GONE FISHING

After almost 50 years shooting photos on campus, Godfrey Boehnke changes focus.

TIME FOR CHANGE
Jade Le Grice: ‘Ongoing colonial oppression of mātauranga Māori around sexual violence is a travesty.’

GAMBLING WITH MISERY
Peter Adams questions why it’s still socially acceptable to fund our kindies with money from pokie machines.

ALL CARE, NOW RESPONSIBILITY
Julia Slark, new Head of the School of Nursing, couldn’t be happier.
PRACTISING WHAT SHE TEACHES
Dr Morag Atchison, who teaches voice at the School of Music, delighted Auckland audiences in June as Berta in the Barber of Seville. A Herald review noted that in a cast dominated by overseas artists, one felt particular pride in Atchison’s performance. “We first thrill to Atchison’s vocal heft when she soars above the first act finale but her own worldly wise aria is a showstopper.” Morag says it’s useful for students to see her practising what she teaches. “To be able see staff performing our craft, to see and hear what they’ve been taught ... or running around like lunatics on stage!”

BIG PRIZE FOR GLOBAL STUDENTS
Global Studies has only been running for two years but already our students are making their mark. In June, Arianna Bacic, Henry Frear and Ishie Sharma won silver in the World’s Challenge Challenge, a competition that asks universities to create unique solutions to global problems. The event was held at Western University in Canada, and the University of Auckland team won $15,000 for creating a carbon-offset loyalty programme, Loyal Trees. The programme promotes ethical purchasing by allowing customers to accrue points to be redeemed for the planting of trees.

THE THING IS A WINNER
A jazz ensemble that emerged out of a Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) research topic, won best jazz album of the year at the Vodafone Tui Awards. GRG67’s album The Thing was born in 2013 after Roger Manins, lecturer at the School of Music, curated a number of compositions for his doctorate and then found the right musicians to bring them to life. In GRG67, Roger plays saxophone alongside jazz graduates Michael Howell (guitar) and Tristan Deck (drums), with Mostyn Cole on bass. Read the full story: tinyurl.com/RogerTheThing

SIX WOMEN, THREE INTERVIEWS
On 28 July 1893, the ‘monster suffrage petition’ saw signatures of almost a quarter of the country’s women presented to Parliament. It led to women gaining the right to vote. The ‘Woman to Woman’ suffrage interviews with alumnae, on YouTube, feature Professor Jennifer Curtin interviewing former Prime Minister Helen Clark; 2018 AUSA president Anna Cusack talking to Law Society President Kathryn Beck; and economics lecturer Dr Asha Sundaram talking to President of the Northern Club, Victoria Carter. See tinyurl.com/SuffrageVideos
NEW FOCUS FOR GODFREY

He’s been behind the lens at the University for close to five decades but now Gottfried Boehnke will be full-time cat wrangler and angler.

A familiar camera-toting character on campus will have the lens turned on him on 2 July. Gottfried Boehnke, known as Godfrey, says farewell to his long-time place of work at a function to mark his retirement.

The staff photographer has been working for the University for almost 50 years. At one point Godfrey lived on campus – his father was the campus custodian in the 1980s and the family lived in a house that used to sit where the Fale is today.

Over the decades, Godfrey has seen staff come and go, adjusted to the change from film to digital, and adapted to the growth in demand for images brought about by the internet.

But he’s not too sure how he will adapt to retirement. “As my father would say, I’m comme si comme ça. I’m a little bit this way, a little bit that way,” he says. “I’m a bit sad and I’m a bit excited. I’m just thinking about what’s going to happen afterwards.

“I’ll miss the people. I made this place my family.”

He doesn’t mind saying that he had hit a very low ebb, suffering from depression in his twenties and even attempting to take his own life, not long before he took on the job at the University.

“After that, I was sitting down to dinner at my then girlfriend’s place, behind the cathedral in Parnell and she said ‘we’ve been going to a prayer meeting, would you like to come?’ I said ‘na’. This is a true story … she and her flatmate went down a staircase but I told her I was going to stay upstairs for a smoke. But I got to the doorway with them – and she was a bit agitated I wasn’t coming as she knew it was going to be good for me.

“And then I just felt this kind of hand on my back. I turned around and there was nothing there … it was pushing me. So I shot into the meeting and gave my life to Christ that night. That was the start of it all.”

With a renewed outlook on life Godfrey, already an accomplished photographer who’d worked in two well-known firms, and had also had a stint in the army, took on the task of becoming a university photographer.

In the early days, everything was shot on film using his Nikon Nikkormat or a Leica, and photos were delivered around departments.

“When I first started here, I actually tried to steer away from portraits and group shots, which wasn’t ideal, but it was because I felt so nervous being up close to all these important professors and people like that.

“But I soon got over it, and now I love those group shots! They’re a big challenge depending on numbers, how tall the people are, if there’s a language barrier … I just love positioning and having that short relationship with them.”

He says one that comes to mind was a photo of around 120 people in Auckland for the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) conference. “I had to shoot them somewhere near where they were heading and security weren’t happy about me taking them any further. I photographed them on the steps of the Business School and the light just happened to be right. If it had been bright sunlight it wouldn’t have worked. That’s one of the biggest challenges of group shots as they often want them taken in a nice, sunny New Zealand spot. But those just don’t always work.”

As well as group shots, he shoots hundreds of portraits a year of staff members, what he affectionately calls the rogues galleries. There have been hundreds of graduations and other events, new buildings and VIPs and, as anyone who has met Godfrey will know, there’s a story to tell for each.

Such as when Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands was here in 1992, with a function at Old Government House (OGH) on 21 March.
My boss Anton wanted me to photograph her and I was excited but was also extremely nervous as I was going to be the only photographer.

“I was clicking away … 30, 35, 40, 50 shots and then came the realisation … hang on! Film cameras only take up to 36 shots! I hadn’t loaded the film properly and she’d already come in.

“So I loaded and continued doing the job the best I could … I think nobody was the wiser that I’d faffed it.”

He says after a while the nerves fell away and were replaced by the real photographic challenges of each shoot.

“They’re always different. Queen Elizabeth II was here and was heading into the ClockTower but while everything else was well organised, there was no one to hold the door open for her.

“So I rushed up to hold the door as she came through but next minute everyone was coming through and I was still holding the door when I was meant to be taking photos!”

He says dealing with security can also be a challenge. Later the same afternoon he ended up being dumped over a barrier on Queen Street for not having the right accreditation to photograph Her Majesty as she did a handshake walk.

Over the years he has mastered a technique he says has served him well.

“You have to develop a cunning plan of trying to get onside with security. Get there early and you know, it’s ‘g’day mate. Do you like fishing?’ or whatever, and get an ‘in’.”

He also has a tactic he says is useful when photographing people who are camera-shy. Some might call them ‘dad jokes’ but he reckons they’re just ice-breakers.

“I just jolly them up with those jokes. And sometimes if I get an inkling beforehand about the fact they are unwilling, I’ll take a few goodies in my bag to share, lollies even doughnuts.”

He doesn’t like talking about “favourite” people he has photographed, although Sir Edmund Hillary is high on the list.
“But I don’t like differentiating between one and another. I genuinely do enjoy working with all people. I get quite sad when they leave.”

Back in the day he used to be a parachutist and so has enjoyed the times in which he’s been able to get up high to take photos.

“I don’t get asked to do aerials any more, maybe because of a lack of funds but I used to do those regularly. I did them in a Cessna – I preferred a Cessna 172 – and took the doors off. For an ex-parachutist, it’s like ‘yeah I’m home!’ I just love it. I was all strapped in so it was perfectly safe. One of my best aerials is of Browns Island.”

He says the reason he doesn’t do aerials now is probably to do with the preferred use of drones these days, but he’s never got the hang of them. “I’m a drone-crasher!” he laughs.

He hasn’t done videography either, preferring to leave that to the experts.

But he is an expert fisherman and hopes to get out on the water more, and to shoot more landscapes, a favourite form of photography.

“When I was up at the University’s Marine Laboratory in Leigh, I found a great spot for a landscape shot of the land and Goat Island – those shots came out well.”

In his first week of retirement, from 5 July, he and his wife Ingrid will take a break to spend some time together. But they won’t be going on holiday because of their family commitments – their cats. “We have about seven cats but only two of them are officially ours. The rest seem to have adopted us from around the neighbourhood. Junior, a big white one for example, isn’t ours but sleeps on the bed.”

Godfrey also knows it’s a good time to get on top of some health issues he’s had over the past few years.

“I have a very caring wife and she’s onto it, but when I’m here at work I don’t often look after myself. I’m hoping to do that a bit more.”

That includes being able to spend more time in nature.

“I like to look at the bush and nature in general, and on campus I’ve spent time in the gardens, seeing what’s budded and what hasn’t. I have folders and folders of photos I’ve filed as ‘campus pretties’. So I’ll just have to do that elsewhere.”

■ Denise Montgomery

---

**BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS**

Angela Yuyi Hu, a third-year Bachelor of Fine Arts student, challenged ideas about housing and home for her winning photo in the Simon Devitt Prize for Photography.

The 2019 theme was ‘House Hunting’, and while most entrants featured interpretations of an architectural structure, Angela’s photo (right) didn’t have a wall or roof in sight. Instead, it raises questions about what constitutes a home, as distinct from a house, and provokes questions about displacement.

Angela says she’s often challenged by the question. “Quite bluntly, I don’t know where I’m from. My ethnicity is Chinese although I spent equal amounts of time in both China and Aotearoa, so that I simultaneously feel like I belong in both and neither.

“My family moved to NZ when I was four, and again when I was 16, and we spent five years in China in between.”

International photographer Simon Devitt says Angela’s image Untitled stood out on first viewing, but kept wowing him each time he looked at it. “It’s unexpected. It’s asking questions about what is a home, whose home, and how welcoming we are of people who decide to make New Zealand their home.

“There are lots of questions around that in the image. The person is having a cup of tea, but Angela is taking the Chinese-cup-of-tea stereotype and twisting it nicely. The shadowing, in the water and around the rocks, evokes the spirit or essence of that land and anchors the person in that land.”

Angela’s identical twin sister Ningyi is also in her third year at Elam. They often collaborate with each other and peers on projects and shows outside of Elam. Both have made works in performance, installation, painting, printing, video et al. “I guess I can speak for Ningyi too, in saying we tend to just use whatever media/medium works best with our idea and that we’re not particularly loyal to any.”

---

Angela Yuyi Hu’s winning photo, and (below) the model from the winning photo with Angela and her twin sister, Ningyi. Below right: 2018 winner Hannah Davey was highly commended this year, with The Big Bad.
The University’s inaugural Volunteer Impact Week ran from 16-22 June with around 500 alumni, staff, students and friends taking part in more than 30 volunteer events in New Zealand and overseas.

Locally, these included helping at the community kitchen at the Auckland City Mission, pitching in at Abilities Group, a social enterprise that provides meaningful green jobs for people with disabilities, ecological restoration and planting native plants at sites all over Auckland.

On day one of the week, around 30 volunteers braved typically Auckland conditions – pouring rain one minute, bright sunshine the next – to help with some scientific research for Dr Julie Anne Hope, a research fellow based at the Institute of Marine Science. Lending a hand were a number of Julie Anne’s colleagues from the Leigh Marine Laboratory.

The volunteers collected sand samples at Little Shoal Bay on the North Shore using quadrants, jars and GPS, many experiencing for the first time how tough it can be for researchers doing field work. The samples will be examined by Julie Anne as part of her project “Microphytes and Microplastics”, looking at the effects of microplastics on Auckland’s coastlines. While there didn’t appear to be too much plastic on that particular beach, around 80 percent of plastic pollution is unseen. “Unfortunately microplastics are found in almost every sediment sample we have processed to date from the Waitemata,” says Julie Anne.

“They have also been found in sediments in remote areas of Antarctica and the Arctic where larger plastic debris is absent, so this is not too surprising.”

Julie Anne’s group has sampled 23 sites across Auckland and she says results should be out soon.

PLASTIC-FREE JULY

Staying with the theme of plastics, the University’s Sustainability Office is helping to promote Plastic-Free July, an international initiative. This ties in with the University’s efforts to eliminate single-use products and packaging and our over-arching waste-conscious campaign.

Plastic-Free July will feature profiles on the intranet and Yammer of staff members who have come up with ingenious tips for preventing and reducing waste to landfill.

You can get other ideas for Plastic-Free July at the global website plasticfreejuly.org

The University’s second national Sustainable Development Goals Summit is on 2 September, and is a joint initiative between the University and AUT. It features panels and planning sessions bringing together people from many sectors, including local and central government, to commit to positive action on the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The aim is to improve knowledge and give people skills and tools to act and influence. One of the organisers is Dr Lesley Stone, manager of the University’s Sustainability Office. “These days people are definitely more aware of the SDG goals. The University has an expert working group on sustainability. And we have around 1,300 research active staff whose topics are of relevance to one or more SDG, and more than 900 directly relevant courses.”

The event is being held in the Sir Owen G Glenn building and early bird registrations close 19 July (there are big savings through getting in early). See sdgsummit2019.org

If there was a medical instrument to measure passion for the nursing profession, Dr Julia Slark would be off the chart.

The new Head of the School of Nursing takes up the role on 15 July, following the resignation of Professor Sandy McCarthy, who was in the job for two years.

Julia has been here for six and a half years, moving to New Zealand from London and taking a Professional Teaching Fellow role for six months. She then became a senior lecturer and academic director of the Bachelor of Nursing Programme about a year later. Four years on, she was Deputy Head and now she will lead the school.

She can’t mask her happiness to have won the role and is also delighted to be living in Auckland.

“It’s magnificent. The coat that I used to wear in England for six months a year, I wear for about a fortnight in Auckland. I love it here.”

She will be taking a week’s break before hitting the ground running, to build on the School’s momentum developed in recent years. In the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) rankings, the School of Nursing jumped from 41 to 36.

“The way that QS ranking works is they look at the size of the school as well as the research and impact outputs,” says Julia. “We’ve got some amazing researchers, and did really well in the PBRF too. We’re on fire. I’m very proud.”

The School of Nursing is well-known for its postgraduate offerings – it’s the biggest in New Zealand with around 3,000 students undertaking post-graduate study each year. Its undergraduate intake is 100 a year, including five internationals, selected from around 1,400 applicants.

In recent weeks the School has been audited by the Nursing Council for the bachelors and masters of nursing degrees. It’s an important part of adopting a high-quality level of training rather than a bums-on-seats approach.

“Having the Nursing Council here was such an opportunity for the school to shine … to talk about the amazing teaching and learning that goes on here. It’s all about how we prepare future nurses for clinical practice to be a registered nurse. It was just brilliant.”

Julia’s own nursing expertise is in stroke prevention and she was a stroke nurse consultant at London’s Imperial College NHS Trust. A key focus of that was creating awareness of the
Denise Montgomery

Care and collaboration: Dr Julia Slark aims to build on the good reputation of New Zealand nurses.

One of her other wishes is to increase our international significance and attract more students here to do their masters and doctorates. “The School of Nursing is number 36 in the world already. But we have real potential to grow … New Zealand nurses have such a good global reputation.”

From the moment she arrived at the University she also recognised the importance of collaboration. “I got in touch with Professor Alan Barber, a neurologist and stroke specialist, and Professor Cathy Stinear, director of the Brain Research Centre, and told them about my experience as a stroke consultant. We’ve got Dr Joanna Black who’s an optometrist, Dr Clare McCann is a speech language therapist and together we can do more research, and hopefully get more HRC grants. I love that way of collaborating.

“There are opportunities for us to do more joint research projects within the faculty too. We’re moving more towards working with our clinical partners on research projects … I think that really is the future.”

She says as far as Māori and Pacific nursing students go, the department works closely with MAPAS (the Māori and Pacific Admission Scheme) and is aiming to build on the 14 Māori third-year students it has this year. “We have some amazing Māori and Pacific clinical nurse directors out there so it’s a matter of seeing where the gaps are.”

Her own career trajectory saw her come to postgraduate study after nursing for many years. She started her training at Charing Cross Hospital when she was 17. By the time she was 30 she was a clinical nurse specialist doing her masters, and ten years later got her doctorate.

One of her other wishes is to increase our international significance and attract more students here to do their masters and doctorates. “The School of Nursing is number 36 in the world already. But we have real potential to grow … New Zealand nurses have such a good global reputation.”

From the moment she arrived at the University she also recognised the importance of collaboration. “I got in touch with Professor Alan Barber, a neurologist and stroke specialist, and Professor Cathy Stinear, director of the Brain Research Centre, and told them about my experience as a stroke consultant. We’ve got Dr Joanna Black who’s an optometrist, Dr Clare McCann is a speech language therapist and together we can do more research, and hopefully get more HRC grants. I love that way of collaborating.

“There are opportunities for us to do more joint research projects within the faculty too. We’re moving more towards working with our clinical partners on research projects … I think that really is the future.”

She says as far as Māori and Pacific nursing students go, the department works closely with MAPAS (the Māori and Pacific Admission Scheme) and is aiming to build on the 14 Māori third-year students it has this year. “We have some amazing Māori and Pacific clinical nurse directors out there so it’s a matter of seeing where the gaps are.”

Her own career trajectory saw her come to postgraduate study after nursing for many years. She started her training at Charing Cross Hospital when she was 17. By the time she was 30 she was a clinical nurse specialist doing her masters, and ten years later got her doctorate.

One of her other wishes is to increase our international significance and attract more students here to do their masters and doctorates. “The School of Nursing is number 36 in the world already. But we have real potential to grow … New Zealand nurses have such a good global reputation.”

From the moment she arrived at the University she also recognised the importance of collaboration. “I got in touch with Professor Alan Barber, a neurologist and stroke specialist, and Professor Cathy Stinear, director of the Brain Research Centre, and told them about my experience as a stroke consultant. We’ve got Dr Joanna Black who’s an optometrist, Dr Clare McCann is a speech language therapist and together we can do more research, and hopefully get more HRC grants. I love that way of collaborating.

“There are opportunities for us to do more joint research projects within the faculty too. We’re moving more towards working with our clinical partners on research projects … I think that really is the future.”

She says as far as Māori and Pacific nursing students go, the department works closely with MAPAS (the Māori and Pacific Admission Scheme) and is aiming to build on the 14 Māori third-year students it has this year. “We have some amazing Māori and Pacific clinical nurse directors out there so it’s a matter of seeing where the gaps are.”

Her own career trajectory saw her come to postgraduate study after nursing for many years. She started her training at Charing Cross Hospital when she was 17. By the time she was 30 she was a clinical nurse specialist doing her masters, and ten years later got her doctorate.

One of her other wishes is to increase our international significance and attract more students here to do their masters and doctorates. “The School of Nursing is number 36 in the world already. But we have real potential to grow … New Zealand nurses have such a good global reputation.”

From the moment she arrived at the University she also recognised the importance of collaboration. “I got in touch with Professor Alan Barber, a neurologist and stroke specialist, and Professor Cathy Stinear, director of the Brain Research Centre, and told them about my experience as a stroke consultant. We’ve got Dr Joanna Black who’s an optometrist, Dr Clare McCann is a speech language therapist and together we can do more research, and hopefully get more HRC grants. I love that way of collaborating.

“There are opportunities for us to do more joint research projects within the faculty too. We’re moving more towards working with our clinical partners on research projects … I think that really is the future.”

She says as far as Māori and Pacific nursing students go, the department works closely with MAPAS (the Māori and Pacific Admission Scheme) and is aiming to build on the 14 Māori third-year students it has this year. “We have some amazing Māori and Pacific clinical nurse directors out there so it’s a matter of seeing where the gaps are.”

Her own career trajectory saw her come to postgraduate study after nursing for many years. She started her training at Charing Cross Hospital when she was 17. By the time she was 30 she was a clinical nurse specialist doing her masters, and ten years later got her doctorate.

One of her other wishes is to increase our international significance and attract more students here to do their masters and doctorates. “The School of Nursing is number 36 in the world already. But we have real potential to grow … New Zealand nurses have such a good global reputation.”

From the moment she arrived at the University she also recognised the importance of collaboration. “I got in touch with Professor Alan Barber, a neurologist and stroke specialist, and Professor Cathy Stinear, director of the Brain Research Centre, and told them about my experience as a stroke consultant. We’ve got Dr Joanna Black who’s an optometrist, Dr Clare McCann is a speech language therapist and together we can do more research, and hopefully get more HRC grants. I love that way of collaborating.

“There are opportunities for us to do more joint research projects within the faculty too. We’re moving more towards working with our clinical partners on research projects … I think that really is the future.”

She says as far as Māori and Pacific nursing students go, the department works closely with MAPAS (the Māori and Pacific Admission Scheme) and is aiming to build on the 14 Māori third-year students it has this year. “We have some amazing Māori and Pacific clinical nurse directors out there so it’s a matter of seeing where the gaps are.”

Her own career trajectory saw her come to postgraduate study after nursing for many years. She started her training at Charing Cross Hospital when she was 17. By the time she was 30 she was a clinical nurse specialist doing her masters, and ten years later got her doctorate.

One of her other wishes is to increase our international significance and attract more students here to do their masters and doctorates. “The School of Nursing is number 36 in the world already. But we have real potential to grow … New Zealand nurses have such a good global reputation.”

From the moment she arrived at the University she also recognised the importance of collaboration. “I got in touch with Professor Alan Barber, a neurologist and stroke specialist, and Professor Cathy Stinear, director of the Brain Research Centre, and told them about my experience as a stroke consultant. We’ve got Dr Joanna Black who’s an optometrist, Dr Clare McCann is a speech language therapist and together we can do more research, and hopefully get more HRC grants. I love that way of collaborating.

“There are opportunities for us to do more joint research projects within the faculty too. We’re moving more towards working with our clinical partners on research projects … I think that really is the future.”

She says as far as Māori and Pacific nursing students go, the department works closely with MAPAS (the Māori and Pacific Admission Scheme) and is aiming to build on the 14 Māori third-year students it has this year. “We have some amazing Māori and Pacific clinical nurse directors out there so it’s a matter of seeing where the gaps are.”

Her own career trajectory saw her come to postgraduate study after nursing for many years. She started her training at Charing Cross Hospital when she was 17. By the time she was 30 she was a clinical nurse specialist doing her masters, and ten years later got her doctorate.
A new technology developed by researchers at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI) allows the hearing impaired to watch a movie at whatever cinema they like, and never miss a line of dialogue.

The device, called the Vivify headset, uses augmented reality to project subtitles below the cinema screen. A commercial trial of the headset is being run through Event cinemas in Newmarket. The technology was developed by Marco Schneider and Tony Tse when they were both doing their doctorates at ABI. The idea came out of a late-night conversation, when they were planning to watch a movie. Tony, who is hearing impaired, said he wished more movies came with subtitles. Their idea went on to win the Velocity Challenge in 2015 and they used the prize money to develop a prototype. The pair established a start-up company, Vivify, in 2017. The prototype has customised regular headsets but they plan to build bespoke ones that are aesthetically pleasing and lighter. (Read more at tinyurl.com/VivifyStoryUoA)

Staying with the senses, Dr Jason Turuwhenua, a Senior Research Fellow at the School of Optometry and Vision Science, is part of a team working on a new computer camera device that detects whether children as young as two years old have normal eye-tracking motion. A prototype has been developed for international trials with the final product hopefully available in two years. The project received nearly $1 million in funding by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment in 2015 and has since achieved gold status because of its substantial impact on improving the future for children.

A survey of more than 19,000 people on attitudes to abortion, extracted from the 20-year New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study (NZAVS), has found widespread support for legal abortion.

The findings, through analysis by School of Psychology PhD researcher Yanshu Huang (pictured right), appear in the New Zealand Medical Journal. The research used the seven-point Likert scale to find out how strongly people agreed or disagreed on the issue of legal abortion, both for any reason and when a woman’s life was in danger. The study also examined whether attitudes differed across demographic groups such as older people, people of Māori or Asian descent and those from economically deprived areas. There was very little difference among these demographics when the woman’s life was in danger, with just over 89 percent of people surveyed expressing support. Support for legal abortion under any circumstance was slightly weaker but still high, with 65.6 percent of those surveyed saying they agreed or strongly agreed with a woman’s right to choose. But a comparison between different groups found support for abortion, regardless of reason, was weaker among men, older people, those who identified with a religion and people from economically deprived areas. People with a higher number of children and people of Asian descent (relative to NZ Europeans) also expressed less support for abortion, regardless of the reason. Māori showed relatively high levels of support for legal abortion regardless of circumstance and there was no difference in levels of support between people of Pacific descent and those identifying as European/pākehā.

Abortion is currently only legal under specific circumstances in New Zealand such as pregnancy that poses a serious risk to life or health, including mental health. In these instances, a woman must seek approval from two certifying consultants. Outside of these situations, abortion is considered a crime under the Crimes Act 1961. Professor Chris Sibley and Associate Professor Danny Osborne are co-authors on the New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study. Read more at nzavs.auckland.ac.nz.

Research Fellow Dr Lisa Hamm, School of Optometry and Vision Science, recently returned from a place close to her heart.

She received an International Central Network and Partnership Grant that allowed her to visit Uganda where she worked with the Klimanjanro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) and its ophthalmologist specialists. She then headed to the University of Capetown to meet with KCCO directors about the programmes they run to help diagnose and treat children with avoidable causes of blindness and vision impairment, such as cataracts. In the past, Lisa had volunteered with KCCO. “That experience ultimately led me to do a PhD about visual deprivation due to childhood cataract here,” says Lisa (below right). “It was incredibly rewarding to be able to go back to the organisation that inspired me so much.”
PROFITING FROM OTHERS’ MISERY

If you’re addicted to free stuff, these lunchtime events are for you. The Winter Lecture series runs for six weeks from 3 July, every Wednesday at 12.30pm.

This year’s theme is ‘Addiction in the Changing World of Dangerous Consumptions’ and each lecture provides an opportunity for informed debate led by experts from the University of Auckland, AUT and Massey.

The second lecture in the series (see right for all subjects, participants and dates) is entitled ‘Pokies fund my kindy: New Zealand’s reliance on gambling’. It’s being presented by Professor Peter Adams from the School of Population Health, who is associate director of the Centre for Addiction Research.

Peter says around a quarter of community sector funding in New Zealand comes from gambling and goes to schools, charities, sports organisations, cultural activities and health services.

“What’s problematic is that a big proportion, as high as half, is coming from people with issues with gambling,” says Peter. “We have built a long-term relationship with a sector that gets its money from people who have problems. Our ‘fun’ is reliant on sources that cause serious harm.”

He says this reliance on funding from gambling sources such as slot machines, or pokies as they are known, took off in the 1990s.

“First we had the kind of benign fundraiser – bingo, houseie nights, raffles, that kind of thing. But once we commercialised gaming, with pokies and casinos and Lotto, it moved to a high volume that maximises the amount you make out of people with problems.

“It’s now industrialised, and very different to 30 years ago when it was a cottage industry.”

He says the way pokie rooms are set up, and their location in lower socio-economic areas, is intended to maximise profit.

“They’ve created these small rooms, usually attached to a bar and TAB. There’s no space for socialising, you’re just looking at a screen and they’re ideally suited to be anonymous and solitary.

“They’re designed to maximise the yield from people with problems.”

He says what’s required is an awakening by society to the relationship between income generated by the pokies and misery.

“If people thought about the consumption of profits a bit more, maybe they’d be less inclined to take money from these sources. It requires a change of mindset.”

An example of a similar change in thinking was seen recently when a Gull service station owner decided he “didn’t really want to be profiting from other people’s misery” and so made the decision not to sell cigarettes.

Peter says a change in funding model is needed for our kindies, sports clubs and the like.

“Maybe for a while we could have fun using less money from gambling, knowing that we are not reliant on people’s misery.”

He says Norway took an innovative approach to the pokie revenue cycle by banning all electronic gaming machines in 2007.

“They closed down the pokies for two years and when they brought them back, they were less potent and under the sole control of the government,” he says. “They were configured to make them less harmful – with mandatory breaks, lower bets and lower prizes.”

They also placed the machines in more social settings rather than in dingy, solitary situations.

Peter says this is important. “The closest match to a room like our gaming machine rooms is a urinal – dark, no eye contact, not a lot of talk.”

Peter’s lecture will be a thought-provoking discussion on changing society’s acceptance of gambling money as a fundraising option.
An exhibition opening on 6 July at the Gus Fisher Gallery addresses the urgent issue of plastic pollution in our oceans.

It’s timely, happening in the same month as Plastic-Free July (plasticfreejuly.org), a global movement that encourages people to choose to refuse single-use plastics for the month.

Julia Craig, the Public Programmes and Engagement Officer for Gus Fisher Gallery, says the gallery team is committed to living plastic-free for the month. “We will also be hosting public workshops to show people how they can become waste-free at home and at work.”

The Slipping Away kick-starts a discussion around the value of moana to our lives. For the exhibition opening, there will be a hīkoi on 6 July led by Graham Tipene and University of Auckland kaiarataki Michael Steedman (Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei) followed by a hāngī in the Gallery.

The Slipping Away will be located on the shoreline of Tāmaki Makaurau and has been conceived as an immersive experience, taking visitors on a journey above and below the ocean through film interpretations of the deep sea and installations of the water from above.

The exhibition features a large-scale light-based installation by artist Bill Culbert, who passed away this year, called Pacific Flotsam (2007). It was the centrepiece of Bill’s presentation for the New Zealand Pavilion at the 55th Venice Biennale in 2013. Pacific Flotsam’s inclusion brings renewed attention to the wider references of Bill’s installations and the environmental issues so prescient in his work. Pacific Flotsam will fill the Gallery’s largest space, creating a visually immersive environment, and is a great way to remember the artist as well as convey an important message.

Accompanying that is a seminal work by Copenhagen-based artist group Superflex, called Flooded McDonald’s (2009). The mesmerising film shows a life-size replica of McDonald’s as it floods over 20 minutes. With used coffee cups and burger wrappers swept beneath the torrent, Flooded McDonald’s is a reminder of the impact of Western corporations on the health of oceans.

The Slipping Away
Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland Street
6 July – 7 September, free entry
Exhibition launch 6 July 4pm–6pm
4pm | Hīkoi from Michael Parekowhai’s The Lighthouse, Queens Wharf led by Graham Tipene (Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei).
5pm | Ian Wedde remembers Bill Culbert
Just after 5pm | Hāngī served at Gus Fisher Gallery
4pm–6pm | Exhibition open to public

ART & CULTURE

BOOKS

Stardust: We Share the Same Sky
A children’s book by Ivana Milinac, research programme co-ordinator in the Faculty of Science, was borne out of research she conducted on parents in prison and how their imprisonment affects their children. “I started writing Stardust in 2016 after I completed my masters in criminology,” says Ivana. “The inspiration came long before, but I knew I wanted to do research before writing the book. Stardust has been shaped by the beautiful and hard stories I was privileged to listen to from parents, caregivers, children and people working in frontline roles with prisoners’ children.”

The story is about a young girl whose mum lives far away, and is aimed at seven- to ten-year olds. The girl receives a letter with a magic gift that allows her to feel more connected to her mum through imagination. Copies of the book will be donated to frontline agencies working with prisoners’ children. Mary Egan Publishing, RRP $20

A Communist in the Family: Searching for Rewi Alley
Alumna Elspeth Sandys (ONZM) has created a multi-layered narrative about New Zealander Rewi Alley and his part in the momentous political events of mid-20th-century China. Part-biography, part-travel journal, part-literary commentary, it brings together Alley’s story and that of his author cousin, Elspeth. Otago University Press, RRP $40

Funny As: The Story of New Zealand Comedy
Philip Matthews and Paul Horan capture the history of New Zealand’s funny men and women from the Topp Twins to Billy T. James, and John Clarke to Flight of the Conchords. Auckland University Press, RRP $49.99

Dragonflies and Damselflies of New Zealand
Milen Morinov and Mike Ashbee reckon dragonflies and damselflies are among the most spectacular organisms on the planet. This is a natural history and field guide to New Zealand’s 14 species of dragonflies and damselflies. Auckland University Press, $49.99

A Careful Revolution
The potential long-term cost of climate change is incalculable. But how do we manage the short-term costs of mitigation? This book makes the case for a careful revolution and provides tools to prepare us for change. Contributors include alumni Sam Huggard, Kya Lal, Amelia Sharman and Matt Whineray. David Hall (ed), BWB Texts, RRP $14.99

Seaweeds of Auckland
Mike Wilcox’s 421-page hardback explores the seaweed flora of Auckland’s coastline. It includes a compendium of species, cataloguing the biodiversity of Auckland’s seaweeds, with photos. Proceeds from its sale go to the Auckland Botanical Society’s Lucy Cranwell Student Grant to support botanical research. Auckland Botanical Society, $150 Available at Ubiq or via email through aucklandbotanicalsociety@gmail.com
There are several reasons this book caught my attention. As a former student of Biblical Hebrew and religious history (the focus of my MA and doctoral studies), I was keen to see if I could still translate some of the text; unfortunately this was not entirely successful. My former professor would be appalled. I was also fascinated by its 75 woodcut illustrations and rhyming captions. The annotations, including a pencil inscription for a Rev G. Watkins added at later date, May 1866, added another layer of interest.

The work also represents a unique resource for effective object-based learning (OBL). It is a testament to the art of printing and bookbinding. It represents debates between Spanish Jews in the 13th century, with scholars such as Sahula using such works to highlight the merits of Hebrew as a literary language.

It is also an example of religious scholarship and is a discussion point for art, linguistics, ethnicity and even New Zealand social history. By exploring the biography of this object, students experience the layers of its past, present and possible futures. This is the essence of OBL: developing subject-specific knowledge, observational skills and critical thinking through a tactile experience that can be personal and meaningful.

Object-based learning presents a significant opportunity for students to engage with archives and collections in exciting ways, building understanding of different cultures, eras and ideas. Special Collections is keen to facilitate OBL sessions in collaboration with academic staff. Meanwhile, I’ll be brushing up on my Hebrew.

Treasure in the Proverbial

‘When you read, you begin with A, B, C …’ Unless you are reading Hebrew, in which case you begin with Aleph, Bet, Gimmel.

When I started as Special Collections team leader in April, I was awed by the extent of material in our Published and Manuscripts and Archives collections. I have familiarised myself with just a fraction of what’s available. While exploring the Glass Case rare books collection, I came across a circa 1692 Frankfurt edition of the 13th-century work, Sefer Meshal ha-Kadmoni. The title translates as ‘Book of the Proverb of the Ancients’. This leather-bound book contains a collection of parables, stories and tales in sections, each one addressing a different subject: wisdom, repentance, good counsel, humility and reverence. Written by the scholar Isaac Ibn Sahula, Meshal ha-Kadmoni was intended to displace the light Arabic literature, such as Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor, which was read extensively by Iberian Jews. Sahula imitated those books in structure and presentation, but gave the book a more scholarly, serious tone through his biblical and rabbinic references.

Dr Nigel Bond, Special Collections team leader, Cultural Collections, Te Tumu Herenga, Libraries and Learning Services
Sexual violence has long been an under-reported issue in Western communities, with social norms and discourses creating difficult contexts for victims and survivors to be heard, recognised and supported in their recovery.

But in recent times, narratives of sexual violence have gained greater social visibility and recognition within the cultural milieu of #metoo, which has challenged the permmissibility of sexual violence. In opening up narratives, some stories become more familiar and have led to a new form of common sense about what sexual violence is and the variety of ways it can conceivably happen and to whom. Particular kinds of scripts create perceptions of what a ‘victim’ or ‘perpetrator’ can be like, with some definitions favoured over others. These overlay existing beliefs about gender, race and class to reducing sexual violence are crucial, and there are key factors in indigenous sexual violence prevention initiatives. Indigenous-led approaches are key factors in indigenous sexual violence prevention that draws upon and facilitates the intelligence of our ancestors, of our past practice and ways of being that safeguarded whānau and communities from sexual violence.

I am researching with, and for, people I have whakapapa connections to – and have listened to the stories of my people. I have cried, I have laughed and I have listened. I have heard stories about the nuanced issues affecting them, and deconstructing colonial incursions, alongside their potential solutions.

That provided pūrākau (narratives) of tūrehu and atua (spirits), and contexts of meaning that rendered sexual violence a transgression that warranted consequences, and on which people felt a duty of care to act. These were contexts in which victims were not blamed and where Māori communities had agency to address issues, develop solutions and put in place strategies to advance the wellbeing of every person.

Speaking to these passionate whānau, who work at the grassroots in remote rural areas, I have been in awe of how much they give. Often working for free, or underpaid, in highly restrained contexts, the drive to support their community is at the forefront of their mahi aroha. But it is work that occurs in tension with colonial barriers to mātauranga Māori. It also requires major advocacy to retain and improve on the meagre funding received. Colonial processes remain that deny Māori rangatiratanga (agency and leadership) and utilisation of Māori models in practice, even in areas with predominantly Māori populations. These whānau sustain community survival, equipped with mātauranga Māori and teachings of their ancestors, yet are constantly let down by the limitations of bureaucratic systems.

There is a clear opportunity to delve into the practices and processes that actively silence indigenous people affected by sexual violence. Validating mātauranga Māori, remaining responsive to indigenous psychologies and ways of being, and deconstructing colonial incursions, are key factors in indigenous sexual violence prevention initiatives. Indigenous-led approaches to reducing sexual violence are crucial, and there is huge potential within all Māori communities to speak about the nuanced issues affecting them, alongside their potential solutions.