

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

news

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Left to right are Foreign Affairs Minister Winston Peters, President of Peking University Professor Xu Zhihong, and Professor Stuart McCutcheon.

New Zealand Centre launched

The 21st of May was an historic day for the University and for New Zealand.

Red banners welcomed guests in Chinese and English to the ceremony that officially launched the New Zealand Centre at Peking University in Beijing.

The Centre, a combined initiative of The University of Auckland and Peking University, will promote the study of New Zealand in China and will strengthen ties between the two countries, combining an academic and teaching role with a policy development function.

It will offer an undergraduate elective course on New Zealand, promote scholarly exchanges and undertake special projects to enhance understanding between New Zealand and China. It will be open to all universities in New Zealand, and will provide a forum for discussing such issues as the Free Trade Agreement, economic transformation and technology transfer.

The Centre is housed in a traditional building beside the beautiful Weimin Lake in the grounds of Peking University, where some other international studies centres will also be located.

Speakers at the launch were Professor Xu Zhihong, President of Peking University; the Rt Hon Winston Peters, New Zealand Minister of Foreign Affairs; Professor Stuart McCutcheon, University of Auckland Vice-Chancellor; and HE Chen Mingming, former Chinese Ambassador to New Zealand and now Director General of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Among those attending were New Zealand government officials from the Ministries of Foreign

Affairs and Trade; Economic Development; Research, Science and Technology; and Education – along with senior staff from The University of Auckland and Peking University, and representatives from Victoria University of Wellington and from Massey University.

Stuart McCutcheon, in speaking of the Centre as “an appropriate symbol of 35 years of diplomatic relations between our countries”, said the University is strongly committed to engagement with China. He sees the relationship between the two universities as a long-term partnership with the potential to benefit both countries.

Professor Yongjin Zhang, Director of the New Zealand Asia Institute, said the welcome the New Zealanders received was wonderfully warm.

“To experience the enthusiasm of students and staff was quite extraordinary,” he said. “The 300 students who attended were from a number of different disciplines, including languages, history, geography, medicine and engineering, but all showed a great interest in New Zealand.”

The atmosphere was welcoming and vibrant, he said, and Winston Peters’ speech and manner won appreciation.

In a letter offering warm congratulations, President Lu Yongxiang, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress and President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, wrote: “The opening of the New Zealand Centre at Peking University is another valuable step in consolidating long-term relationships between our two countries in all disciplines, and between academia, government and business”.

Key events

Write from the start

Ways to get masters and doctoral students writing from the start will be the subject of a seminar on 12 June. The literature suggests that early writing is associated with good progress and timely completion. In addition, the new provisional-year requirements for doctoral students at the University now include a substantial piece of writing over and above the full proposal. The seminar, tutored by Dr Barbara Grant and Dr Frances Kelly, will be held in the Centre for Academic Development seminar room, 5th floor, 76 Symonds Street, 3.30-5pm. Guest speakers are Dr Kevin Sowerby (Electrical and Computer Engineering) and Associate Professor Mike Hanne (European Languages and Literatures).

Links matter

At the School of Theology public lecture to be held at the Law School on 18 June, Professor Amy-Jill Levine, a scholar in New Testament Studies from Vanderbilt University Divinity School, will speak on “Jesus and Judaism: Why the connection matters”. Professor Levine’s recent publications include *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus* and *The Historical Jesus in Context*. The lecture will be at LawSmall, Law Building, 9-17 Eden Crescent, 6-7.30pm. RSVP School of Theology, 3737599, ext 86676.

Advance along with eResearch

Here’s the chance to learn about latest developments in eResearch from nine international experts presenting across a range of disciplines. This is the first Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network (KAREN) event, to be held in the basement lecture theatres in the University Library Building on 2-5 July. Forum sessions will include development strategies for eResearch, New Zealand and international case studies, and knowledge-sharing and networking among those involved in eResearch. See www.karen.net.nz/forum-programme/

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From the Vice-Chancellor

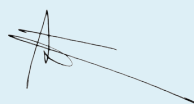
Attracting and retaining talented people, and creating an environment that fosters their development, is an important aspect of the University's strategy and one that requires us to understand what our staff value. With this knowledge in hand we will be able to prioritise and develop new initiatives that will enhance the professional development of staff, refine those initiatives that are already contributing to our success and track our progress over time.

It is for these reasons that I have agreed to a proposal that we undertake a Pilot Staff Survey from 9-27 July with staff offered the opportunity to complete the survey online during this period. The survey results will be reported back to all staff via a variety of mediums during September and October, followed by action planning at the University level to address those areas where improvements are needed.

The survey will be conducted by ISR, who were selected because of their recognised expertise in this field, and because of their ability to benchmark our performance against that of similar organisations around the world, including several universities, and research organisations such as CSIRO in Australia. The use of an outside firm also ensures objectivity and anonymity in the conduct of the survey.

Over the last few weeks, members of the Human Resources section who are responsible for the administration of the survey process have been consulting with a number of key stakeholders and staff representatives in the University to ensure that the survey design covers current concerns and issues that are important for staff and for the University as a whole. Survey Network Representatives from the faculties and service divisions have also been nominated and will play a critical role in testing the survey and ensuring the roll-out is successful.

I encourage all staff to participate in the survey process, further details of which will be provided shortly, and thank those of you who have already given your time to this important project.



Teaching prowess celebrated

The University's Teaching Excellence Awards for 2006 were presented at the Autumn Graduation.

On these pages are photos of the recipients of the awards, with extracts from the citations read at the presentations.

A notable absentee was Professor Michael Corballis (Psychology), who was overseas and unable to attend the ceremony. Michael will be presented with his award at this year's Spring Graduation.

Collaboration in Teaching Award 2006



From second left are Dr Diane Brand, Dr Deidre Brown and Dr Rosangelo Tenorio from the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries, who received this award. They are seen here with Chancellor, Hugh Fletcher (left).

In congratulating the three staff members on their achievement, Sarosh Mullais said: "These three teachers are receiving an award for their teaching in the architectural design studio and, in particular, in three projects: Alternative Living, Favela Edges and Ocean Studio.

"In the mid 1990s Dr Brand explored the potential of cross-cultural studio projects. She developed her teaching so that it drew upon the rich diversity of students' cultural backgrounds in relationship to their architectural projects. Drs Brown and Tenorio extended this approach by adding a cross-

disciplinary and a cross-cultural dimension...

"All the studios were characterised by their acknowledgement of the cultural diversity in the student body as a particular strength. Drs Brand, Brown and Tenorio saw our differences as enriching and beneficial, and they provided a forum in which we could effectively increase our understanding of the Pacific world.

"...In 2006, the Australasian National Visiting Panel, which accredits professional programmes in Architecture, identified their collaboration as exceptional....".

Early Career Excellence in Teaching

"[Dr Rachel Brewster's] ... flair for teaching is demonstrated in the way she delivers the course material....", said Natalie Woo.

"I admired and appreciated her creativity in using simple and inventive examples, such as the branching process of 'ghost splits', the application of which could be extended to sophisticated, real life events such as the spread of the SARS virus. Other case studies included finding out why pyramid selling schemes do not work; how the value of pi could be estimated using a knitting needle; and how the Department of Conservation ensures that the kiwi population can sustain itself.

"Rachel often goes the extra mile by preparing extra practice questions, mock tests and exams with suggested solutions, which not only enhanced my understanding of the subject but also

stimulated me to think more deeply... It is remarkable that Rachel, besides being a great lecturer, makes a huge effort to get to know every student - even for a short 12-week semester."



Dr Rachel Brewster, Faculty of Science.

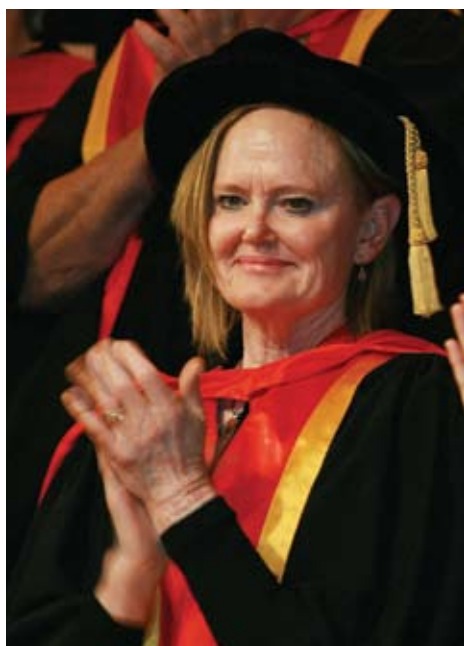
Sustained Excellence in Teaching

Dr Christine Rubie-Davies' "passion for teaching in primary schools was evident and served to fuel my own passion for the profession", said Shannon Mahoney.

"She was and still is excited about her work and is a great advocate for education..."

"As the Programme Co-ordinator, Christine was always approachable and more than willing to help and advise... listen to our ideas and challenge us to look at issues in education from a myriad of perspectives..."

"I am currently a third-year teacher at Gladstone Primary and I am still grateful for the invaluable counsel and exemplary teaching I received from Dr. Christine Rubie-Davies."



Dr Christine Rubie-Davies, Faculty of Education.

"Between 1995 and 2000 Professor Cameron Grant developed the undergraduate teaching programme in Paediatrics in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences," said Hinemoa Elder.

"This included devolving some teaching out of Starship and making community visits an integral part of the programme.

"In 2003 he assumed responsibility for teaching the programme for doctors wanting to become paediatricians. Using Telepaediatrics, Cameron has developed this into a successful national programme with international potential.

"Cameron's teaching is exemplified by unbridled enthusiasm for teaching, use of innovative learning tools and ensuring clinical relevance. He treats medical students as doctors in the making, focuses on training doctors to think effectively in clinical settings, and teaches doctors to meet the needs of patients, families and communities."



Professor Cameron Grant, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.

Innovation in Teaching Award

"Dr Sheila Woodgate is a dedicated teacher who is committed to communicating the fascination of chemistry to students of all levels of ability," said Stephen McCracken.

"Dr Woodgate developed *BestChoice* as part of her efforts to encourage students to increase their understanding of chemistry.

"*BestChoice* is an innovative web-based tutorial programme. This interactive programme is an excellent learning and revision tool and is now used in all stage one and two chemistry courses at this University. Its step-by-step structure and feedback for incorrect responses is evidence of its sophistication... As a tutor, I have found that the use of *BestChoice* for pre-laboratory work has made students better prepared for the laboratory sessions.

"[T]he programme now has an extensive range of tutorials, supports varied types of input and is compatible with diverse web browsers..."

"Dr Woodgate was approached by the Royal Society of Chemistry and a customised version of *BestChoice* is now used by A-levels students in Britain. The Secondary Curriculum Team at the Ministry of Education in Wellington has also recognised the value of the programme."



Dr Sheila Woodgate, Faculty of Science.

Non-fiction tutor to head authors' society

Author, journalist and former media commentator, Paul Smith, has been elected president of the New Zealand Society of Authors.

Paul has been a tutor for 15 years in non-fiction writing programmes offered by the Centre for Continuing Education. He is on the board of NZ On Air and now, as President of the New Zealand Society of Authors, is also on the board of Copyright Licensing Ltd.

Paul has written six non-fiction books, including *Twist and Shout: New Zealand in the Sixties*, *Revolution in the Air*, and *New Zealand at War*. He has also established a website called *kiwiboomers.com*, a magazine for the baby boomer age group with all copy written by New Zealand baby boomers.

He is a mentor for non-fiction writers both privately and within the mentoring system offered by the New Zealand Society of Authors.

Budget boost for Marsden Fund

This year's Budget statement included an additional \$2 million per year for the Marsden Fund. The Fund will now receive a minimum of \$35.9 million per year.

The Marsden Fund currently has 372 active research contracts, spanning research in the humanities, social sciences, sciences, mathematics and engineering. The Marsden Fund is contestable and has been administered by the Royal Society of New Zealand on behalf of the Marsden Fund Council since 1995.

Further honour for Vaughan Jones

Fields Medallist Professor Vaughan Jones, Co-Director (with Professor Marston Conder) of the New Zealand Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (NZIMA), has been awarded the Prix Mondial Nessim Habib from the University of Geneva for his achievements in mathematics.

A special prizegiving ceremony was held on 5 June at the Dies Academicus at the University of Geneva. The Prix Mondial Nessim Habib is an annual prize awarded to prominent researcher from all disciplines.

NZIMA is one of New Zealand's Centres of Research Excellence, based at The University of Auckland.

ASEAN at 40

The 40th birthday of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was marked by an international conference convened by the New Zealand Asia Institute with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

While ASEAN was founded in August 1967, the conference took place at the Fale Pasifika on 25 and 26 May, making the birthday celebrations just three months early.

A 40th birthday is a time for looking back but also for looking forward, and this conference succeeded in doing both.

At one session with a definite historical focus, Emeritus Professor Nicholas Tarling, acting Director of the Southeast Centre at the Institute, spoke on the precursors of ASEAN; Professor Dato' Zakaria Haji Ahmad of Malaysia pointed to its somewhat unexpected success and considered the conditions under which that could be sustained; and Tim Groser MP put its existence in the larger context of the past four decades. The region, one of instability in 1967, was now astonishingly different, and ASEAN had been part of its spectacular transformation.

In a second session, devoted to politics and security, John McArthur, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, outlined New Zealand's interest in ASEAN throughout the period. It became the third dialogue partner in 1975. More recently it signed the 1976 treaty of accord and joined the East Asia Summit.

ASEAN's responses to the challenges it faces will be important for New Zealand. Dr Mark Rolls from the University of Waikato outlined some of its achievements, but also some of those challenges. How far can it go in expanding security cooperation? What it could do would depend, as it always had, on the attitudes of the major powers.

Professor Thitinan Pongsudhirak of Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, expressed the belief that ASEAN had lost much of its confidence at the time of its 30th birthday, when it faced the onset of the economic crisis of 1997 to 1998. It now lacked leadership, and faced a China both economically and politically more powerful.

In a third session, on economic matters, Professor Le Dang Doan from Hanoi commented on China's role. Something of a North/South relationship had developed, he said. The Vietnamese enjoyed cheap Chinese goods, but how could Vietnamese manufacturing survive?

Denis Hew of ISEAS, Singapore, added that China and India compete with ASEAN, but ASEAN partners also compete with one another. He looked for more integration in a region containing countries at very different levels of development.

Dr Malcolm Cook of the Lowy Institute in Australia pointed to the attractiveness of bilateral agreements with outside powers and doubted ASEAN's capacity to negotiate as an organisation. The big questions, however, lay in Northeast Asia, and the future of the larger region would determine that of the ASEAN region.



Dr James Kember (left) with Emeritus Professor Nicholas Tarling and Professor Yongjin Zhang, NZAI Director.

In a final session entitled "Future visions", HE Ali Atas, Indonesian Foreign Minister from 1988 to 1999, considered ASEAN's attempts to formalise its commitments and processes, and at the same time to widen and deepen its interests. The focus was on an ASEAN Charter.

Myrna Austria from De La Salle University in the Philippines offered some proposals for developing the ASEAN Economic Community. Were member countries, for example, ready to "pool" more of the sovereignty on which the foundation understandings rested?

A final contribution came from Professor Yongjin Zhang, Director of NZAI. Was our world of nations

to be succeeded, he wondered, by a "world of regions"? Could ASEAN and the "ASEAN way" play a role in the larger region, where China, Japan and the US were such big players?

Speakers stuck to the time they were allotted and allowed plenty of time for the discussion they stimulated. After an intense and intensive day, one non-speaker participant declared he was on a high, even without party drugs, and could have gone on for another day without sleeping.

Not everyone was optimistic about ASEAN's future. But 40 years ago there would have been no such exciting discussion in a conference on the subject, said Nicholas Tarling.

Easing symptoms of lung disease

People suffering from chronic lung problems are being asked to volunteer for two new studies at the University.

The studies are looking at both new medication and a novel delivery method for existing treatments of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD).

COPD is a chronic lung disease which causes restriction of the airways and is usually caused by smoking and other airborne irritants. It includes conditions such as emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

The first study is looking at a new "bronchodilator" treatment which works by relaxing

the muscles around the bronchi in the lungs, providing relief of symptoms. Volunteers will need to attend up to 13 sessions at an Auckland clinic over a year.

The second study is comparing a new and an existing inhaler and their effectiveness in delivering a commonly prescribed COPD medication. Volunteers will attend sessions at clinics in Auckland, Hamilton, Dunedin, Wellington or Tauranga over 12 weeks.

Anyone wishing to take part in the study should contact 09 373 7599 ext 89807.

More than an academic

Douglas Russell is not just a professor of Chemistry at the University, researching the application of lasers and investigating theories on the symmetry of molecules.

He is also to be congratulated on achieving success in his other passion: bridge.

Douglas has been selected by the New Zealand Contact Bridge Association to play in the New Zealand Seniors' Team which will not only be representing New Zealand in the World Bridge Championships in Shanghai in September and October, but which has also qualified for the

World Bridge Olympiad in 2008.

Douglas and his partner (Trevor Robb from Pukekohe - a chemistry graduate from Canterbury) were selected for the team partly on the basis of an extensive series of trials played over Easter in Auckland, and partly as a result of their performance in the South Pacific Championships played last month in Christchurch. It was there that Douglas and his team came second to the very strong Australian team, with both top teams qualifying for the World Championships.

Brains and crime

This year's winning entries announced to 120 guests at a Chiasma celebration on 28 May are a method for storing brain tissue for use by neuroscientists, a crime scene kit to identify the source of cells found on scene, and a new drug for treating stomach ulcers.

The top four teams in the Chiasma I-Volve biotechnology business idea competition were required to present a 55-second "elevator pitch" to the audience of students, staff and industry representatives before receiving their prizes from Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Raewyn Dalziel.

Joint winners this year were Jinny Yoon and Claire French, PhD students in Medical and Health Sciences. They each received \$5000 – a \$3000 share of the I-Volve prize pool, topped up to match the advertised first prize by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor on the night.

Jinny's idea centred on a method for storing adult brain tissue that would allow ongoing analysis of cell response to external stimuli, such as drugs or chemicals. Claire's idea would involve the commercialisation of her research project, which also won her the title of MacDiarmid Young Scientist of the Year 2006. This was a laboratory test – for use by forensic scientists – that distinguishes between skin, mouth and vaginal cells.

The \$500 third prize was awarded to Naeem Amiry and Severine Brunet-Dunand, PhD students at the Liggins Institute, for their proposal to develop a



Jinny Yoon (left) and Claire French (right) with Raewyn Dalziel.

drug that stops the *Helicobacter pylori* bacteria from infecting cells and causing stomach ulcers, rather than treating the infection once established.

Jessica Rodrigues (BTech student) received fourth prize for a proposed milk product to meet the needs of Vitamin A deficient populations.

The I-Volve competition organised by Chiasma encourages students to develop their biotechnology ideas into a product or service for commercialisation. The 25 entries were judged by Professor Peter Hunter (Bioengineering Institute), Professor Peter Shepherd (Molecular Medicine), Associate Professor Louise Nicholson (Anatomy), Dr Kerry Loomes (Biological Sciences) and Geoff Whitcher (Business Faculty Administration), with external experts Dr Claire McGowan, CEO of Biopolymer Network Ltd, and Joe Rouse of Pioneer Capital Partners.

Stamp of approval

A set of new stamps celebrating the Southern skies features two observatories used by the University for astrophysics research and teaching.

NZ Post's new series of stamps, available from 6 June, highlights New Zealand's astronomical sights and achievements. The series includes stamps featuring two University of Auckland partners – a 50 cent stamp featuring Auckland's Stardome Observatory alongside the Southern Cross, and a \$2 stamp of the Mt John Observatory and the Southern Pinwheel.

Stardome provides facilities for the Department of Physics, and around 130 undergraduate students benefit from the collaboration with Stardome each year.



The Stardome astronomers, headed by University alumnus Grant Christie, collaborate with University researcher, Associate Professor Phil Yock, and others

from around the country in the MOA (Microlensing Observations in Astrophysics) project.

Stardome and the Mt John Observatory in Canterbury form part of the New Zealand-Japan MOA, which searches for Earth-like planets orbiting stars in the Galaxy using gravitational lensing.

The project began in 1995 and was headed for ten years by The University of Auckland.

In 2005, Professor Ian Bond, a University of Auckland graduate now at Massey University, became the leading investigator. The New Zealand arm of MOA includes collaboration between The University of Auckland, Canterbury, Massey and Victoria University of Wellington.



The Mt John Observatory (left) and the Stardome Observatory, as seen on the new stamps.

New trial?

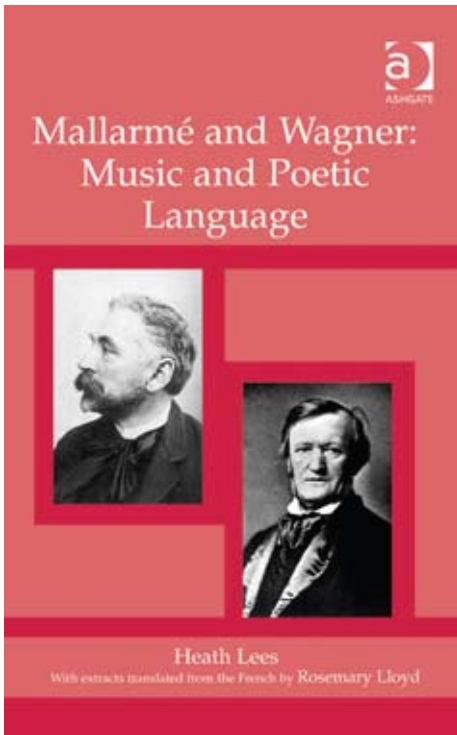
In the May 2007 judgment *The Queen v David Cullen Bain*, the Privy Council reversed a 2003 decision of the New Zealand Court of Appeal upholding David Bain's 1995 conviction for the 1994 murder of five members of his Dunedin family.

In what may be the last New Zealand case to be heard in the UK, the Court held that a "substantial miscarriage of justice" had taken place (para 119). As grounds for their ruling, the Privy Council pointed to new evidence – generated by Bain supporters after his conviction but found to be inconsequential by the New Zealand Court of Appeal – that cast doubt on the verdict of guilt. The Court remanded the case back to New Zealand authorities for a decision on a new trial. The Solicitor-General will make that determination shortly. In the meantime, David Bain remains free on bail.

Media coverage has tended to portray Bain as an innocent man wrongfully convicted of mass murder. That may well be the case. However, the Privy Council made clear that their decision expressed no view on Bain's actual guilt. The verdict was reversed because, in the opinion of the Court, the fresh evidence *could*, not *would*, cause a New Zealand jury to find Bain not guilty. Bain retains a presumption of legal innocence, but only another trial can determine whether the new evidence will make a difference in the case. If the fairness of a second trial can be assured – and there is no reason to think otherwise at this point – the interests of justice suggest it should expeditiously take place.

Given the rarity of the Privy Council's action, the *Bain* judgment is no argument against New Zealand's correct decision to abandon the Law Lords as a court of last instance. Its real legal lesson is that our own New Zealand Court of Appeal – as well as our new Supreme Court – may need to take a more charitable view of when fresh evidence points to a miscarriage of justice in a criminal case.

Associate Professor Scott Optican (Law)



Mallarmé and Wagner: Music and Poetic Language

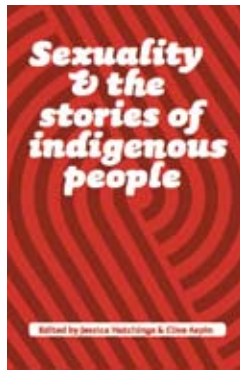
Professor Heath Lees (School of Music) has published widely on the interface between words and music.

This book, published by Ashgate, challenges and replaces the existing view of French poet Stéphane Mallarmé's mission to "repossess" music on behalf of poetic language.

Traditionally this view focused on the last 15 years of the poet's life, springing from a belief in his "sudden awakening" to music during an 1885 Wagner concert in Paris. However, Heath Lees shows that Mallarmé's early knowledge and experience was much greater than commentators have realised, and that he actually began his writing career with the explicit aim of making music's performance language of "effect" the ground of his poetic expression.

Richard Wagner's impact on France came in two waves: in the 1860s and the mid-1880s. Heath shows that Mallarmé exhibited a highly informed Wagnerian background during the first wave, and that his grasp of Wagner's gestural motives and flexible musical prose led him towards a new kind of self-expressive, gestural rhythm that aimed musically to reinvent poetic language.

In musically informed commentary, Heath surveys the four decades of success and failure that resulted from Mallarmé's repeated attempts to draw out the musical gestures and resonances of words alone. In the process he throws new light on many of Mallarmé's texts.



Sexuality and the Stories of Indigenous People

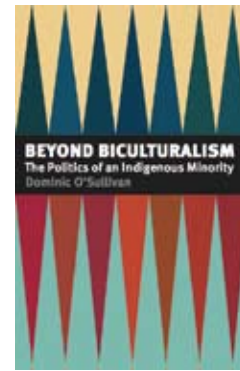
This volume comprises a collection of 17 essays that explore aspects of being *takatāpui*.

The traditional meaning of *takatāpui* is "an intimate companion of the same sex", but it has become synonymous with Māori who are non-heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transsexual or queer.

The collection is edited by Dr Clive Aspin, a fulltime researcher at The University of Auckland (based at Nga Pae o te Maramatanga, the Centre of Research Excellence for Maori Research) with Dr Jessica Hutchings, a post-doctoral fellow at Massey University, and is published by Huia. It contains personal stories, poetry and insightful discussions about constructions of sexuality, gender and identity, as well as identifying the effects of colonisation and exploring perceptions of Māori sexuality.

Contributors include such prominent New Zealanders as former Member of Parliament Georgina Beyer; entertainer, entrepreneur and drag queen, Carmen; and former Silver Fern and Black Fern Louisa Wall. Dr Marewa Glover (Social and Community Health) contributed a chapter entitled "Eroticising equality: Coming to power".

Clive Aspin has an extensive background in Māori public health and research into HIV/AIDS, sexuality and Māori men's health, while Jessica Hutchings' work includes environmental development and gender issues.



Beyond Biculturalism

This book, *Beyond Biculturalism: The Politics of an Indigenous Minority*, published by Huia Publishers, is a critical analysis of contemporary Māori public policy.

Author Dr Dominic O'Sullivan, a recipient of a post-doctoral fellowship from Nga Pae o te Maramatanga, argues that biculturalism inevitably makes Māori the junior partner in a colonial relationship that obstructs aspirations to self-determination.

The political situation of Māori is compared to that of First Nations and Aboriginal Australians. The book examines contemporary Māori political issues such as the "one law for all" ideology, the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004, Māori parliamentary representation, Treaty settlements, and Māori economic development.

This is a readable and thought-provoking book that will appeal to academics, policy makers and political activists in New Zealand and other countries where indigenous politics are significant.

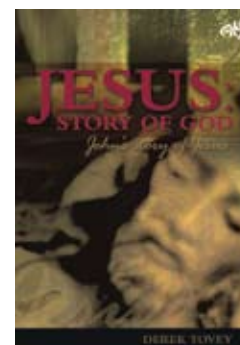
Its examinations of self-determinism and indigeneity are in the context of contemporary debates and draw parallels with Australia and Canada.

Dominic O'Sullivan is also the author of *Faith, Politics and Reconciliation: Catholicism and the Politics of Indigeneity*.

Jesus: Story of God

In a carefully constructed story the writer of John's Gospel reveals the identity of Jesus, and explores what it means to believe in Jesus. These themes are examined in this book *Jesus: Story of God. John's Story of Jesus*, by Dr Derek Tovey from the College of St John the Evangelist, Auckland, who teaches New Testament in the School of Theology.

Written for ordinary readers and beginning students of the Gospel, the book discusses the way the story has been crafted and the "tricks" of the storyteller's trade, showing how the evangelist



(through the "implied author") has constructed his story of Jesus. The author's aim is to stimulate the reader's own reading and study of the Gospel.

From the collection

Defined in the natty little booklet *Art Talk* as the kind of art which depicts objects that don't move on their own, still life became popular with the detailed realism and hidden symbolism of Dutch artists.

While a photography student at Elam School of Fine Arts in the mid 1980s, Jennifer French updated this tradition, eliding it with self-portraiture. Each birthday, she would depict the defining elements of her life as a coded arrangement of objects and fruit.

Persimmons, a cibachrome photograph from 1985, uses repetition of the triangle and circle as geometric elements to govern the design, consciously echoing the signature style of Art Deco ceramicist Clarice Cliff. Quintessentially cheap and cheerful, Cliff's wide range of raucously bright patterns disguised a large stock of defective ware at Newport Potteries, guaranteeing continuous sales in Britain and her export markets.

As the products of the Jazz Age became fashionable again in the 1970s, Cliff's reputation was revived as one of the twentieth century's most successful women artists, and collectors

scoured second-hand shops worldwide for examples of her work. French's photograph celebrates not just Cliff's reputation but also her own boyfriend's prize finds, foregrounding a cup, saucer and cake plate set decorated with the *Trees and House* pattern (1929-1930) where an orange wedge-shaped tree and a tree made of black circles are combined with a half-hidden cottage to create three repeating elements. A venture into numerology is suggested by the repetition of the perfect number three throughout this composition.

Like women artists, persimmons were rare in New Zealand in 1985, but beginning to be cultivated. Known as the apple of the orient, a persimmon's bright orange colour symbolises joy, and also prosperity in Chinese culture. Emphasising the smooth texture of the persimmons by inverting them, French appeals to the viewer's senses, evoking the ripe weight of the fruit held in the hand. Available 20 years ago only as a variety that had to ripen to softness before being eaten, French alludes to this delayed gratification with a wooden-handled spoon just discernible between the shining orbs.

Linda Tyler



Persimmons by Jennifer French 1985.

Reunion at the Waipapa Marae

Two of those attending a book launch at the Waipapa Marae on 18 May were a former teacher and student.

Dr Clive Aspin, a researcher at Nga Pae o te Maramatanga (The National Māori Centre of Research Excellence based at The University of Auckland) and co-editor of one of two books to be launched that evening, once taught English and French at Papatoetoe High School to former Labour Party Member of Parliament, Georgina Beyer, who contributed a chapter to the book and spoke at the launch.

Georgina was not only a great pupil, easy to teach and full of enthusiasm, says Clive, but was also a very good actor who played the role of a vicar at a school production of *The Admirable Crichton*.

Also speaking at the launch to around 60 guests were Professor Linda Smith, Co-Director of Nga Pae o te Maramatanga, and Professor Margaret Mutu (Māori Studies).

Two books were launched on the night, both sponsored by Nga Pae o te Maramatanga and both published by Huia Publishers.

One was *Sexuality and the Stories of Indigenous People*, edited by Clive Aspin and Jessica Hutchings. The other was *Beyond Biculturalism: The Politics of an Indigenous Minority*, by Dr Dominic O'Sullivan, a recipient of a post-doctoral fellowship from Nga Pae o te Maramatanga who is based at the University of Waikato.



Clive Aspin (left) with Georgina Beyer at the book launch held at Waipapa Marae on 18 May.

Is that really cricket?



From left to right Muhammad Shaban Jakhio, Yousaf Habib, Arshad Mehmood Ali and Kishwer Sultana.

What is the national game of Pakistan? The answer that leaps to most people's mind, it seems, is cricket.

However, students, staff and friends who attended the Pakistan festival at iSPACE on May 24 now know that the unexpected answer is "hockey".

The quiz on Pakistan formed part of the programme created by Pakistani students for the festival, which was greatly enjoyed by the 60 or 70 people who attended. The programme also included a flute performance, singing performance, and a dance demonstration by three students from Pakistan, with others joining in later.

Most of the students from Pakistan – who worked wonderfully together in organising the festival, according to international student adviser, Trang Phan – are Pakistan Government-sponsored PhD students who arrived at Auckland only very recently.

"The festival gave them a good opportunity to meet others, including their supervisors," says Trang. "It was great fun, full of laughter. Everyone had a ball."

Food and the national drink (a yoghurt-based drink called lassi) was provided by iSPACE. The Pakistan High Commission sent posters, CDs and flags.

Among the guests was Professor Gregor Coster, Dean of Graduate Studies, who came wearing the national costume from Pakistan.

Already this year there have been Hispanic, European, Japanese, American and Scandinavian Festivals. Planned for semester two this year are Malaysian, Saudi Arabian, German, Chinese and Indian Festivals, to be held (respectively) on 9 and 16 August, 5, 12 and 19 October.

See you there! But check the dates, which are still subject to change.

What's on

MONDAY 11 JUNE

Civil and Environmental Engineering research seminar

Prof Avishai (Avi) Ceder, Civil and Environmental Engineering Faculty, Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel: *Minimum fleet size for fixed and variable bus schedules*. 3-4pm Rm 716, Arts 1. Queries to Assoc-Prof R. Dunn, ext 87714 or rcm.dunn@auckland.ac.nz

Dept of Electrical and Computer Engineering research seminar

Mohammad Shahidehpour, Distinguished IEEE lecturer: *The impact of distributed generation on electricity restructuring and the security of the power system*. 5-6.30pm Rm 420, Kate

Edger Information Commons. Queries to Dr Nimal Nair, n.nair@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 12 JUNE

CAD workshop

Dr Barbara Grant, Dr Frances Kelly and guests: *Getting research students writing*. 3.30-5pm CAD Seminar Rm, 5th floor, 76 Symonds St. Queries to Dr Barbara Grant, bm.grant@auckland.ac.nz. Visit <http://cad.auckland.ac.nz/>

Bioengineering research seminar

Dr Nari Kim, Dept of Physiology and Auckland Bioengineering Institute: *Relationship between ischemic preconditioning and mitochondria as*

an optimal target for ischemic heart disease. 4-5pm Fifth Floor Seminar Rm, Bioengineering Institute.

THURSDAY 14 JUNE

CEPD and CAD seminar

Good teaching in large classrooms. Panel of three teaching excellence award winners from AUT and UoA demonstrate their techniques and share their experience, ideas and advice. 10.30am-12.30pm WA220, AUT Wellesley Campus. Morning tea from 10am. Queries and registrations to Jill Zapp, jill.zapp@aut.ac.nz

MONDAY 18 JUNE

Centre for Lacanian Analysis seminar

Assoc Prof Laurence Simmons: *Alfred Hitchcock as Slavoj Žižek's sinthome*. 6.15-8pm ALR2, 26 Symonds St. Queries to Lucy Holmes, la.holmes@auckland.ac.nz

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

One Tree Hill. Warm, sunny, three-bdrm town-house, fully-furnished, has alarm and a DVS ventilation system. Fully-fenced, large north-facing deck, internal garage and other OSP. Quiet area. Close to Cornwall Park – on good bus route to UoA Grafton and City Campus. Tamaki Campus 15-20 minutes by car. Available 25 July until approximately 20 Nov 2007. N/s. Previously used by visiting academic families. Reasonable rent, negotiable use of car possible. Contact Margaret at (09) 525-5786 or (027) 295-6521 or margaretjs@xtra.co.nz

Parnell studio flat. Small, self-contained, furnished flat available in peaceful Parnell neighbourhood. Close to Parnell Village, walking distance to University, Domain, Newmarket, Parnell Baths. Suit quiet child-friendly, cat-friendly person (n/s). \$200-\$220 pw (includes power and water). For more details email n.gavey@auckland.ac.nz or phone 358-1864.

Ponsonby cottage to rent. Doing renovations? Visitors coming from overseas? Need temporary place to stay? Centrally heated, fully-furnished home just off Ponsonby Road available from early July to the end of December. Two bdrms, two living rooms, sunny private back deck area. \$450 pw. Contact Trudi on (09) 376-0419 or (021) 135-5092.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Professional couple and newborn available for house-sitting October 2007 to January 2008. We are renovating our house and need to vacate. Refs avail. Email s.haigh@auckland.ac.nz or phone Sarah on (021) 424-196.

Short-term rental. Academic and wife, arriving late August, wish to rent furnished, fully-equipped house or apartment for up to six months. Mature, responsible, quiet n/s couple will take good care of your property. Prefer close to University or with good bus service. Please contact brian.e.carpenter@gmail.com

FOR SALE

Car; 2003 Nissan March, 1.2 litre. First NZ owner, only 14,000km for \$14,500. Excellent condition. Phone Shireen on (021) 281-8544.

MISCELLANEOUS

A weekend escape at Karekare Treetops Lodge, bed and breakfast in the Waitakere Ranges, only 45 minutes from the University. Enjoy scenic walking in the wild beauty of the West Coast or relax indoors by the fire. Stunning location on ridge, with panoramic view to beach. Optional gourmet dinners. Perfect for celebrations – birthdays, anniversaries, graduation – visitors to AK. See www.karekaretreetopslodge.co.nz or phone Maria on (09) 812-9015.

Editing and proofreading. Editwrite offers efficient, competitive and professional online text editing for staff and students. Theses, dissertations, academic treatises, monographs, reports, etc can all be expertly edited. We will review spelling, punctuation, grammar and syntax to turn your text into fluent, clear, literate prose. For more details, visit www.editwrite.co.nz

International travel insurance.

The AUS recommends that members use Uni-Care insurance for sabbatical, other study and very long-term travel overseas. Uni-Care offers 15% off standard rates for travel out of NZ to all university staff, full-time tertiary students and their families. Uniquely, we can maintain cover for greatly extended periods overseas. Uni-Care International Insurance Service, PO Box 32-167, Devonport, ph (09) 446-1166, fax (09) 445-8832, email insure@uni-care.org, website www.uni-care.org (secure online application facility).

Painting. High quality house painting. Also hand painting of boats. Refs available. Phone me for a quote on your painting requirements. Contact Rick on (09) 638-4252 or (021) 953-901 or email rick@gaffrig.co.nz Website www.gaffrig.co.nz

Red Cross Book Fair.

15-17 June. Opening night, Friday 15, 6-9pm, \$10 entry. Saturday 16 + Sunday 17, 8am-4pm, free entry. Held at Alexandra Park, this event is an Auckland book lover's mid-winter tradition with thousands of quality second-hand books on sale at bargain prices. For further information phone 0800 RED CROSS.

For a full list of The University of Auckland events see Next Week Online: www.auckland.ac.nz/nextweekonline

Please email classified ads to m.playfair@auckland.ac.nz nine days before publication. Cost \$20 (incl GST).