



International options wide open

When Elvira Bobekova embarked on her masters degree in Development Studies two years ago, she had more than just academic challenges to tackle.

The 29 year-old left her native Kyrgyzstan (formerly part of the Soviet Union) to come to The University of Auckland. In addition to not being a native speaker of English, Elvira faced starting a life in a city where she knew no one, and entering an unfamiliar education system.

Two years and a masters degree later, it's clear she has passed such tests with flying colours.

As further proof of her success, Elvira was co-winner of the Asian Development Bank essay competition on sustainability issues in Asia and the Pacific.

"We were thrilled when she was in the final 25, but to then jointly take out the winning award, was even more impressive," says Elvira's supervisor, Dr Eve Coxon (Development Studies).

Elvira submitted an essay based on her masters thesis, in which she identified the pros and cons of decentralising comprehensive education in rural Kyrgyzstan. In March, she will travel to the international Youth Forum in Japan to discuss global issues of development and sustainability.

"Mine was the only essay about Central Asia, so I was proud to have been selected as a winner," says Elvira, who undertook two months' fieldwork in two rural Kyrgyzstan schools as part of her thesis. "While there are arguments in decentralisation theory that it can bring about positive change, in my country it is not working as theorised."

From the outset, Elvira had to adjust to new styles of teaching and learning based on critical, student led-seminars, reading across disciplines and engaging with fellow students from different countries and with different life



Elvira Bobekova in Kyrgyzstan

experiences, says Dr Yvonne Underhill-Sem, Acting Director of Development Studies. "But this is the nature of Development Studies and Elvira's success here provides her with many options for future employment and study."

Elvira's interest in New Zealand was sparked when a Kiwi living in Kyrgyzstan gave a presentation about this country, describing the beautiful landscape and the excellent opportunities to study.

She says anyone interested in opening their minds about the world should pursue Development Studies, and she believes the University offers a particularly strong foundation in research and theory. While her new career path is not yet known – Elvira has

now returned to the capital city of Bishkek to start job hunting – she hopes to continue her development work by joining international development organisations or non-government organisations (NGOs).

Wherever she ends up, Elvira will always have fond memories of her time at the University and in New Zealand.

"I will miss New Zealanders the most – they are so friendly and welcoming, and I've made some good friends here," says Elvira, who notes Kyrgyzstan is often compared to Switzerland for its striking mountains and distinct seasons. "I'll also miss the ocean and the landscape. People always told me this is a beautiful country and it is."

Key events

Lecture by Distinguished Visiting Fellow

Roman Law and European legal culture will be the subject of a public lecture by Professor Reinhard Zimmermann, Legal Research Foundation Distinguished Visiting Fellow. Professor Zimmermann is one of the world's foremost comparative lawyers. He has a deep knowledge of both common law and civilian law (including Roman Law) systems, especially in the fields of contract, tort, and restitution. He is currently Director of the Max Planck Institute for Foreign Private and Private International Law in Hamburg. The lecture will take place on 7 March at 6pm in the Stone Lecture Theatre at the Law School. For more information see the Law School website: www.law.auckland.ac.nz.

Science and art of sleep

Why do we sleep? That is one of the questions Professor Anna Wirz-Justice will address in her Hood Lecture Series on "The science and art of sleep" to take place over four Wednesdays in March. Professor Wirz-Justice, a distinguished academic at the University of Basel in Switzerland, will be visiting the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences as a Hood Fellow. An international authority on human biological rhythms and sleep, she has pioneered light therapy and sleep deprivation for depression, and has elucidated new aspects of the physiology of the pineal hormone melatonin. In her lectures she will provide an overview of this exciting area of neuroscience and its growing relevance for architectural design. The lectures will be held in Engineering Lecture Theatre 1.439 from 6-7pm on 7, 14, 21 and 28 March (with drinks and nibbles from 5.30pm). The lectures are entitled "Why do we sleep?" (7 March), "Our biological clocks – Ticking in time for health" (14 March), "Lighting up depression" (21 March), and "Light and architecture: A biologist's view" (28 March).

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From the Vice-Chancellor

Gong Xi Fa Cai, and a happy Chinese New Year.

For The University of Auckland, the 2007 Chinese New Year celebrations were marked by an event of particular significance, the launch of The Confucius Institute in New Zealand. The importance of this event was reflected in those who attended the opening ceremony – including the Prime Minister, Ministers of Trade, and Ethnic Affairs, Vice Director of HANBAN (Office of Chinese Language Council International), Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Vice President of Fudan University (Shanghai) and the Vice-Chancellors of several New Zealand universities.

For some years the Chinese government has sought to build an international interest in Chinese language and culture through the creation of Confucius institutes, typically in collaboration with leading local universities. As a result of a great deal of hard work by Chris Tremewan, Nora Yao and Stijn te Strake, the New Zealand Confucius Institute, directed by Nora Yao, has finally come to fruition in collaboration with Fudan University, one of our Universitas 21 partners.

The Institute will work nationwide in partnership with schools, universities, business and community groups to build New Zealanders' China "literacy" in an age when China is emerging as a global economic power. The Confucius Institute will provide professional development for New Zealand teachers by organising visits to China, providing a resource centre, supporting preparation for Chinese Proficiency Examinations and organising visits by scholars, researchers and teachers from China to educational institutions throughout this country. The Institute will also offer a wide range of focused short courses, including Chinese for use in business situations and translation services, and for tourists – particularly important as the Beijing Olympics approach. In addition, there will be regular activities, from cultural events to Chinese speech competitions, which will involve the local community.

The Confucius Institute represents another important step in our strategy of cooperation with China. It will, I am sure, come to be an important means by which New Zealanders of all ages engage with Chinese language and culture, and I congratulate all those whose efforts have brought it to fruition.

A question of excellence

What makes a good teacher?

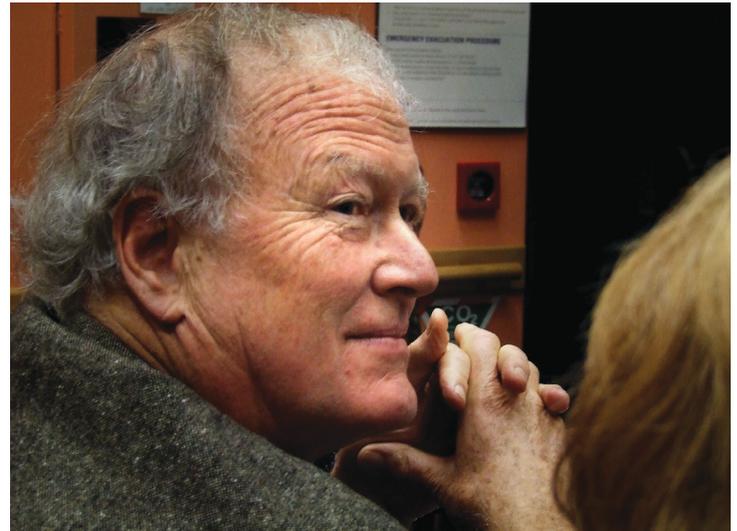
The best people to ask would seem to be the ones who have been singled out for the excellence of their own teaching. And it surely must be more than coincidence when they give similar answers.

Winners of the University of Auckland Teaching Excellence Awards for 2006 are Associate Professor Cameron Grant (Paediatrics) and Dr Christine Rubie-Davies (Teaching and Learning Development) for Sustained Excellence in Teaching; Professor Michael Corballis (Psychology) for Excellence in Research Supervision; Dr Sheila Woodgate (Chemistry) for Innovation in Teaching; Dr Diane Brand, Dr Deidre Brown and Dr Rosangela Tenorio (Architecture and Planning) for Collaboration in Teaching; and Dr Rachel Fewster, (Statistics) for Early Career Excellence in Teaching.

The University's two nominees for the national Teaching Excellence Awards are Michael Corballis and Christine Rubie-Davies — who gave remarkably similar answers to the question posed above.

"First create an atmosphere where they're not afraid to express themselves," says Michael. "You have to bring out the best in a student, find out what they want to do, what they're good at and what their ideas are. Then you encourage them, as distinct from telling them what to do."

For Christine Rubie-Davies the emotional environment assumes a similar importance. "I think when students feel comfortable and relaxed with you, and they feel as if their efforts are being recognised and that you're there to provide support if they need it, as well as providing information, then they are likely to be more successful at learning what you



Michael Corballis

want them to learn."

Christine is primarily teaching students who are going to be teachers. "From that perspective it is important that you become a role model," she says. "The way you teach is the way you hope they will teach."

Christine sees teaching the student as just as important as teaching the subject. She bases her teaching on a genuine care for the students and a belief that success is one of the most significant motivators. In addition she sees the need to provide a variety of learning opportunities in order to cater for the individual needs of an increasingly diverse student population.

Learning should be exciting and enjoyable, she believes.

"I want to promote my students' curiosity, enhance their excitement for teaching, and inspire them to expand their intellectual horizons."

Christine sums up her beliefs in this way: What are the qualities of a successful teacher? Enjoy your

students; be honest with them; don't be afraid to show them that you care; show them respect; listen to them; and laugh with them!

For Michael, a major concern is to be flexible and encourage creativity. "You need to listen carefully to the students and not to be dogmatic. These students are learning how to be creative researchers. So it's no good locking them into some sort of dogma or making them feel they have to accord with narrow expectations."

Michael has supervised or co-supervised 37 PhD students since the mid-1960s, and is currently working with another six.

Though he enjoys teaching at all levels (including the level one psychology class that last year attracted 1000 students) he sees postgraduate supervision as intensive, privileged and intrinsically rewarding.

He values research students as "the life-blood of research in the University". With "roughly two PhD students for each academic member of staff", this means they "carry out a major part of the actual hands-on research" – while at the same time staff are stimulated to sharpen their own thinking through the contact with research students.

Ideally the process provides an education for both participants. "Through students I have found myself learning about areas I would otherwise never have considered," says Michael. "The enrichment I have earned from this is immense."

He likes to remind students that the PhD may be "their last chance to think creatively and in a leisurely fashion before being flung into the more pressured world of teaching, administration and applying for research grants."



Christine Rubie-Davies

Companionable way to commute

Carpooling beats driving alone in Auckland's rush-hour traffic hands down. It is also quicker, more comfortable and more companionable than taking the bus.

That is the verdict of John Light and Denis Agate of Property Services who have been driving together from the University to their respective homes in St Heliers and Orakei for the last six years.

They endorse with enthusiasm the Rideshare service which the Auckland Regional Transport Authority is introducing to make it easier for University of Auckland and AUT staff to carpool.

"We urge our colleagues to enlist and give it a try," says Denis who is the University's Energy Manager. Initially a reluctant convert to carpooling he could not imagine commuting home each evening any other way.

Carpooling arrangements follow no set pattern and John, a Project Manager, and Denis have tailored theirs to suit themselves. They always use John's car which, as an early starter, he drives to work by himself in the morning. Denis takes the bus to Britomart from where the 12-minute walk to his office in the Human Sciences Building gives him useful exercise.

At around 5.30pm John, based at 70 Symonds Street, gives Denis two rings on his cellphone. This signals that he is en route to collect his car and they rendezvous on Grafton Road at around the same time.

After a busy day's toil Denis appreciates his "airconditioned ride home". He also enjoys the "social aspect" – the chance to learn what is happening in John's section of Property Services as well as yarn about non-work matters.

He says staff who register for Rideshare may be surprised to discover how many colleagues live in their area and even in their street. "Carpooling is a great way to instil community spirit within the University," he says.

Such logistics as timing need not be insuperable, says



Denis Agate runs to catch his ride.

Denis, and with compromise carpooling can work. Payment is an issue for non-driving participants to negotiate with their driver(s). His practice is to give John the bus fare equivalent for each car ride. Each March they decide on which charity to donate the proceeds to.

- Staff can still pre-register for the Rideshare scheme with AUT which starts in mid-March. It offers a quick and secure way to find commuting partners, matching people based on location, working hours and other preferences.

Please refer to the Registrar's email to staff of 15 February or go directly to the link at <http://rideshare.travelwise.org.nz/Public/User/SignIn.aspx>

For further information and questions about Rideshare please contact Ian Houston in Property Services, ext 82767, i.houston@auckland.ac.nz

More distinguished visitors

The last issue of the News featured the Hood Fellows for 2007. However, also visiting the University this year will be a number of other distinguished recipients of Hood Fellowships.

Anna Wirz-Justice, Professor of Psychiatric Neurobiology and Head of the Centre for Chronobiology at the Psychiatric University Clinics in Basel, Switzerland, will be visiting the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences next month. Professor Wirz-Justice, whose university training was in New Zealand, is a distinguished academic and an international authority in human biological rhythms and sleep and their disorders. She will deliver four public lectures during her stay (see Key Events, page 1) and will also give faculty lectures.

Professor Stephen Farthing, who holds the Rootstein Hopkins Research Chair of Drawing at the University of the Arts in London, will be a guest of the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries (NICAI) and will conduct research and teaching-related activities with Elam School of Fine Arts and the School of Architecture

and Planning. Professor Farthing's specialist fields of expertise are in painting and drawing. He was the eighth Ruskin Master at the University of Oxford, and former executive director of the New York Academy of Art, Manhattan.

Professor David Bordwell from the University of Wisconsin-Madison will be visiting the Faculty of Arts in May. Professor Bordwell is one of the world's foremost film scholars and the author of books on American, Chinese, French, German, Japanese and Russian film, as well as classic and challenging books on aspects of film criticism and theory. He also specialises in problems of art: style, interpretation, narration and history.

While in Auckland, Professor Bordwell will deliver at least one public lecture, as well as lectures or seminars for staff and students in Film,

Television and Media Studies and in other related disciplines such as Art History, Comparative Literature, Philosophy and languages.

Also visiting the Faculty of Arts will be **Dr Kristin Thompson**, a specialist in film history and analysis, film narrative, Hollywood and non-Hollywood film and television narration, and film as industry. Dr Thompson has published nine books on film, including one on Peter Jackson's Lord of the Rings franchise, its creation, marketing and impact.

One of her books, co-written with Professor David Bordwell, is used as the main introductory text in the Department of Film, Television and Media Studies. Dr Thompson will deliver a public lecture and several lectures to students and staff in Film, Television and Media Studies, English and Marketing.

New international agreements

The University of Auckland has recently signed cooperation agreements with two universities.

With both Fudan University in China and Université de La Rochelle in France the University has signed new Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) and Student Exchange agreements.

MOU agreements enable formal research collaboration and academic staff exchange. Student Exchange agreements extend the relationship to allow for the movement of students between the institutions. A Letter of Understanding varies the terms of the Student Exchange agreement.

If you are interested in more information about these agreements and the activity they make possible, please contact: Gurpreet Singh g.singh@auckland.ac.nz ext 84202 on MOUs, and Claire Murray c.murray@auckland.ac.nz ext 89570 on student exchange agreements.

A full list of Student Exchange agreements can be found at

http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uo/about/international/360/exchangepartners/exchangepartners_home.cfm

Subjects sought for selenium trial

A study at the University has demonstrated a potential link between selenium intake and biological indicators (biomarkers) associated with susceptibility to prostate cancer, particularly in those men with specific high-risk genetic profiles.

Those involved in the study are now looking for 500 Caucasian male volunteers to provide additional data to confirm their provisional findings. Participants will be given selenium supplements over a six-month period and be required to give up to four blood samples over the same period for biomarker testing.

For further information or to register as a subject, email Nishi Karunasinghe (n.karunasinghe@auckland.ac.nz).

Biscuits on sale

Guide Biscuits will be on sale in the quad at the City Campus on 8 March. This is part of a sale of the biscuits across Auckland during the month. Choose from plain (\$2.50), chocolate (\$2.80) and mini (\$2.80). For large pre-orders, email guides.auckland@xtra.co.nz

NEW ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

Norman Wong (Accounting and Finance)

I began in the Department of Accounting and Finance at The University of Auckland in 1992, when I was appointed as a tutor.

My teaching has primarily been in the undergraduate financial accounting course, ACCTG 311, which in 2006 had over 750 students, and in the postgraduate research methods courses, ACCTG 701 and FINANCE 701.

My research covers all aspects of financial accounting, but with a particular emphasis on accounting policy choice. I also have a strong research interest in the relation between accounting information and capital markets, and in quantitative/econometric approaches used to study accounting issues. My research, which has been published in leading international accounting journals, attempts in general to explain and understand why accounting numbers are useful for making decisions and it also considers the social and economic consequences of regulating accounting practice.

My secondary school education was at Mount Albert Grammar School and I am an alumnus of The University of Auckland, graduating with a BCom in accounting in 1991, an MCom in accounting and finance in 1992, and a PhD in



Associate Professor Norman Wong

accounting and finance in 2000. My PhD thesis, which was on accounting for income tax and supervised by Professor Jilnaught Wong and Professor David Emanuel, received the inaugural award of the "Vice Chancellor's Prize for the Best Doctoral Thesis in the University of Auckland Business School in 1998/1999".

In my spare time, I enjoy meeting new people and socialising with friends, and I am a keen runner.

Murray Edmond (English)

Theatre and poetry have been entwined in my life. From 1971-1985 I worked in theatre, particularly in experimental and community theatre, for companies such as The Living Theatre Troupe, Theatre Action, and Town and Country Players in New Zealand and the Half Moon Theatre in London. My theatre work consisted of writing drama, acting and directing.

I also published poetry over this time and have continued to do this. My latest of ten individual volumes, *Fool Moon*, was a finalist for the Montana Book Awards in 2005.



Associate Professor Murray Edmond

I not only wrote poetry, but edited several anthologies, notably *Big Smoke: New Zealand Poems 1960-1975* (2000). My doctoral thesis, "Old Comrades of the Future: A history of experimental theatre in New Zealand 1962-1982" (1996), traversed the same time period as and similar territory to the *Big Smoke* anthology, but from the point of view of theatre.

I began teaching at The University of Auckland in 1985 as a tutor, and became a lecturer in 1991. My teaching is now focused on running the undergraduate major in the BA in Theatre and Drama Studies and the postgraduate BA Hons and Masters programmes in Drama Studies. These are located in the English Department, of which I am a member.

I still work professionally in the theatre world, mostly as a dramaturge. In this capacity I have been part of the creative team on all three of Indian Ink's trilogy of plays, *Krishnan's Dairy*, *The Candlestickmaker*, and *The Pickle King*.

We are presently working on a new play, *The Dentist's Chair*. In poetry my latest new venture is editing the online journal *Ka Mate Ka Ora: A New Zealand Journal of Poetry and Poetics* located in the New Zealand Electronic Poetry centre at www.nzepc.auckland.ac.nz

Marti Anderson (Statistics)

I am jointly qualified in marine ecology and mathematical statistics, and work in the interdisciplinary nexus between them.

My research revolves around developing new multivariate statistical methods for analysing ecological data, especially to model multiple species in a community. Species data tend to "misbehave", so I use non-traditional computer-intensive approaches, like permutation and bootstrap methods, to rigorously answer relevant ecological questions.

I do quite a lot of consulting for the Auckland Regional Council, recently to develop models of ecosystem health for estuaries using physical, chemical and biological data. I also do research in experimental design, biodiversity, environmental impact studies, and modelling effects of marine reserves, both locally and overseas.

My other major activity is to write software. With UK company, PRIMER-e, a new program, "PERMANOVA+", will soon be released as an add-on package to PRIMER.

I am an editor of *Ecology Letters* and have been invited to present multiple workshops overseas (in Italy, Sweden, Australia, USA) for scientists keen on using these novel statistical approaches in their work.

For fun, I love to play soccer, to hike, to run, to dive and to play the cello, the piano and the mandolin.



Associate Professor Marti Anderson reefdiving.

Jenny Webster-Brown (Geography and Environmental Sciences)

Prior to joining The University of Auckland in 1997, I completed my PhD in Western Australia (on gold solubility during ore deposit weathering), and worked for the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) and ESR.



Associate Professor Jenny Webster-Brown

As an environmental geochemist working in water quality, my research has always been at the intersection of many disciplines. Now, on a joint appointment between Geography, Geology and Environmental Science, and Chemistry, I enjoy the opportunity to work with students and staff with diverse disciplinary expertise.

My particular research interest is the fate and toxicity of trace elements in fresh waters, which involves field sampling, chemical analysis, experimentation and geochemical modelling.

Recent work on the Waikato River by our Water Research

Group, for example, has enabled fluctuating geothermal arsenic concentrations to be successfully predicted, using a model of arsenic interaction with sediment and diatom surfaces; a significant step forward in understanding the behaviour of arsenic in drinking water supplies.

Our research group includes postgraduate students enrolled in environmental science, geology and chemistry programmes, with water-focused thesis topics ranging from Antarctic meltwater and brine chemistry, to toxic trace metal geochemistry in mine drainage, urban stormwater, estuarine and lowland river environments.

Alistair Young (Medical Sciences)

I was born in Hamilton in 1962. I received my BE degree in Engineering Science in 1984, ME in 1986, and PhD in 1990, all from The University of Auckland. My supervisors were Professor Peter Hunter and Bruce Smaill, who are still active mentors in my work.



Associate Professor Alistair Young

From 1991 to 1993 I was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia under the supervision of Leon Axel, an expert on cardiac MRI. From 1994 I have been working in the Departments of Physiology and Anatomy with Radiology at Auckland.

My current research interests include cardiac mechanics and biomedical image analysis. With Brett Cowan, I developed a software package for fast, accurate analysis of heart function from MRI. This won the 2003 Computerworld Award for Excellence in Biotechnology, and was licensed to Siemens for inclusion in their MRI product line.

I am Director of the Biomedical Imaging Research Unit in the School of Medical Sciences at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, and Research Manager at the Centre for Advanced MRI. My wife Fiona is ex-manager of the Teletext Captioning Service at TVNZ. We have two children, Isaac (nine) and Caitlin (six). They think the Bioengineering Christmas parties are pretty neat.

Northland students assisted to enrol

More than 70 potential students from Northland attended the recent enrolment assistance centres set up at the Faculty of Education campus in Whangarei and at Northland College, Kaikohe.

The Northland Enrolment Assistance Centre (NEAC) initiative aimed to assist Northland students, particularly those without internet access, to enrol online in their chosen courses for 2007.

The centres eliminate the need for Northlanders to travel long distances to the University to complete their enrolment. University representatives were on hand to provide information and course advice to students.

"The three-day initiative was a tremendous success, particularly given that in 2006, a total of 55 students enrolled from the Northland region – and they all would have had to come in person to the main campus or enrol online without assistance," says Lorraine Evening, Manager, Equal Educational Opportunities. "I would particularly like to thank Heather Peters and her team at Te Tai

Tokerau campus and Carolyn Bennett at Northland College for the use of their labs, resources, time and support of our centre staff during the three-day period."

Each enrolment centre featured a computer lab with internet connections, enabling applicants to access the University's online system through The University of Auckland website (www.auckland.ac.nz).

LETHAL WHALE RESEARCH: UNNECESSARY AND UNCONVINCING

Since 1987, despite an International Whaling Commission (IWC) moratorium on commercial hunting of whales, Japan has killed almost 10,000 whales for scientific purposes. Under the IWC convention, member states can issue themselves a permit for scientific whaling: a loophole exploited by the Japanese despite condemnation from the majority of other members, including New Zealand.

The debate is based around Japan's insistence that their long-term and open-ended research programme is valid, despite lacking testable hypotheses, requiring lethal sampling and having no scientific rigour. Japan argues that their lethal research on feeding ecology of whales is vital to understand stock structure.

They state that whales are out-competing other whales and humans for fisheries resources and argue that Antarctic minke whales are starving because endangered humpback and fin whales are increasing at rates of 18 percent and 30 percent respectively.

This is biologically impossible: research using survey counts has found that an increase of 10.6 percent is plausible for these long-lived, slow-breeding whales. In a recent review of 17 years of Japanese research in Antarctica they reported that minke whales eat krill, that there is likely to be more than one stock and that mercury levels have declined; over 7,000 whales died to tell us what we already know.

The use of non-lethal methods such as molecular techniques analysing whale faeces and the observation of feeding behaviour tells us what they eat; taking a tissue biopsy tells us their sex, their relatedness and the genetic differentiation of stocks; photo-identification of unique marks and deployment of satellite tags can tell us their movements between and within breeding and feeding grounds; and recording their song can tell us their stock structure and movements.

This information is published and used by the IWC to understand the recovery of severely depleted whale stocks. Data sets obtained from the whaling era are still valid, despite causing the near extinction of some species, and there is no reason to kill more whales.

The Japanese scientific whaling programme is simplistic, grossly flawed and unnecessary. They rarely publish their work, they manipulate data and they kill whales for no reason in the name of science.

Dr Rochelle Constantine
(School of Biological Sciences)

ART HISTORY

Unique study of expatriate artist



From left (foreground) Don Bassett, Don's sister Jude Graveson, and his brother Michael Bassett

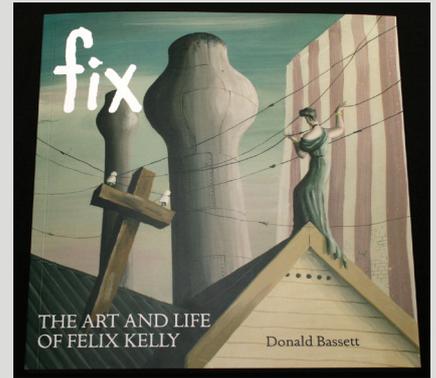
A study of the life and work of one of New Zealand's most interesting expatriates was launched at the Gus Fisher Gallery on 12 February.

Fix: The Art and Life of Felix Kelly, written by Dr Don Bassett (Art History) and published under the imprint of Darrow Press, is a

beautifully designed volume copiously illustrated in colour and black and white.

Felix Kelly (1914-1994) was born in Auckland, attended Elam and studied graphic design before leaving New Zealand for Britain in 1935, never to return.

While best known for paintings of houses

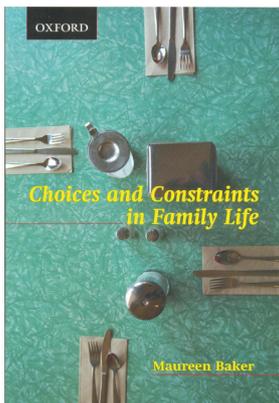


in landscapes that merge something of the eighteenth century topographic tradition with surrealism, he had an extremely diverse career, ranging from cartoons and dust-jackets to furniture and stage design. In this context he worked with John Gielgud and Robert Helpmann.

He was even an architect in a small way, doing paintings of imaginary houses that were then translated into reality. Kelly became in later years closely identified with a conservative and aristocratic clientele, even royalty; but his earlier neo-romantic work (which he exhibited alongside Frances Hodgkins) remains his most important work.

Don says it is time New Zealand admitted this interesting artist to the pantheon of our most respected expatriates.

STAFF BOOKS

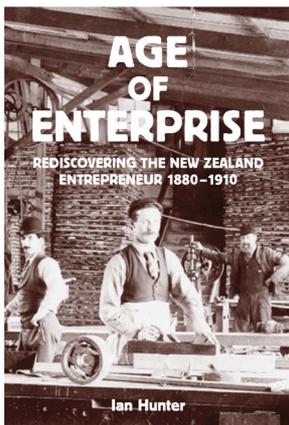


Choices and Constraints in Family Life

This book, written by Professor Maureen Baker (Sociology) and published by Oxford University Press (Canada), aims to understand how relationships and family practices have changed over the past decades in western industrialised countries, and to differentiate between actual changes and the misconceptions voiced in political speeches or perpetuated in the media.

Discussions of social research reveal that "personal choices" about intimate partners, having children, dissolving relationships, and maintaining contact with parents and siblings are influenced by our family and cultural upbringing, our socioeconomic circumstances, the social policy environment, and political and economic events in the larger society. This means that the nature of family and personal life is always changing although some aspects remain remarkably stable.

The studies and examples used to illustrate the arguments in this book are derived from several different countries but focus on Canada, Australia and New Zealand as well as the other English-speaking countries. The book also contains a historical focus and favours a feminist political economy perspective.



Age of Enterprise

This important book, fully titled *Age of Enterprise: Rediscovering the New Zealand Entrepreneur 1880-1910*, covers an area little touched by traditional historians such as Keith Sinclair, James Belich or Michael King.

Written by Dr Ian Hunter (Management and Employment Relations) and published by Auckland University Press, it shows how entrepreneurship and innovation transformed the New Zealand economy in the late nineteenth century. In particular it draws on case studies and historical evidence to reveal that the small, organic, rapidly expanding firm was a potent force in New Zealand's growth.

Along the way, Ian Hunter discusses the so-called "long depression" and offers a convincing argument that this crucial period in New Zealand's economic development was by no means as bleak as conventional histories would have it. By focusing on the shape of our economic history and its players Ian Hunter here fills a major gap in our knowledge of the colonial period.

Ian Hunter's previous books include *Robert Laidlaw: Man for our Time*, *David Levene: A Man and his Business*, and *When People Matter Most* (with Colin Prentice), and he was a co-editor of *City of Enterprise* (AUP, 2006).

From the collection

Gretchen Albrecht's breakthrough into complete abstraction coincided with a move to bushy Titirangi in the 1972-73.

As the sun went down over the Waitakere Ranges, she watched intense oranges and pinks brewing up in the sky from her kitchen window, and was inspired to work on a sunset scope scale.

A gutsy chorus of bright acrylic tints floats on raw, unprimed canvas in *Atmospheric Painting* 1973, the demarcation of horizon between sky and land lost in the waves of heady colour. Horizontal bands of heliotrope, emerald green, topaz and cerulean blue saturate the canvas, referring obliquely to local landscape rather than literally representing it.

Suffused colour used in this way has a sensual appeal, but also projects a spatial ambiguity. Instead of her painting being a window onto the world, ordered by linear perspective, Albrecht makes it impossible to attach a specific depth of field or distance to the painted shapes. Rather than concealing the two-dimensionality of her canvas by building up layers of paint on top of it, she emphasises the flatness of its surface plane, staining the canvas with paint so that the texture of the tabby weave is left visible.

Albrecht pioneered this type of lyrical abstraction in New Zealand, where the predominant focus is on process and repetitive compositional strategies. Pursuing the forms and concepts of abstraction ultimately led her away from the rectangular pictorial format into geometrically shaped canvases – ovals and hemispheres.

A 1963 DipFA (Hons) graduate of the Elam School of Fine Arts, Albrecht became a Distinguished Alumna of The University of Auckland in 1999, and was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to painting the following year.

Atmospheric Painting is currently on show in the foyer of the Gus Fisher Gallery with eight other works by Gretchen Albrecht from The University of Auckland Art Collection. This display has been organised to coincide with the launch of the Holloway Press publication *Journey to Portugal, Poems by Michele Leggott, Images by Gretchen Albrecht* on Wednesday 21 February at 5.30pm.



GRETCHEN ALBRECHT, *Atmospheric Painting*, 1973, Acrylic tints on canvas, The University of Auckland Art Collection

Linda Tyler

Chiefs of Industry

An early "golden era" of Māori enterprise in coastal shipping and flour milling ended in 1856. Late last year, on the 150th anniversary of this event, the first comprehensive study of these Māori-dominated industries in the 1840s and 1850s was published.

The book, *Chiefs of Industry*, published by Auckland University Press, was written by Dr Hazel Petrie from the Mira Szászy Research Centre for Māori and Pacific Economic Development in the Business School.

While it is known Māori were entrepreneurial leaders in these industries, their activities were never fully understood because few official records were kept.

Hazel set about changing this by compiling a history from a social perspective, using her Te Reo reading ability to scour 19th century correspondence and newspapers written in Māori, as well as missionary journals, official correspondence and other English language material.

She found Māori chiefs demonstrated sharp business acumen, and were keen to take advantage of new economic opportunities brought by Pakeha, in line with the chiefs' role of ensuring the welfare of their people.

"A pattern emerged that made economic sense. Tribes on the east coast bought trading ships to transport wheat, those on the west coast and inland bought flour mills to process wheat. Coastal shipping was the main transport at the time and wheat was the staple food of the Pakeha, so they were both sensible industries to focus on," says Hazel.

"We now know that Māori chiefs considered their investments and outgoings against income, they shunned unnecessary middlemen, learned how to negotiate favourable terms, developed proven marketing techniques and initiated quality control," she adds.

The management of commercial enterprises followed customary patterns, with profits

distributed on the basis of need, but those who worked hardest tended to receive more.

"This seemed to work well," Dr Petrie says.

"Government, missionaries, and settlers were intent on destroying this communal work ethic, not appreciating that it was a very efficient use of resources."

The end of the Australian gold rush,

competition from Australian and Chilean wheat growers, and the introduction of steamships signalled the end of this little-known era of Māori enterprise. Ships were lost and flourmills burned during the wars of the 1860s, which were followed by confiscation of wheat-growing lands in the Waikato, Tauranga, Taranaki, and Opotiki.



Dr Hazel Petrie, seen here with Dr Manuka Henare

WHAT'S ON

FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY

Distinguished Alumni Awards Annual Dinner 2007
6.15pm Alumni Marquee, lawn, OGH.
\$90/\$85 for Society members and staff.
Queries to Amanda Lyne, ext 88723 or email a.lyne@auckland.ac.nz
Visit www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/rsvp

SATURDAY 24 FEBRUARY

Floor talk: Gretchen Albrecht
1pm Foyer, Gus Fisher Gallery. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz
Visit www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz
School of Music masters recital
7.30pm Ponsonby Baptist Church, 43 Jervois Rd, Ponsonby. Free. Programme includes Vivaldi Concerto in C Major; Castello Due Sonate, Sonata seconda; Quantz Triosonate C-Dur; Bach Sonata Wq 132; Hotterterre Troisieme Suite; Corelli Op5, No4 "Follia". Performances by Kevin Kim, Sally Tibbles, Graham McPhail, Rosana Fea, Wen Chuan Lin, Margaret Cooke and James Tibbles. All welcome.

MONDAY 26 FEBRUARY

International trade and NZ's role in the global economy: The US and China in focus
5.30-7.30pm Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St. A conversation between the Rt Hon Mike Moore and 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Dr Peter Watson, mediated by Paul Holmes. Queries to Helen Sosna, ext 88800 or alumni-events@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 27 FEBRUARY

Bioengineering research seminar
Michael Walker, Prof of Zoology, School of Biological Sciences: Animal magnetism: Structure, function and use of the magnetic sense in animals. 4-5pm Fifth Floor Seminar Rm, Bioengineering Institute.

WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY

2007 Distinguished Alumni lecture
Maris O'Rourke: How to break the glass ceiling without cutting your wrists?
5.30-7.30pm Fale Pasifika, Wynyard St. Queries to Helen Sosna, ph 373-7599 ext 88800 or email alumni-events@auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 1 MARCH

Department of Anthropology seminar
Jacqueline Craig, UoA: Investigating human diet without human bone: Stable isotope analysis of commensal animals on Aitutaki, Southern Cook Islands. 4-5.30pm HSB 704. Queries to Veronica Strang, ext 82458 or v.strang@auckland.ac.nz

FRIDAY 2 MARCH

Department of Philosophy seminar
Christoph Landerer, University of Salzburg: Traces of Herbart's psychology: Nietzsche, Freud, Wittgenstein. 3-5pm Rm 202, Fisher Bldg.

TUESDAY 6 MARCH

Bioengineering research seminar
Jagir Hussan, Bioengineering Institute: Using P to transcend time-scales. 4-5pm Fifth Floor Seminar Rm, Bioengineering Institute.

WEDNESDAY 7 MARCH

Public lecture
Prof Reinhard Zimmermann, Director of the Max Planck Institute for Foreign Private and Private International Law, Hamburg: Roman law and European legal culture. 6pm Stone Lecture Theatre, 3rd Floor, Law School, 9 Eden Cres.

THURSDAY 8 MARCH

Department of Anthropology seminar
Relinde Tap, UoA: High-wire dancers: Middle-class Pakeha and Dutch childhoods in NZ. 4-5.30pm HSB 704. Queries to Veronica Strang, ext 82458 or v.strang@auckland.ac.nz

For a full list of The University of Auckland events see
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