's Dominion:**

Cultural life in New Zealand 1920-50, published by Auckland University Press (AUP). Historian and alumnus Chris Hilliard (BA 1994, MA 1997) examines the rise of "bookmen" – scholars, critics, historians and literary lawyers – who were crucial gatekeepers of New Zealand's poetic taste and historical awareness during the years between the two world wars.

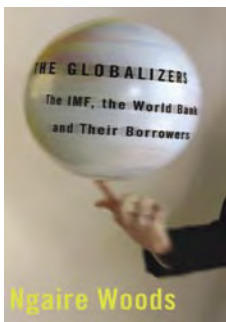
**Noam Chomsky**, published by Reaktion Books Ltd. Alumnus Wolfgang B. Sperlich (BA, 1982, MA 1983, PhD 1994) examines the life and work of renowned US linguist, philosopher, author and political activist, Noam Chomsky.

**Brief Lives**, published by AUP. This is former *Landfall* editor and alumna (BA 1984, MA 1986) Chris Price's second book. It comprises a collection of prose poems, followed by a long essay – all elaborate and inventive variations on a theme, which Chris describes as "a meditation on mortality and the tasks of recording, collection and recollection that we quixotically undertake to stave it off".

**Te Mauri Pakeka**, published by AUP. A richly illustrated history of an innovative cultural education programme, developed by alumnus Arnold Wilson (DipFA, 1954) in the 1970s in Northland.

**Chiefs of Industry: Maori Tribal Enterprise In Early Colonial New Zealand**, published in November 2006, by Auckland University Press. Alumna Hazel Petrie (MA, 1998, PhD 2004) explores the entrepreneurial activity of Māori in the early colonial period, focusing on two industries: coastal shipping and flour-milling.

If you have published a book in the last six months, or will do so early in 2007, email the editor [ingenio@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:ingenio@auckland.ac.nz)



## The Globalizers

The greatest success of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank has been as globalisers. But at whose cost? Would borrowing countries be better off without the IMF and World Bank?

In *The Globalizers: The IMF, the World Bank, and Their Borrowers*, published by Cornell University Press, alumna Dr Ngaire Woods (BA, LLB 1987) takes readers inside these institutions and the governments they work with, brilliantly decoding what they do and why they do it. She traces their impact in the recent economic history of Mexico, of post-Soviet Russia, and in the independent states of Africa. She concludes by proposing a range of reforms that would make the World Bank and the IMF more effective, equitable and just.

Ngaire, who visited The University of Auckland last year on a Hood Fellowship, is the founding director of Oxford University's Global Economic Governance programme (see [www.globaleconomicgovernance.org](http://www.globaleconomicgovernance.org)) Copies of *The Globalizers* can be obtained from [www.inbooks.com.au](http://www.inbooks.com.au)

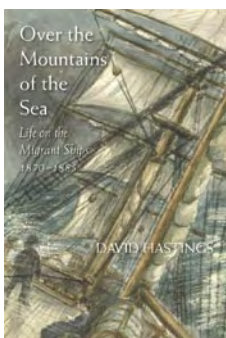


## Breathing matters

Ear, nose and throat specialist and University alumnus Dr Jim Bartley (BHB 1978, MBChB 1981) has joined forces with a world-renowned breathing specialist Tania Clifton-Smith to explain how good breathing patterns can dramatically improve the lives of people with major diseases such as asthma, depression and heart disease.

Published by Random House, *breathing matters: a New Zealand guide* explains scientifically the impact good breathing has on the body as a whole by normalising body biochemistry, reducing muscle pain, helping relaxation, and aiding normal posture and movement. The book also provides practical advice on breathing techniques, posture, self-massage and stretches.

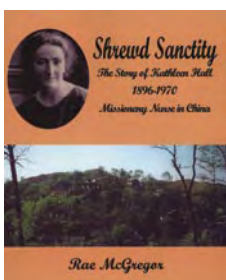
For more information see [www.breathingmatters.com](http://www.breathingmatters.com)



## Over the Mountains of the Sea

Based on the records of 250 voyages and the direct testimony of more than 80 shipboard diaries, this book by the deputy editor of *The New Zealand Herald* and alumnus David Hastings (MA 1999) recreates what life was like on the migrant ships for ordinary people as they crossed from Europe to the "new world".

Published by Auckland University Press, *Mountains of the Sea: Life on Migrant Ships 1878-1885* is generously illustrated with photographs, drawings and magazine sketches. It records daily routines, includes the humour, the scandal, the fights and tensions of being stuck on a small ship in a huge, and sometimes terrifying, ocean and presents sea captains, ships' doctors, the grand and the lowly, children, and single women confined in the so-called "virgins' cage".



## Shrewd Sanctity

In 1988 Rae McGregor joined The University of Auckland's New Start programme. She went on to graduate with an MA in English in 1995 and her first biography *The story of a New Zealand writer: Jane Mander* was published in 1998.

Now in *Shrewd Sanctity: The story of Kathleen Hall 1896-1970 Missionary Nurse in China*, published by Polygraphia Ltd, Rae tracks the life of indomitable missionary nurse Kathleen Hall. Originally from Napier, Kathleen arrived in Beijing in 1923 and spent the next 30 years working in the remote villages of Shanxi province North China where, as well as becoming fluent in the language and forming close friendships with local people, she campaigned for world peace and was involved in clandestine actions during Japan's invasion of China in 1938.

For more on the book and Rae's research trip to China see: [www.freshwordsdaily.com](http://www.freshwordsdaily.com)

# In-flight

Renee Colquhoun checks in to Varsity Toastmasters



"Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking – Captain Toastmaster. Flight from 6pm to 8pmville will now depart the room...." ?

It is a Wednesday night on campus and Varsity Toastmasters is about to take off. It is an unorthodox beginning but something that makes this club different from others of its kind in New Zealand. If the Toastmaster of the evening feels like having an aviation theme for the meeting then that is what they do.

"We don't profess to know everything, more like peer learning rather 'than this is right, this is wrong'," explains club president Hari Kumar, a Bachelor of Commerce alumnus.

Varsity Toastmasters is one of the most active clubs at the University and currently has 35 paid up members. Each week around 20 participate in the meetings as do guests who go along to see how things work.

"I've visited a lot of other Toastmasters clubs but the thing I love about Varsity Toastmasters is the amount of enthusiasm and energy – it's a very fun club to belong to," says Hari.

The meetings are structured so that a range of people are involved each time: there is a Toastmaster, Grammarian, Listening Master and a Timekeeper. Speeches are given and then speakers are given constructive criticism and praise at the end of the meeting.

"It's a very welcoming, supportive and fun atmosphere, you never make a mistake as such because if you do, you just learn from it and carry on," says club member and University Law and Arts alumna Stephanie Beck.

The obvious reason people join is to improve their public speaking, but members are always surprised at how much more they learn. "More than anything it's given me confidence," says Nandita Carvalho, a third-year Biomedical Engineering student. "We have impromptu speeches and it's encouraged me to read more so I don't get thrown in the deep end."

Members are also encouraged to work on their listening skills and are challenged by the Listening Master at the end of the night to see how much they have picked up from the speeches.

"The thing that I find most useful is how to listen carefully and how to give feedback in a way that is constructive and not offensive to people," says computer science PhD alumnus, Jasvir Nagra. "It's a very useful skill that I certainly wasn't expecting to acquire when I started."

Using a range of skills at each meeting has also proved to be a drawcard for new members. Engineering student Hiren Mulchandani has learnt to be multidimensional, to do a bit of acting, impromptu speaking and be prepared, organised and manage his time. He says the club "gives you a chance to break out of your shell".

Varsity Toastmaster members are drawn from all faculties. Some are current students in their first year; some are PhD students, while others are alumni who continue to come to Toastmasters to build on their skills. "It's quite a range in terms of what people are doing and that makes the speakers all really interesting," says Stephanie Beck. "You learn a lot about different things."

The club holds competitions four times a year and the winners in these events go on to represent the club at the area level. Last year Jasvir Nagra raised the club's profile significantly when he won the International Prepared Speech Contest at New Zealand's National Toastmasters Convention and then went on to represent New Zealand at the international competition in Toronto. Attributing his success to the camaraderie and support of Varsity Toastmasters, Jasvir said at the time: "I used to deliver my entire speech to my toes while my hands were flailing about, but the Auckland club is such fun and everyone is so encouraging, it's very easy to learn."

For more information see: <http://www.varsitytm.org>

Above: Club president Hari Kumar.  
Below: Club member Iona Xin Yao.



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Put it there, Brett Gray  
and Robert Martin.



Vero is delighted to have been voted Insurer of the Year for the fourth time in five years. While we're at it, we'd also like to congratulate Brett Gray of Crombie Lockwood Wellington for winning Broker of the Year and Robert Martin of ACM Insurance Group for receiving the IBANZ Broking Industry Service Award.

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how important it is to offer the right products for their customers and to back them up with the best possible service and claims handling. To everyone who voted for us, thank you very much. You can be sure we'll be doing everything we can to be amongst the movers and shakers again next year.

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