

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

Fortnightly newsletter for University staff | Volume 37 | Issue 23 | 7 December 2007

Eyes on higher education



Mihka Chee (left) and Tui Kerekoma.

Staff from the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries (NICAI) have created a compact Tuakana-funded programme of study that aims to benefit its Māori and Pacific Island students.

The programme consists of a two-day retreat (held in November), to be followed by another at the same time next year.

The primary purpose of NICAI's Research Retreat is to equip highly-achieving Māori and Pacific undergraduate students within the faculty with research skills to enable them to excel even further. The retreat has been developed in collaboration with the Student Learning Centre and was presented by Dr Deidre Brown, Dr Te Oti Rakena, Mona O'Shea and Matt Tarawa at the Waipapa Marae.

In addition, the programme offers benefits to staff requiring assistance with their research.

"Māori and Pacific students perform well in NICAI," says Te Oti Rakena. "The concern is therefore to help them lift their achievement even more, and encourage them to go on to postgraduate study.

"The object is to train them to be research assistants so that they can build on their skills

in the course of paid employment, and can use what they earn to finance their continuing studies."

By the time this first retreat took place almost all of the available students had already arranged to go into paid research assistants' positions for the summer.

The two-day retreat was open to Māori and Pacific students with a high grade-point average (B+ or above), in their second to final years of an undergraduate degree, who intended to return to the University next year.

The approach was practical and the focus was on such essential research skills as conducting a literature search, acquiring data by interview, analysing and interpreting data, writing a literature review and writing a research report.

School of Music student Mihka Chee has been awarded a NICAI Summer Scholarship to assist with a research project called "Success for all". She will be conducting a literature search and a literature review.

"Our session this morning was very specific to what I will have to do," she said. "It has given me real confidence for the summer job."

(continued page 2)

Key events

Conferring over cocktails

The New Zealand Society for Sustainability Engineering and Science invites staff from the University to a cocktail party to launch the 3rd International Conference on Sustainability Engineering and Science on 7 December 5-7pm at the Strata Postgraduate Lounge on the fourth floor of the Student Commons. At the launch the society will announce a significant new joint venture partnership. Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon will be speaking. Also in attendance will be the Dean of Engineering, Professor Mike Davies.

Tea and marriage

The December exhibition now on at the Gus Fisher Gallery, entitled "Portrait of a Marriage", features photographs taken by Deborah Smith over one year (from one wedding anniversary to the next). She found the growing archive of everyday detritus to be both profound and banal. On 8 December at 1pm at the Gus Fisher Gallery Deborah Smith will discuss Portrait of a Marriage (over free tea and biscuits) with her husband, architect Nicholas Stevens, and friends from the creative community, including Allan McDonald, Don McGlashan and Mark Smith.

Mathematics and sunshine

A key event for mathematicians is the annual conference of the New Zealand Institute for Mathematics and its Applications, to take place at Tahuna Beach, Nelson, 6-12 January. The theme is "Conformal geometry and geometric approaches to partial differential equations". The talks will be aimed at a level suitable for graduate students and a general mathematical audience, and have as their goal an introduction to recent developments in the field. The programme will consist of morning talks and a limited number of evening talks, with afternoons free. Wednesday 9 January will be a free day for the exploration of Abel Tasman National Park or a climb of Mt Arthur.

In this issue

- 2 | University Health Services
- 3 | General Staff Excellence Awards
- 4 | Humanities Council Fellowships

From the Vice-Chancellor

This is my last column for the year and so it is appropriate to briefly review some of the achievements of 2007.

We have during the year maintained our position as New Zealand's premier university, as measured by both the *Times Higher Education Supplement* and Shanghai Jiao Tong world rankings. A high level of international engagement – at the “whole of University” level in such areas as the opening of the New Zealand Centre in Beijing and of the Confucius Institute, and in a wide range of collaborations between our staff and colleagues overseas – has undoubtedly contributed to this success. The Performance Based Research Fund illustrated again that The University of Auckland is a powerhouse of research, leading the country in the number of A rated researchers, in graduate completions, and in external research income. Our staff carried off many national awards – two examples of our leadership in research and teaching being the award of the Rutherford Medal for New Zealand's leading scientist to Professor Richard Faulk, and of a National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award to Dr Christine Rubie-Davies (the fifth year in a row that a staff member of this University has received one of these awards).

The tertiary reforms placed a huge demand on many staff, in such areas as responding (successfully) to the more iniquitous aspects of the Tertiary Reform Bill, and the development of the Profile/Investment Plan. While we are yet to see the full benefits of the reforms, the fact that they will allow the Government to make specific investment decisions for the university sector, and to place greater emphasis on the quality of educational offerings, are positive developments. Likewise the Tertiary Education Commission's acceptance of the University's strategy as the basis for negotiation between the parties is an important step. I am grateful to the many staff who invested time and energy into these processes, and into other important developments such as the staff survey.

As another busy year comes to an end, Deborah and I would like to wish you and your families a safe, enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break. Next year will undoubtedly be an interesting one – our 125th anniversary and an election year – and I look forward to the contributions we will all make to furthering the development of our University.



Health in practice



Reception at University Health Services, City Campus.

It would be rare to see an ambulance arrive for a patient at University Health Services (UHS).

This is just one of the markers of a practice that is rather different from the mainstream, says UHS Manager, Cherie Buchanan.

“In most private practices,” says Cherie, “staff would see an ambulance almost every day. In my one year in this practice it has happened once or twice only – which reflects the fact that in general we serve a well population.”

A recent survey of student users of the service put the following four needs at the top of the list: accident and injuries; sexual health services (including matters of contraception and pregnancy); counselling; and validation of health status for aegrotat passes or for applications to vary course requirements on compassionate grounds.

Another service strongly in demand is travel immunisations and the Grafton Campus site in particular is geared to provide the full set of immunisations that are mandatory for student health professionals in most disciplines.

The survey results reflect both the age of the clientele – predominantly in their late teens and twenties – and the fundamental purpose of the service, which is ultimately, in Cherie's words, “to maintain the students' wellness and fitness for study, thereby giving them the greatest possible chance of a successful and satisfying experience at the University”.

UHS operates in the City, Grafton and Tamaki Campuses, with the medical centre at Epsom Campus to be formally incorporated this month

The staff – doctors, nurses, counsellors, one

fulltime dentist (based at the City Campus), and receptionists and administrators – are employed directly by the University. The Tamaki centre, offering nursing services, operates only during the semesters.

UHS is funded through the Student Services levy. Therefore the central focus is on students.

However, staff are also welcome to use the service, and often find it convenient because it is near their workplaces. They do not receive the student subsidy but can enrol with the Primary Health Organisation (PHO) ProCare, which means UHS is responsible for keeping their health records, and receives funding for this.

Until recently families of staff and some former staff and students were also accommodated. However growing demand for the service – resulting in waiting lists of up to a week – made it necessary to apply some restrictions.

International students have Studentsafe insurance, which is claimed by UHS directly from the insurance company. Their families, if covered by a Studentsafe policy, can also use UHS.

However, families of students, especially those with young children, are encouraged to see doctors in the areas where they live, says Cherie, especially as UHS does not open at evenings or weekends.

In order to cut down the present waiting times, UHS will be increasing its duty doctor walk-in service in the New Year.

A recent accolade for UHS has been a special quality award from ProCare for “most improvement in cervical screening of high needs women”.

(story continued from page 1)

She has also gained, she says, from meeting other Māori and Pacific students who are high achievers: “people who are struggling as we are to push the envelope”.

Tui Kerehoma, a Fine Arts student about to enter a masters programme, who is using the research

retreat to lift her skills in preparation for advanced study, says it's an honour just to be chosen “because it confirms we are doing well”.

It is also a valuable experience, Tui believes, to come into contact with people from across the faculty.

Every nominee honoured



Stuart McCutcheon presents Susan Pullan with her award.

The Vice-Chancellor's General Staff Excellence Awards are unique in honouring not just the winners but every nominee.

As guests streamed into the Postgraduate Lounge in the Kate Edger Information Commons on 22 November, they could see rotating on display on a large video screen every one of the talented and energetic staff who received nominations.

The winners of course were particularly honoured to receive their awards from Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, and to hear the citations read by University Registrar Tim Greville.

Rachel Chidlow (Information Commons Group and Short Loan, University Library), whose award was for Excellence in Leadership, was described as inspiring "her team members to excel professionally through her participative leadership style, strong work ethic and productivity". Among her particular achievements were motivating staff, streamlining processes, developing best practice procedures and ensuring that course materials searches were made more user-friendly.

Susan Pullan (Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre), who won the award for Sustained Excellence in Performance, is described as "a dedicated research technician who has consistently made exceptional contributions throughout her 27 years of service", playing a pivotal role in training postgraduate and summer students and newly-employed technical staff, ensuring they are able to conduct top-quality research independently.

Leonie Hayes, Yin Yin Latt and Vanessa Newton-Wade (Digital Services, University Library), joint winners of the award for Sustained Excellence in Innovation, shared responsibility for the implementation and population of ResearchSpace – an open source, open access digital archive developed as an institutional repository for research outputs from the University, allowing

authors worldwide dissemination of their work. The software used in this project is in active development and the team has contributed new features and functionality for use around the world.

Katrina Duncan (Auckland University Press), who received an honourable mention for Sustained Excellence in Performance, "has been responsible for building and maintaining the extraordinary reputation for design and production values that AUP enjoys" and represents "a major asset to the Press and to the University".

Tim Page (Multimedia Teaching Support Unit, Faculty of Arts) received an honourable mention for Sustained Excellence in Innovation. Tim's "superb sense of initiative and his multiple talents as a digital media professional" have "revolutionised the role" and "transformed staff and student experience of new technology".

Others nominated were Debbie Beaumont (Anaesthesiology), Kristine Boxen (Biological Sciences), Vitus Fernandes (Engineering), Alasdair Galbraith (Medical and Health Sciences IT), Bronwyne Hawkins (Student Administration), Craig Housley (Centre for Academic Development), Grant Jenkins (Information Systems and Operations Management), Ken Ho-Kei Kan (Cecil), Kerry King (Optometry and Vision Science), Paolo Macalincag (Education), Kasturi Naicker (Oncology), Sushila Pinto (Arts Administration), Himendra Ratnayake (TechSite Services), Mary Spellman (Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre), Georgina Thomson (Optometry and Vision Science), Ron Wilson (Student Administration), and Prasuna Yashwanth Kumar (Education). Other teams nominated were the Customer Relationship Project Team (Student Administration) and Kevin Taylor and Edwin Rogers (Tamaki Campus).

Small change to winning term

In the 9 November issue of *University News*, it was reported that the winning collective noun in a small competition for a group name for emeritus professors was "emeritocracy". In fact the prizewinning term, put forward by former staff member, Associate Professor John Richards, was "meritocracy".

... in brief

Robb lectures

The Sir Douglas Robb Lectures in 2008 will address a theme "The uses of the university" revisited', highly relevant to the 125th Jubilee.

The lecturer is Professor Sheldon Rothblatt, an historian from University of California, Berkeley. Taking as his starting point the title of a major lecture series delivered by Clark Kerr at Harvard in 1963, he will look afresh at the nature of the "multiversity".

The lectures are on 11, 13 and 18 March at 7pm (full details at www.auckland.ac.nz/robb).

ACC 40 Years on

ACC will be celebrated and debated at a symposium on 13 December at the Law School's Stone Theatre. This ground-breaking social-insurance scheme was set up following the famous Woodhouse Report: Compensation for Personal Injury in New Zealand, Report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry 1967.

The symposium will present national and international views and debate future directions of the scheme.

The newly formed ACC group, set up by the Business School's Economics Department and the Faculty of Law, is hosting the conference. Registration is essential at www.auckland.ac.nz/accgroup

Awards abound

In recent weeks staff have won exciting awards. The French Government has presented its highest honour for educators, the *Palme Académique*, to Dr Rosemary Arnoux (European Languages and Literatures). Dr 'Okusitino Māhina (Anthropology) has been awarded a Creative New Zealand Pacific Heritage Arts Award. The Canadian Wood Council has awarded Dr Pierre Quenneville (Engineering) with its Wood Advocate – Wood Champion award. Dr Emmanuel Manalo and Jenny Marshall (Student Learning Centre) have received the inaugural Award for Outstanding Academic Integrity Resource, presented at the Asia Pacific Conference on Educational Integrity, for the web resource they created "Referencite" (www.cite.auckland.ac.nz). For more information, see the news on the staff intranet or the next *University News*.

Black tie dinner

Guest speaker at the Distinguished Alumni Awards annual dinner is to be Chris Liddell, Chief Financial Officer of Microsoft Corporation, himself a Distinguished Alumnus.

The six prominent graduates receiving awards are Sir Ron Carter, Emeritus Professor Carrick Chambers, Dr James Church, the Hon Justice Lowell Goddard, Emeritus Professor C. K. Stead and Lynette Stewart. The Young Alumnus of the Year is pianist John Chen.

All staff are welcome. Tickets are \$85 for staff. Visit www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/rsvp or call Debbie Mayo on ext 83128.

Fellowships mark milestone

Election and aftermath

Everyone said it would be a landslide.

And so it was. John Howard's Liberal Party loss to Labour's Kevin Rudd is significant for a number of reasons. It is only the second time that an Australian prime minister has lost his seat in an election. The six percent swing Labor received in this election was larger than Howard's swing when he demolished Labor in the 1996 election. And this win for Kevin Rudd is bigger than Bob Hawke's win for Labor in 1983.

Election losses are a little like funerals. No one really wants to speak ill of the dead. The eulogies for Howard have been gracious. The media cite his role in building economic prosperity, banning gun ownership after the tragic Port Arthur massacre despite party resistance, getting tough on terrorism and asylum seekers, and dragging Australian Labor from the left to the centre. But there is a darker side to the Howard legacy. Over 11 years the Howard government effectively silenced opposition and critical dissent in ways that began to embed an intolerance of difference.

The silencing began with Howard's claim to represent the "mainstream" – no longer would minority voices be given "special" representation in the making of policy. Instead of condemning the populist (racist) policies espoused by the One Nation Party, Howard undertook his own version of "me-tooism". Specialised services for indigenous Australians were abolished, grants to advocacy groups were cut, and so-called elites (read academics, left-leaning think tanks and activists) were demonised and their policy perspectives dismissed. Multiculturalism, reconciliation and cosmopolitanism were portrayed as concepts which would divide Australia.

The bureaucracy's mandate to deliver frank and fearless advice was also undermined. As PM, Howard sacked a substantial number of department heads while others were forced to retract public comments. This form of silencing was compounded by the increase in, and changing roles of, partisan ministerial staff. Originally introduced to offer governments alternative and critical advice, under Howard these advisers were encouraged to "drive, sieve and skew" bureaucratic advice, most notably in the "children overboard" affair.

Finally, there has been a silencing within ranks of the Liberal Party. Many moderate liberals languishing on the backbenches became increasingly concerned at their government's policy direction. Several spoke out and were demoted or isolated as a result. So the outcome of this election not only provides Australian Labor with the opportunity to renew policy debate in Australia. It also gives Liberal Party moderates under a new leader the chance to redefine and rediscover liberal politics. Perhaps this will become Howard's legacy.

Dr Jennifer Curtin, Political Studies



Left to right are Mason Durie, Terry Sturm, John Smillie, Anne Salmond, John Burrows, James Belich, Judith Binney, Barry Barclay and Michael Neill.

A ceremony at the National Library in Wellington on 12 November marked an important milestone in the history of New Zealand scholarship and research.

This was the installation of the inaugural Fellows of the Humanities Council of New Zealand (FHCNZ).

It was also an occasion of celebration for The University of Auckland, since nine of 16 Fellows installed were present or former members of staff.

The Humanities Council of New Zealand, Te Mātanga o Te Whāinga Aronui, agreed during 2006 that the award should be established for outstanding achievement in research associated with the humanities. It is for academic achievement over a sustained period, where this achievement is demonstrated by a combination of peer esteem, outstanding publications, and contribution to the development of the professional field.

The elected Fellows will comprise the New Zealand Academy for the Humanities. From 2010 the Academy will take over responsibility for nominations and recommendations for election of new Fellows.

The inaugural Fellows are Professor Sekhar Bandyopadhyay (history), Barry Barclay (film), Professor James Belich (history), Emeritus Professor Judith Binney (history), Emeritus Professor John Burrows (law), Emeritus Professor Brian Coote (law), Associate Professor Stephen Davies (philosophy), Emeritus Professor John Dunmore (languages), Professor Mason Durie (Māori studies), Professor Michael Neill (English literature), Emeritus Professor Bill Oliver (history), Professor Nick Perry (media studies), Professor Michael Peters (education), Distinguished Professor Dame Anne Salmond (social anthropology, Māori studies and history), Professor John Smillie (law), and Emeritus Professor Terry Sturm (New Zealand literature).

James Belich, Judith Binney, Brian Coote, Stephen Davies, Michael Neill, Nick Perry, Michael Peters, Anne Salmond and Terry Sturm are all present or former members of staff or professors emeriti. Professor John Morrow (Dean of Arts), Helen Renwick (University Library) and Professor Mike Taggart (Law) are all trustees of the Council for the Humanities.

New secrets revealed



Sue McGlashan introduces the machine.

In the basement of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences is a new piece of machinery that will let you see the details on the outside of a virus.

The School of Medical Sciences and the Biomedical Imaging Research Unit on 22 November celebrated the arrival of this exciting new research tool – a Tecnai™ G2 Spirit TWIN transmission electron microscope (TEM).

The machine allows researchers to look at

tissues and cells at very high magnification (up to 600,000 times) enabling scientists to examine minute structures inside cells that cannot be visualised using light microscopes.

Professor John Fraser (Biomedical Sciences) welcomed the guests and Dr Sue McGlashan (Anatomy with Radiology) introduced them to the capabilities of the new TEM.

University scientists will be able to use the TEM to increase knowledge and understanding of normal and pathological cell ultrastructure. Professor Richard Faull (Anatomy with Radiology) says he and his research group will be using it to investigate the ultrastructural basis of new brain cell formation in the normal human brain and in disease states such as epilepsy, Huntington's Disease and Parkinson's Disease.

The new microscope also has state-of-the-art three-dimensional imaging capabilities; a sequence of images, collected automatically with the digital camera, can be reconstructed using powerful 3D software to provide new information about the 3D structure and orientation of cells and organelles.

Tom Barnes looks forward to new challenges



Tom Barnes.

Professor Tom Barnes said on his departure after six and a half years as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research): "It has been a rare privilege to serve as DVC(R) of the University of Auckland.

"The job is fascinating and challenging, and I was fortunate in receiving superb support from many wonderful people. I shall miss Auckland and will follow its future with great interest. I wish my colleagues here every success going forward."

And the many staff who are sad to see him go will be glad to learn that he does intend to come back to New Zealand at some time in the future.

"I feel my roots are strongly within this country", he says, "as much as they are in England."

After more than 16 years at the University – ten in the Department of Physics, where he advanced from lecturer to professor, and six and a half in his present position – Tom is now about to take up a new role in his country of birth as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise) at the University of Greenwich in London.

He will be in Greenwich ready to commence his new position in January 2008.

Greenwich is a University with around 24,000 students (17,000 EFTS). Among its peers, it has a high level of research revenue and a good research reputation, says Tom.

The university is probably best known internationally for its Natural Resources Institute which undertakes work around poverty reduction and the provision of aid to developing countries, and for its Fire Engineering Research Group which conducts investigations on how fire spreads through structures such as airliners and complex buildings, and on the ways in which people behave in attempting to escape from fire.

One of Tom's roles at the university will be similar to the one he holds now as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research). The other will be as Chief Executive Officer of the commercial arm of the university, the equivalent of Auckland UniServices Ltd. In addition he will oversee four of the schools (faculties) of the university.

Tom is looking forward to the challenge of helping advance research and research revenue in a new context and a different educational system than the one he has become accustomed to.

At the same time he will take with him a "huge regard" for The University of Auckland and its research culture, which he says is strongly embedded throughout the institution.

"I will carry away an impression that notwithstanding the huge diversity within the institution, there is a strong consensus about the role and mission of a university in modern society.

"I think the degree to which members of the University community are committed to the vision of The University of Auckland as a top international performer, and are working to fulfil that vision, is quite extraordinary."

The greatest thrill of his time at Auckland has been the achievement by the University of clear recognition as the top university in New Zealand for its research and teaching contribution.

Another great pleasure has been in seeing so many of the University's most talented researchers consistently gain recognition of their work through prestigious prizes and awards.

"It has always been a great pleasure to see the tremendous efforts and uncompromising commitment to excellence of our researchers rewarded by appropriate national and international recognition."

Viewpoint

Free speech in context

"The great democracy debate", proclaimed one of the many headlines devoted by *The New Zealand Herald* to electoral finance reform.

"Threat to free speech" was another.

Meanwhile, students of Politics 113, Politics and the Media, were sweating over the question of how well the founding democratic principle of "isegoria" – equal free speech – has fared in the shift from "unmediated" ancient Athens to media-saturated modern democracy.

Good students recognised that the intuitive appeal of "free speech" generates only a slogan unless its purposes and practices in particular contexts are better understood.

One valiant examinee contended that in Athenian democracy free speech was not subject to the potentially distorting effects of money on access to media and professionalised publicity – instead, equality was ensured because "words were spread by foot and mouth".

This was possibly an inspired allusion to that other venerable free speech tradition, medicinal truth driving out the disease of error. Either way, it shared the spirit of the electoral finance debate: bold assertions based on unspoken assumptions about the impact of money and media on politics. But does money talk?

If the proposed law aims to temper that impact it is worth trying to establish what the impact is, yet there has been little informed discussion.

The NZ Herald reprinted figures from blogger David Farrar which confirmed what we already know: that "spending big money" does not translate directly into votes. Finlay MacDonald in the *Sunday Star-Times* confirmed what we also know: that "big bucks do make a difference", as Labour showed in 1987 and National in 2005.

The proper academic response is, of course: "We need more research". And among the neglected submissions on the electoral finance bill is one emerging from the Political Studies Department seeking resources for the New Zealand Election Study, without substantial external funding since 2002.

As the NZES submission argues, the Bill "fails to provide resources to generate a sufficiently robust evidence-base from which to assess various claims and counter claims about the health of New Zealand's democratic process". It adds that a publicly-funded survey would equalise access to this crucial information, proposing funding of \$150,000 per three-yearly cycle, allocated competitively through the Electoral Commission.

Political communication can never be reduced to matters of fact rather than argument; nor can the relationship between the two ever be unimportant (hence it being the theme of my own Marsden-funded research). Do media and spin infect like foot and mouth? I think we should be told.

Dr Geoff Kemp – Political Studies

True academic star departs

While still completing his Cambridge PhD on the Caroline dramatist John Ford, Michael Neill joined Auckland's English Department in 1967.

Retiring after forty years, he is now one of the world's most distinguished authorities on Shakespeare and early modern drama, constantly in demand to speak at international conferences and prestigious institutions. He was chosen to give the Shakespeare Birthday Lecture at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington in 1993 and the Annual Lecture on Shakespeare at the British Academy in London in 1998.

His reputation, first built on a series of influential journal articles, has been consolidated by eight books. *Issues of Death: Mortality and Identity in English Renaissance Tragedy* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997) and *Putting History to the Question: Power, Politics, and Society in English Renaissance Drama* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000) have received unstinting praise. *The Review of English Studies* reviewer was typical in relishing "the pleasure of learning from Neill's scholarship and critical sensitivity" and pronouncing *Issues of Death* "the most consistently illuminating and rewarding book on English Renaissance tragedy written in the last twenty years". Michael's Oxford Shakespeare editions of *Anthony and Cleopatra* (1994) and *Othello* (2006) are among the glories of the series. The *Times Literary Supplement* reviewer called the latter, "a volume alive with exemplary editorial and critical thought . . . a landmark in Shakespeare studies".

Like all Michael's work on the early modern period, the *Othello* edition benefits from a New Zealander's concern with postcolonial issues of race and identity. With Sebastian Black, he established the English Department's first courses (at MA and stage three level) on

Postcolonial Literature, an area of study for which the department is now renowned and on which Michael has published widely.

Emblematic of Michael's main specialisations is the cover picture on the Winter 2001 issue of the



Michael Neill.

top American Shakespeare journal, *Shakespeare Quarterly*. It shows Shakespeare with a moko. A tiki dangles from his neck, a greenstone pendant from his left ear. As President of the Australia and New Zealand Shakespeare Association, Michael had organised its sixth biennial conference in Auckland in 2000 and attracted many eminent Northern Hemisphere scholars, among whom was the *Quarterly's* editor Gail Paster. Michael was invited to guest-edit an issue devoted to the conference theme, "Dislocating Shakespeare", and Cushla Parekowhai's witty piece of cultural reinscription traversed the globe.

Michael has been a splendid teacher, whose popularity with students survives his ferocious attitude to sloppy writing. His lectures, delivered with the flair and assurance of a talented actor, are

always packed with original insights. They exemplify the ideal relationship between teaching and research. Almost every play that he taught in our courses on Shakespeare and his contemporaries sooner or later became the subject of one or more of his brilliant articles. Exploring a text for teaching purposes, Michael invariably discovers something that can also enlighten conference-goers and readers of academic books and journals. His lecturing on Middleton and Rowley's *The Changeling* led to his important New Mermaid edition (2006). His MA course on "Shakespeare and Empire" originated in the research seminar programme that he directed at the Folger Shakespeare Library in 1993.

Among Michael's other interests have been Irish literature and Restoration literature, and authors as different as Joseph Conrad, Greg McGee, and Dylan Thomas. In the late 70s and early 80s he was an astute, and sometimes acerbic, theatre reviewer. He has served on a variety of faculty and University committees and was active among those campaigning for the establishment of the University Marae. He was a fine head of department (1999-2001), and has been a staunch, if embattled, defender of his subject, the humanities, and collegial principles. With his retirement, as he assumes a short-term post as Visiting Professor at Vanderbilt University in Memphis, Auckland loses one of its true academic stars.

The University of Auckland has again attained a top-50 ranking in the THES list, with Arts and Humanities the most highly ranked subject-grouping. Staff such as Michael have created these successes. His colleagues and former colleagues offer him our warmest good wishes.

Emeritus Professor Mac Jackson (English)

CCE spreads its wings



Web design tutor Jayesh Mistry discussing his course with Programme Manager Jo Davies.

The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) will cease to be located within the Faculty of Arts at the beginning of 2008, instead becoming a University-wide facility operating as a central Service Division.

The change will encourage collaboration with faculties and other Service Divisions in community outreach, conference organisation and professional development programmes, assisting the University to meet its objectives relating to community engagement.

"We're very excited by the opportunity this will bring for us to work intensively with staff throughout the University," says Centre Director, Professor Susan Geertshuis.

"We will help schools and departments to access new revenue streams and build links with their professional and regional communities by offering short, non-credit courses and by helping them disseminate their research."

The Centre will offer the following services to all schools and departments:

- Course design, development and delivery in the following areas: Adult and community education; Generic and specialist professional development; International non-credit education in collaboration with UniServices and Auckland International.
- Conference management
- Part-time bridging courses
- Research in adult learning

Next year CCE will build linkages across the University and Susan says staff will be keen to present at faculty, school or departmental meetings and to answer any queries regarding potential collaboration, or to clarify any points regarding its services. For more information contact Professor Susan Geertshuis, on extension 85609 or s.geertshuis@auckland.ac.nz

From the collection

New Zealand-born artist Boyd Webb began taking photographs of carefully staged scenes consisting of actors and props arranged in dramatic settings while studying sculpture at art school in Christchurch in the late 1960s.

Colour photography has remained his preferred medium for its ability to imbue his images with immediate plausibility while revealing the contrivances underlying their creation.

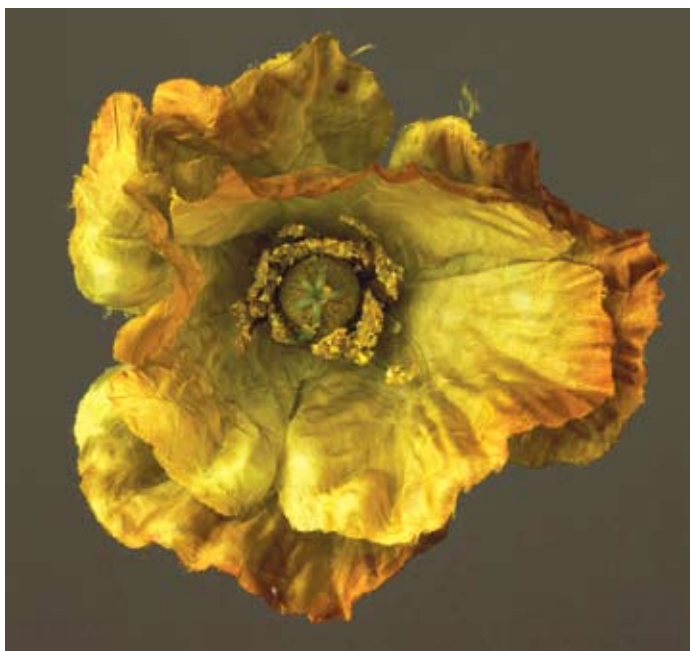
Winning a scholarship to the Royal College of Art in London, Boyd Webb has lived in England since 1972, with solo exhibitions at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, Centre George Pompidou and a shortlisting for the Turner Prize in 1988.

Fabricated from shaving cream, carpet underlay and blow-up plastic birds, fish and animals, his tableaux have become increasingly fantastic, hinting at parallel universes where familiar objects lose their usual properties and functions.

No single meaning can attach itself to these set-up images. He chooses enigmatic titles which resolve nothing for those seeking a definitive interpretation. However, in the Auckland Art Gallery's 1997 touring retrospective of 25 years of his work, an enduring concern with

ecological issues such as pollution, nuclear waste and the effects of technology was evident.

Gold 2006, a close-up of a cinnamon magnolia in full bloom, is one of a suite of enlarged prints of artificial flowers, each named for their colour.



Produced from negatives as traditional or non-digital photographs, these were exhibited as a group under the collective title *Faux*, the French word for false or

Art

fake. Paradoxically, the images are examples of straight, or unmanipulated, photography which mimic the heightened reality of the digital world.

Too colourful and seductive to be wholesome, the flowers depicted hide symptoms of disease and decay beneath their baroque excess, their artificial character carrying associations with death.

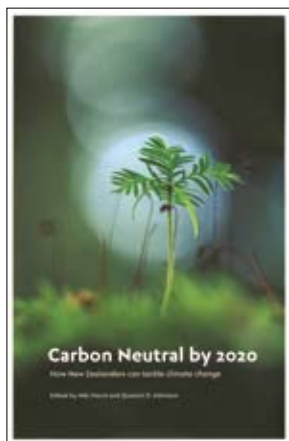
Evoking the abstract qualities of the flower paintings of modern artists such as Georgia O'Keeffe and Andy Warhol, as well as the late romantic symbolism of eroticism and purity in the photographs of Robert Mapplethorpe, Boyd Webb's 21st century blooms update the language of flowers. Created in today's world of genetically altered biological life forms, 70 years after Edward Steichen exhibited his selectively bred delphiniums at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1936, Boyd Webb's fake flowers offer a new twist on the age-old nature versus art dichotomy, pointing to the way that nature is interpreted – and even authored – by humans.

Linda Tyler

Boyd Webb, *Gold 2006*, C-type print mounted on aluminium, 1200 x 1300mm.

Carbon Neutral by 2020

Climate change has become one of the central issues of our time, yet it is weighed down by messages of doom and gloom and a pervasive sense of helplessness about how we should respond.



This book, edited by Dr Niki Harre (Psychology) and Auckland alumnus Dr Quentin Atkinson, presents solutions from a range of New Zealand experts, including several staff from the University,

who show how we can rethink our current practices, mobilise people and put in place new ways of doing things that will help create a carbon-neutral society.

The editors begin with an introduction looking at how a positive response to climate change can contribute to a meaningful life. A wide range of chapters from different specialists covers many pressing issues we face in daily life. The book concludes with actions people can take to be part of the solution.

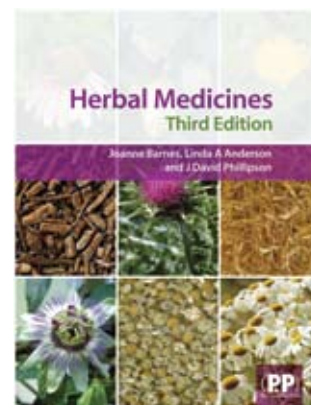
Carbon Neutral by 2020 is aimed at individuals and organisations, and offers ideas for everyone in businesses, local government, community organisations, schools and tertiary institutions, as well as to citizens who want to do something constructive.

Herbal Medicines

This comprehensive new edition of *Herbal Medicines*, edited by Associate Professor Joanne Barnes (Pharmacy) with Linda Anderson and David Phillipson, is an authoritative single reference source on all aspects of the use of herbal medicines.

Information is brought together in 152 structured monographs on the chemical constituents of commonly used herbs, with details of their clinical use, safety and efficiency.

Books



This new edition offers four new monographs on butterbur, greater celandine, kava and rhodiola. It also includes chemical structure drawings for the principle chemical constituents of the herbal medicinal product; colour photographs of the growing plants and dried material used in herbal medicine; and a directory of product names and suppliers from more than 35 countries.

A 15 percent discount off the purchase price of *Herbal Medicines* is offered to recipients of *The University of Auckland News*. To claim your discount, which also includes free shipping, please order online at www.pharmpress.com and quote promotion code HMUA1207 upon checkout.

Pathway to higher degrees



Jew Lim, top Science student in the TFC, receives her prize from Raewyn Dalziel.

Graduates of the Tertiary Foundation Certificate, the University's alternative pathway to further tertiary study, have been urged to set their sights high.

"You have to make the conscious choice to put the effort in," said former TFC student, Christina Stewart. She just has completed a BMus in

composition with a "stackful of As" after starting her degree with "mostly Cs" and realising she "just had to work harder".

Addressing the TFC graduation ceremony at the Fale Pasifika on 22 November she urged the graduates "never to stop learning and upskilling. Take time to consider where you would like to be in three years time. For myself I would like to be finishing my masters and starting a PhD."

Dr Amir Ashoorzadeh, the first TFC graduate to go on and gain a doctorate (*University News*, Issue 9 2007), also spoke. He described how he went from being a cook on his arrival in New Zealand from Iran in 1990 to gaining his PhD in chemistry 17 years later and becoming a Research Fellow in the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre. He urged those present to be similarly ambitious.

The full-time course, running since 1989 and previously called the Wellesley Programme,

is for those lacking the academic background for university.

Some 456 TFC graduates were enrolled at The University of Auckland in 2007. Two completed PhDs (in Chemistry and in Marine Science), one was taking a doctorate in Philosophy, one in English, and two in Medicine.

The TFC cohort was incredibly culturally diverse with widely different life experiences and educational backgrounds, programme co-ordinator Stephanie Wyatt, told the ceremony.

"Teaching on TFC gives us, as teachers, the wonderful opportunity of opening a new pathway for our students to tertiary education, and hopefully through that, to greater choice in careers and also in life."

The Chancellor, Hugh Fletcher, presented the TFC certificates while the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Raewyn Dalziel, presented the academic prizes.

Jubilee theme for calendar

The poster calendar for 2008 features two of the University's buildings old (long gone) and new (the Owen G Glenn Building).

It also lists selected 125th Jubilee events and there is a wall planner on the back.

You can order it from Communications

and Marketing, Level 10, Fisher Building, 18 Waterloo Quadrant (ext. 87467, tw.thompson@auckland.ac.nz). Staff wanting to display both the poster calendar and the wall planner are of course welcome to two copies.



What's on

FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER

Doctoral recital

Liang Deng on piano. 7.30pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Queries to Catherine Syme-Parmenter on ext 87409, email c.syme@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER

Department of Psychology seminar
Prof Roger Ratcliff, Dept of Psychology, Ohio State University: *Age and IQ effects on discrimination performance*. 11am HSB 604. Queries to Mike Corballis, ext 88561 or m.corballis@auckland.ac.nz

WEDNESDAY 12 DECEMBER

General staff managers forum
4-5pm Owen G. Glenn Bldg, City Campus. For all general staff (level 5 and above) who manage one or more staff. Bookings and queries to ext 85070 or email je.wilson@auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 13 DECEMBER

ACC Symposium: Accident Compensation: Forty years on - a celebration of the Woodhouse Report Compensation for Personal Injury in New Zealand. Report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry
9am-4.30pm Stone Lecture Theatre, Third floor, School of Law, 9 Eden Crescent. Queries to Rosemary Tobin, email r.tobin@auckland.ac.nz Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/accgroup

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Lovely home with seaviews in scenic Hillsborough, 20 minutes drive from The University of Auckland in top residential area. Two-level house. Top/main level has one large master ensuite, two other bdrms, lounge, dining, kitchen, large deck, laundry, toilet, shower. Bottom level has lounge, tea-making facilities, three rooms, separate toilet, bthrm, suitable for additional living, or recreational area, library or office. Freshly decorated, available immediately. \$500 pw. Phone Fong on (09) 625-5379 or email gabrielle_gus_fong@hotmail.com
Point Chevalier: three-bdrm family home. Modern kitchen and bathroom. Separate toilet. Dble carport. Osp for another car. Available late Jan/Feb 2008. Owners overseas 12-13 months. Furnished is negotiable if required. Handy to public transport, ten minutes to CBD. \$530 pw. Phone (09) 849-3110 or email tonylindquist1@hotmail.com
Two-bedroom apartment in Broadway, Newmarket. Brand new two bdrm + one secure car park, partially furnished, close to shops, top schools and University. Available now. \$410 pw. Phone (021) 124-7156 or email y.dong@auckland.ac.nz

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

University faculty visiting from the US needs rental from Jan-July 2008. We wish to rent a two- or three-bdrm house or apartment partially or fully-

furnished. Prefer Kohimarama, St Heliers, Glendowie, Meadowbank, or Epsom area. In the range of \$300-\$450 pw. Email Ben at bdyson@memphis.edu

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Cottage on lake front - Lake Rotoiti. Own jetty. Three-bdrm house with all amenities. Perfect for watersports and fishing. Close to Rotorua and 45 minutes from Tauranga. \$250 per night for six people. No pets. Please phone Vivienne on ext 48910 or (021) 899-107.
Onemana/Whangamata available from 27 December onwards. Three bdrms, sleeps 6-8 from \$150 p/n. Good views, close to beach, no pets and n/s preferred. Contact Loretta Roberts on (06) 757-4794 or (027) 441-9727 or loretta.imac@xtra.co.nz
Stunning location in bush only 45 minutes from the city. Stay at Karekare Treetops Lodge, bed and breakfast in the Waitakere Ranges. Panoramic views to Karekare Beach. Enjoy scenic walking in the wild beauty of the West Coast, black sand beach, relaxing on the spacious decks. Optional gourmet dinners. Perfect for holidays, celebrations, visitors to Auckland. See www.karekaretreetopslodge.co.nz or phone Maria on (09) 812-9015.

MISCELLANEOUS

Applying for permanent residency? Avoid delays and problems. Keep your application on track with an easy-to-follow action plan tailored to your situation. For a free no-obligation quote contact Glenys at GVL Faculty Migration

& Settlement. Email glenys@gvl.co.nz Ph (027) 476-8771 or view www.gvl.co.nz
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
Explore your creativity in a Continuing Education Summer workshop, January 7-13 at the Epsom Campus. Art, writing and language workshops; two to five-day options. 10% discount on workshop fee for University of Auckland staff. Phone ext 87832 or see our website www.cce.auckland.ac.nz
Holiday job wanted by 17-year-old school student. Physically strong and outgoing and willing to tackle anything on offer. Can supply references. Phone Albert Walker 376-2996 or (021) 214-8228.

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).

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).