



## University scoops biotech awards

In a strong acknowledgement of the valuable work being carried out in the University, New Zealand's Biotechnology Industry Organisation has awarded three out of four NZBio Annual Awards to University of Auckland research and enterprises.

At a dinner held in Auckland on 12 March in conjunction with NZBio's annual conference, Professor Bill Denny and Professor Bill Wilson from the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre were named as joint recipients of this year's Distinguished Biotechnologist Award.

University spin-out company CoDa Therapeutics received the inaugural Deal of the Year Award for its development over the past year.

PhD student Steven Wu, who studies bioinformatics at the School of Biological Sciences, was awarded the first prize in the student poster competition held at the conference.

Research led by Bill Wilson (who is associate investigator in the Maurice Wilkins Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery) and Bill Denny (principal investigator in the Wilkins Centre) is aimed at developing new drugs to treat cancer. Their teams have seen major recent progress with a new class of drugs.

What is special about the new drug (PR-104) is that it is only activated once inside a tumour, killing cancer drugs and leaving healthy cells unaffected. Its development is leading to a new generation of cancer drugs known as "pro-drugs" – compounds that remain inert in the body until activated within a specific location. The trigger that activates PR-104 is a lack of oxygen (hypoxia) which occurs in solid tumours because such tumours grow so fast or large that they outstrip the development of their own blood supply.

Bill Denny and Bill Wilson are internationally recognised as leaders in this type of cancer treatment and have contributed to many concepts in this field. Their underlying



Bill Denny (left) and Bill Wilson

research for the new drugs has spanned some 15 years. The company they founded, Proacta Therapeutics, has raised venture capital to take PR-104 through the next phase of clinical development and to support the discovery and development of new compounds.

Coda Therapeutics, which develops drugs for treating wounds, was founded on the science of Professor Colin Green from Medical and Health Sciences. Over the past year the company appointed Brad Duft as CEO of San Diego-based CoDa Therapeutics

Inc and closed a financing round of \$20 million.

School of Biological Sciences Director Professor Joerg Kistler says the University's success at the awards highlights its strength as a key player in New Zealand's biotechnology sector.

"The University's biotechnology programme is making progress towards developing treatments for major diseases such as cancer and diabetes. It is also proving itself in the international market, making an increasing contribution to the local economy," he said.

## Key events

### Like music? Enjoy singing?

If so, join the Campus Choir; just started in 2007. The choir is for anyone who can hold a tune. It is social and run by students, will feature a huge range of songs, and will include concerts and performances. Choir practices take place on Mondays from 5.30pm to 7.30pm in the Music Annexe, 23 Wynyard Street (behind the School of Music). For more information contact Helen Acheson hach003@ec.auckland.ac.nz, 027 433 5507 or Nick Forbes nfor020@ec.auckland.ac.nz, 027 696 2967.

### Nuclear energy for a green future

Nuclear energy will not solve the problem of global warming but the problem of global warming will not be resolved without nuclear energy playing a major role. This will be addressed in a lecture by Terry Wynn, "European in Residence" at the University's Europe Institute, a member of the European Parliament from 1989 to 2006 and President of the Budget Committee for five years. The lecture is at 6pm, 26 March, at Engineering Lecture Theatre 439. For information contact Professor Cris Shore ext 84652 or Dr Maureen Benson-Rea ext 87356.

### Hip hop at war

A Department of Anthropology special seminar by Dr John Hutnyk from Goldsmiths College, University of London, will look at new work by diasporic world music stalwarts Fun-da-mental, and the drum and bass outfit Asian Dub Foundation, that relates to insurgency struggles, anti-colonialism and political freedom in the UK. The presentation will evaluate examples from the music industry's reception of "difficult" music in the context of the global terror wars and a new paranoia that now appears endemic on the streets of London. Entitled "Pantomime terror: UK hip hop at war (or Paranoia in London: Look out, he's behind you!)", the seminar will be held from 4.10 to 5.30pm on 3 April in Architecture 5 (ALR5)

## From the Vice-Chancellor



Academic heads have a very important leadership role within the University as the interface between departments and senior management. As a collective they probably have direct responsibility for the management of more staff than any other group. Their role in understanding the University's strategies, as well as the ambitions and objectives of staff in their department or school, and in channelling available resources to support both institutional and individual aims, is critical to taking their own units and the University forward. Yet their role is often also transient – unlike most other managers in the University, they may undertake their leadership and management role for only a defined period before returning to the life of a full-time academic.

All this makes the role of being an academic head unusually demanding. I remember my own experience of being appointed head of department in 1990: one day I was a senior lecturer in the department and the next day the head – suddenly expected to know all the university's systems and processes, to have worked out the strategic direction of the department, and to be able to give advice on pretty well anything! All in all, a rather daunting prospect, and one we were expected to take on with essentially no training.

It is for these reasons that I am particularly supportive of the work that has been undertaken by the Academic Heads Advisory Group (AHAG) to provide professional development and support to existing and aspiring academic heads. Under the leadership first of Charles McGhee, and now of Paul Donaldson, the group has put together an impressive programme of workshops and forums addressing a range of issues that are of relevance to academic leaders. The new programme, to be launched this year, will cover such areas as financial management, strategic planning, leadership in teaching and research, managing and motivating the performance of staff, student support, and community and stakeholder engagement. Supported by the Staff Organisational and Development Unit, headed by Sheree Nicholas, these programmes will become a vital component in the development of our academic leaders. I encourage all current and potential academic heads to become involved with them.

## Maths as passport to space and spies

Encrypting secret codes, predicting the likelihood of asteroids hitting earth and modelling populations of species are among the career opportunities on offer to would-be mathematicians in the 21st century.

*MathsReach*, officially launched on 23 February by Prime Minister Helen Clark at Onehunga High School, is a new resource (available on the web and CD/DVD) designed to promote the array of opportunities in mathematics open to high school students.

The *MathsReach* teaching resource features colourful articles and interviews with mathematicians working in a range of fields. It debunks the myth that mathematics is a theoretical science of little use to the real world.

*MathsReach* includes interviews with New Zealand mathematicians like Professor James Sneyd (Applied Mathematics), recent recipient of a James Cook Fellowship, who works on mathematical questions in physiology and Jenny Brown, who applies statistical techniques to study animal populations.

The resource will also provide profiles of ongoing mathematical



The faces show it all: a new apprehension that maths can be fun. Among those showing their pleasure are Prime Minister Helen Clark (second from right) and Hon Phil Goff.

research, problems and information demonstrating the applications of mathematics.

*MathsReach* is an initiative of the New Zealand Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (NZIMA), a government-funded Centre of Research Excellence hosted by the University.

"Mathematics is highly pertinent to many of the questions asked today in industry, healthcare and business," says Professor Marston Conder, who is

Co-Director of the NZIMA with Fields Medalist Professor Vaughan Jones.

"Mathematics is often perceived as a boring, purely theoretical science. With *MathsReach*, students can get a tangible feel for the wide variety of ways maths can be used, including applications of quite fundamental parts of the subject, and we hope it inspires them to continue their maths education beyond the school classroom."

For more information see [www.nzima.org](http://www.nzima.org).

## Tuakana celebrates as Māori and Pasifika students achieve

"If you stand, you live; if you sleep, you die. All of you here tonight have stood up, and for that we acknowledge and celebrate you and your achievements."

With those words Jim Peters, Pro Vice Chancellor (Māori) welcomed the participants in this year's Tuakana Arts Leadership Programme, a one-year-old Faculty of Arts initiative recognising Māori and Pasifika undergraduates who excel academically.

In addition to ongoing academic support and help to prepare for postgraduate studies, participants can also take up internships with various organisations across the Auckland region. In 2006 these included *Spasifik* magazine, NZ Writers Guild, Challenge Trust and the Gus Fisher Gallery.

With keynote speeches by former Labour MP John Tamihere and Centre for Pacific Studies' Deputy Director, Dr Sailau Sua'ali-Sauni, the evening was marked by laughter, song and celebration (not to mention steaming hangi).

For Kiri David (Ngapuhi), the Tuakana Leadership Programme offers an ideal opportunity to turn her studies into practical experience. The

fifth year BA/LLB student majoring in Law and Art History will take up an internship at the Gus Fisher Gallery, assisting in curating exhibitions and learning website and database management.

Kiri said: "The internship offer was particularly appealing because it's a fantastic way to see how a gallery runs, from the administrative side through to exhibition openings."

The Gus Fisher Gallery is keen to promote art gallery work as an employment option amongst outstanding Māori and Pasifika students, says Linda Tyler, Director of the Centre for New Zealand Art Research and Discovery.

"Despite being a major part of the visual arts economy in New Zealand, Māori and Pasifika are underrepresented in leadership roles in galleries and museums. Internships programmes such as this will benefit not just us, but hopefully the whole museum sector in the long run."

This year, 109 Arts students



Kiri David (left) with Casmel Sepuloni

are participating in the leadership programme, up from 67 in 2006. Programme Manager Carmel Sepuloni says it is exciting to reward high-achieving students and encourage them to continue to postgraduate studies.

## Promoting disabled rights

An American champion of the rights of the estimated 650 million disabled people world-wide, Professor Michael Stein, recently brought his message to the University.

He taught an intensive Master of Law course for Law School on legal protection of the disabled internationally and delivered an evening public lecture which, despite Auckland's first sustained torrential rain for many weeks, filled the Stone Lecture Theatre.

His topic was the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the UN General Assembly last December. For five years Michael was a key member of the committee working on the convention which, he proudly notes, is the 21st century's first human rights convention.

He is full of praise for Don Mackay, New Zealand's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, who chaired the committee framing the convention and was crucial to its adoption.

Andrew Begg, a Senior Legal Adviser at NZ's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, who also worked closely on the convention, contributed to Michael's public lecture in Auckland as well as teaching a day of his LLM course. While posted to NZ's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York he spent considerable time behind the scenes brokering compromises and managing the negotiations. He continues to work on the domestic processes leading up to NZ's signature and ratification of the convention.

Michael, from William and Mary Law School in Virginia, is himself disabled and married to a Kiwi. He regards the World Health Organisation estimate that ten percent of the world's population is disabled as "conservative". In developed countries the official figure is much higher: 20



Professor Michael Stein

percent in New Zealand, 21 percent in Britain and 17 percent in the US (as against a grossly understated 0.5 percent in Bangladesh).

In ratifying the convention New Zealand has an extraordinary opportunity to extend its leadership in the disability field, he said in an interview before his lecture. "This could be through the existing court structure, extending the current human rights legislation or by giving the Health and Disability Commissioner greater powers."

The UN Convention signals that disabled people "have human rights and are an important group", says Michael. Countries will have to "rethink their disability laws and policies" and make them "more effective and disability specific".

## Study seeks healthy first-time pregnant women

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology is running a large pregnancy study (SCOPE) to develop screening tests for preeclampsia, preterm labour and fetal growth restriction.

These three conditions are the major complications of late pregnancy, and affect one in five of all first-time pregnancies. Currently, there is no screening test that accurately predicts which first-time mothers will develop these late pregnancy diseases. Identification of mothers at risk for these conditions is the first step to effective intervention and prevention. Through SCOPE, the researchers expect to develop an early pregnancy

screening test that will offer future first-time mothers accurate risk assessment for each disease.

Women who enrol in the study are seen at 15 and 20 weeks and have an interview, fill in a questionnaire, and have blood and urine specimens collected. Blood flow to the uterus and the length of the cervix is measured at the same time as the routine 20-week anatomy scan. Women are then followed up after the baby is born to check the pregnancy outcome. Further information on the study can be viewed on the website [www.scopestudy.net](http://www.scopestudy.net)

To date 1675 women in the greater Auckland region have enrolled in the study. The principal investigators, Associate Professors Robyn North and Lesley McCowan, encourage women in their first pregnancy to join the study and to contact the SCOPE office before 16 weeks by calling 308-2300 or by emailing [scope@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:scope@auckland.ac.nz) for further information.

## Electronic voting ahead

Voting in July's election for two graduate members of the University Council has been made easier and eligibility widened to encourage alumni to keep in touch with their University.

Voters in New Zealand and overseas can in future choose to cast their ballot electronically.

Anyone on the Court of Convocation roll (effectively a graduate of the University) is entitled to vote. Previously persons on the roll ceased to receive voting documents if they failed to vote in consecutive elections and did not formally apply to the Registrar to vote again.

Council has approved the Court of Convocation Statute 2007 which consolidates and revises the election rules.

The rights of existing voters are unaffected though it is hoped that many will in future choose to vote "online" rather than use the old paper-based voting system.

The University has email addresses for 34,000 of the 90,000 on the roll. Publicity among alumni before the election in July is expected to boost this number.

Safeguards will ensure that voters exercise just one voting option, whether electronic or postal.

Please direct questions about the forthcoming election to Gary Nicholls on ext 85173, [g.nicholls@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:g.nicholls@auckland.ac.nz) If you have not listed your email address with the University please take this opportunity to do so.

### Salary rises compare well

Nearly half of all general staff (47.96 percent) received a salary increase, a bonus or both at the General Staff Annual Salary Review for 2006. For the 37.24 percent who received salary increases, the average increase was 2.6 percent. When this is added to the salary increases of 4.5 percent in May and one percent in July, the average increase for almost 40 percent of general staff in 2006 was eight percent. This figure compares well with the average salary increase in the general market, which was in the range of 3.8 to five percent for 2006, depending on which source or report is cited.

### Pacific Writers' Residency

Fulbright New Zealand and Creative New Zealand are currently calling for applications for the Fulbright-Creative New Zealand Pacific Writers' Residency, which offers a New Zealand writer the opportunity to work for three months on a creative writing project exploring Pacific identity, culture or history at the University of Hawai'i. This is valued at NZ\$30,000. For more information contact Anton Carter, Pacific Islands Arts Adviser at Creative New Zealand on (04) 498 0729 or [antonc@creativenz.govt.nz](mailto:antonc@creativenz.govt.nz) Applications close 2 April. For more information see [www.fulbright.org.nz/awards/nz-cnz](http://www.fulbright.org.nz/awards/nz-cnz).

### Scholarships for teachers

The Faculty of Education has recognised eight teachers from South Auckland's Southern Cross Campus for their work with Maori and Pasifika students. The eight have received Achieving Teachers Study Awards (ATSA) from the faculty. ATSA is a pilot programme allowing recipients to take up to two fully-funded papers at the Faculty of Education. During their studies, ATSA recipients also participate in a mentoring programme in which advisers offer academic support and advice in ongoing face-to-face meetings. The recipients are Taoro Taia, Sonya Kaihe, David Hithersay, Moana Samuel, Zyphveronee Kotlowski, Patricia Tuariki, Tevita Kaufusi and Brenda Woolly. For Dr Airini, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Education, Equity, the scholarship programme recognises that teachers can and do make a difference. She told recipients their success as teachers in low-decile schools and the faculty's success go hand in hand.

# NEW ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

## Diane Brand (Architecture)

I joined the University of Auckland in 1994 after 15 years in architectural practice in New Zealand and Australia.

I lecture in architecture and urban design at the School of Architecture and Planning, where I recently finished a two-year term as Deputy Head of Architecture, and also helped establish and administer the new Master of Urban Design Programme first offered in 2005.

My research specialisation is the urban history of colonial cities in Australasia and Latin America with a particular focus on ports and the development of harbours as an extension of the public realm of the city.

In my practice as an architect and urban designer in Auckland I have collaborated with local architects and landscape architects on award-winning public spaces such as the Viaduct Harbour and Manukau Square.



Associate Professor Diane Brand

I am a member of the Auckland City Council Urban Design Panel.

With my husband Rick Allender I enjoy sailing *Stormbird* on the Hauraki Gulf.

## Darl Kolb (Management and Employment Relations)

I completed a BSc at Illinois State University, an MA at Colorado University and a PhD at Cornell University.

My research is focused on understanding and improving how individuals, groups and organisations manage distance and isolation in an age of increasingly ubiquitous connectivity.

I have been exploring what I refer to as "requisite connectivity". Too little connectivity can obviously be a problem. Yet, more connectivity is not necessarily better. I believe most of us are seeking requisite connectivity: that is enough social and technical connections for our intended purposes, but not so much that it undermines performance, invades our personal space and/or produces stress and anxiety.

I am particularly interested in how connectivity is related to geographic isolation, a factor that is of central importance to New Zealand's position "at the edge" of the world.

I had experienced geographic isolation before moving to New Zealand in 1992. I completed my PhD in "centrally isolated" Ithaca, New York, and prior to that I grew up on a farm in the Appalachian Mountains and worked for ten years in remote wilderness areas, like the Chihuahuan Desert, the Grand Canyon and Denali (Mount McKinley) in Alaska.

My wife, Joline Francoeur, and I met getting our masters degrees at the University of Colorado. She is currently Leadership Development Director at the New Zealand Leadership Institute, based at the Business School. Together we cherish life near Te Henga (Bethells Beach). Though less adventurous, we still enjoy trail running and skiing. You might say we have enough isolation and just enough contact with the world.



Associate Professor Darl Kolb

## Judy Parr (Education)

An Auckland history masters graduate, like many of my contemporaries I went on to complete a teaching diploma.

I taught in Canberra, later graduating BSc (Hons) and PhD in Psychology from the Australian National University in 1990. While visiting family in summer 1990, serendipitously, I applied for and obtained a limited term lectureship in Education at The University of Auckland.

Literacy, with particular emphasis on writing, and the interface between literacy and technology are my main research and teaching interests within the broader field of developmental and educational psychology.

I publish in a range of journals in literacy, technology and school change and recently co-authored a book *Using Evidence in Teaching Practice*.

I especially value research with professional communities, so most of my externally funded research is in school contexts. Currently a major focus is research alongside the National Literacy Professional Development Project, investigating how the conditions at each systemic level (policy, leadership, facilitation, teachers and students) contribute to substantive improvement in student achievement in literacy.

Bruce and I have two adult children and Frieda, a standard schnauzer.



Associate Professor Judy Parr

## Education alfresco at Pasifika

This year's interactive expo-style presentations at the Pasifika Festival on 10 March allowed the University to connect with the community and show itself as a place of learning and as a place for Pasifika people, says organiser Nina Tonga (EO).

"The University was there not just to entertain people but to forge relationships, and we definitely succeeded in that," she said.

The Faculties of Science, Arts, Engineering and Education and the School of Theology each took the chance to take centre stage for two hours, providing not only course advice but also a variety of interactive activities designed to merge fun with education, and to get people of all ages involved.

For the Faculty of Arts it was a poetry reading by seven contributors to the recent anthology, *Niu Voices*, organised by Dr Selina Tusitala Marsh from the English Department.

The Faculty of Science advanced community knowledge of topology and chemistry while giving young people an experience they are not likely to forget. Dr Sina Greenwood (Mathematics) organised and introduced the mathematical activities, which included a topology presentation, using ropes and ties – with a demonstration by a courageous senior lecturer of how to use mathematical principles to turn a pair of trousers inside out with his feet tied together.

"This was quite a feat," said one observer. "I really didn't think it was possible."

In an open-air chemistry lab Dr David Salter (Chemistry) showed how to make mini-volcanoes using vinegar, baking soda and food colouring – and how

dry ice can be used to produce the illusion of fog in a theatrical performance.

"The participants just loved it," said Nina. "It was almost like having a classroom at the festival."

The School of Theology was represented by a student-led choir, with a presentation by Professor Elaine Wainwright, Head of the School. A chance for interactive activity was provided by a puzzle based on religious symbols such as those used in *The Da Vinci Code*.

Staff from the Faculty of Engineering demonstrated a segway personal transporter, operated by using engineering principles (and gravity). The young people who mastered the movement of the machine by manipulating their own centre of mass then had a chance to compete in a time trial over a small obstacle course.

The day was given a sparkle by the traditional dance competition organised by the Centre for Pacific Studies, and by a popular Cook Islands performance presented by the Auckland University Pacific Islands Students Association.

MC for the University presentations at the festival was Efeso Collins, who captivated the crowds with his wit.

Lorraine Evening (EO) said the University's presence at this event "demonstrated to Pasifika communities that we are serious about increasing the participation rates of Pasifika people at the University".

## Harpists converge

On Monday 26 March a host of harpists will descend upon the School of Music for a masterclass and workshop led by Elizabeth Volpé, principal harpist of the Vancouver Symphony, described as "one of the best harpists in the world" (by Nigel Barbour).

This will be a unique opportunity to experience the most voluptuous instrument of the orchestra. Elizabeth Volpé will tutor a small group of specially selected harpists in a masterclass followed by a workshop for all players, dealing with technique and repertoire.

Elizabeth Volpé is a graduate of the University of Toronto and became the Vancouver Symphony's principal harpist in 1982, after six seasons as the principal harpist of the National Ballet of Canada Orchestra.

Elizabeth's career includes concerto performances with the VSO and other orchestras, chamber music concerts, movie soundtracks and recordings.

The event will take place on 26 March at 7.30pm at the Music Theatre at the School of Music, 6 Symonds Street. Tickets are \$15, \$10 (seniors) and \$5 (children and students). For advance bookings contact Ticketmaster 0800 111 999 or [www.ticketmaster.co.nz](http://www.ticketmaster.co.nz)



Elizabeth Volpé

## Artists emerge

Pianist Afra Su is the first soloist in the School of Music's 2007 Emerging Artist concert series, which highlights the awesome talent of some of the student musicians studying for postgraduate degrees at the school.

On 25 March at 8pm in the Music Theatre of the School of Music, Afra Su will perform two of the greatest pieces in the repertoire: Schumann's Kreisleriana and Beethoven's Sonata Op 109. A classical masterpiece, Mozart's Sonata in F, K 533, and from the Impressionist period, two of

Debussy's enchanting Preludes complete the programme.

Afra Su was originally from Taiwan, studying piano from the age of eight. She moved to New Zealand at 13, and is currently studying for a masters degree at the School of Music.

## CONSENT IN CONTENTION

With the recent acquittal of Clint Rickards, Brad Shipton, and Bob Schollum on "sex charges" it is clear why critics have been arguing that our concept of sexual consent is impoverished. It is so elastic it seems that it ends up virtually meaningless in some situations. When the presence of consent is contested by parties to a sexual encounter, we could ask whether the circumstances were such that a presumption of consent would be reasonable.

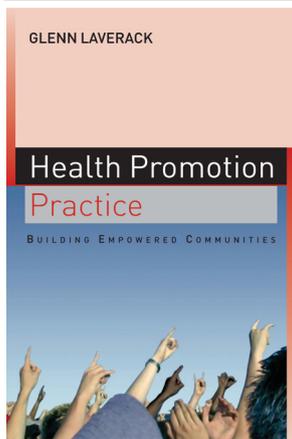
As philosopher Lois Pineau (1989) said, sexual interaction should look like "a proper conversation rather than an offer from the Mafia". Thus, if a woman has been subject to aggressive pressure to have sex, and claims she did not consent, then it would be more reasonable to presume she did not consent, leaving the burden of proof on the man to establish that she did.

When we consider the non-disputed evidence that has come to light over the three trials involving these men, questions can be asked about the reasonableness of presuming consent on behalf of the women involved. Under what circumstances might it be possible to imagine that a 16-year-old girl would want to have sex with a considerably older man? That is, really want to have sex with him – not just like the idea of it. How could a man interested in sex with a teenage girl be sure that her desire was genuine, mature, and informed? How could he be assured that if he went ahead he would be engaging in what Moira Carmody (2005) has termed an "ethical erotics", cognisant and caring towards her well-being and desires.

It does not take long to figure out that the circumstances of these contested events bears no resemblance to the kind of situation in which it might be reasonable to presume consent. Perhaps it is not absolutely impossible that a teenage girl would freely choose to have sex with a group of older policemen, lining up to take turns, some, allegedly, equipped with a baton. It could be a scenario in a pornographic fantasy; in real life, however, it is difficult to imagine.

Associate Professor Nicola Gavey  
(Psychology)

# STAFF BOOKS



## Health Promotion Practice

Power and empowerment are two complex concepts central to health promotion practice.

People experience empowerment in many different ways and this book explains an approach that has been used by health promoters to build and evaluate empowerment.

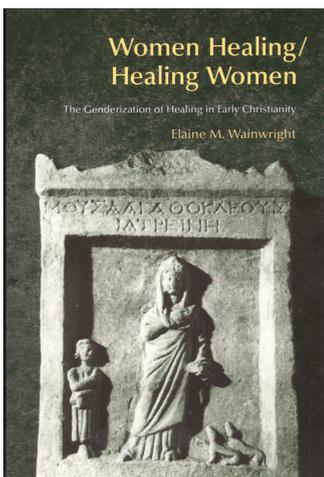
*Health Promotion Practice: Building Empowered Communities* – written by Dr Glenn Laverack (Medical and Health Sciences) and published by Open University Press – focuses on communities and is illustrated throughout with useful field experiences in Britain, Asia, North America, the Pacific and Africa.

It aims to provide an understanding of the concepts of power and empowerment in the context of health

promotion programmes, and of the practical approaches that can be used to build and evaluate empowered communities. Case studies provide examples of how communities can be empowered in practice.

This unique book offers sound theoretical principles to underpin the practical approaches used to build empowered communities, and brings together innovative approaches in health promotion practice.

It will inspire health promotion students and practitioners to work in more empowering ways and to carefully contemplate how they can influence the way others gain power.



## Women Healing/Healing Women

The impetus for this book – subtitled *The Genderization of Healing in Early Christianity* – was the “startling realisation” by its author that within early Christianity, which is characterised by healing, no women are explicitly commissioned to heal.

The work begins with a search for the women who were healers in the Graeco-Roman world of the late Hellenistic and early Roman period, finding them honoured in inscriptions, named by medical writers, and stereotyped by playwrights and other literateurs.

What emerges by the first century of the Common Era is a world in which women functioned as healers as well as healed, and where healing was a site of contestation in relation to gender.

The interpretive lens brought to bear on the wide range of sources used in this study is a multi-dimensional

one informed by feminism, post-colonialism and ecological studies. The methodology is socio-rhetorical, drawing on tools from medical anthropology. The turning of the multi-dimensional lens and these tools on the gospel, informed by the context constructed in the first part of the study, enables new interpretations of the stories of women healing to emerge.

Elaine Wainwright has specialised in the study of Matthew's gospel with a particular interest in contemporary biblical hermeneutics. Her previous books include *Shall We Look for Another? A Feminist Re-reading of the Matthew Jesus*.

## Book represents milestone in theology

At the Vice-Chancellor's suite at Old Government House on 2 March, Professor Richard Faull (Anatomy) launched a book that he described as not only a tribute to its author's scholarship and international academic standing but also a milestone in the development of academic theology at the University.

The book was *Women Healing/Healing Women: The Genderization of Healing in Early Christianity*, published by Equinox in the UK and the US. Its author is Professor Elaine Wainwright, head of the School of Theology. And for Richard Faull, who chaired the Review Committee in Theology in 2000, it was part of the fulfilment of “a vision and a dream” of appointing a professor and head of Theology who would provide academic leadership and generate a research ethos in theology in the University.

In Elaine's book Richard also recognised a compelling contemporary message for society today.

“I was impressed by the revelation that women had indeed played a critical and vital role in medicine in the Graeco-Roman world, but this was not overtly recognised or openly acknowledged.

“I would like to think or hope we were doing a better job today. Alas, though, there are still too few women in leadership positions in medicine and their contributions are not fully

appreciated or acknowledged...”

“There are increasing numbers of women in medicine today, but we still have a long way to go.”

Dr Kath Rushton, who had travelled from Christchurch to speak at the launch of *Women Healing/Healing Women*, spoke of it as a “ground-breaking book” whose subject – healing – “is one of the yearnings of our age and a life task in which many are engaged on many levels.”

In her subsequent concise analysis of the book's content, approach and methodology she spoke of three perspectives that make the author's approach unique.

First is the “feminist lens” focusing not only on gender but also on other axes of difference such as race, ethnicity, class and globalisation.

Second is the postcolonial lens which recognises the writer's own location in a context shaped by colonialism.

Third is an ecological one, which allows the re-reading of healing in antiquity through attentiveness to the earth, “which supplies material resources for healing”, and to the body – embedded as it is in both the socio-cultural and eco-systems.

With these lenses in place, Kath explains, Elaine asks questions of her research materials, comprising literary sources, ancient texts

and inscriptions. “What is the effect of the text?” she asks. “What is the world that it constructed in the past? What world do contemporary readings of this text continue to construct and shape?”

The result of this careful and nuanced investigation is a book that affirms the words in Elaine's introduction: “The reading of our past, therefore, is not a thing of the past. It does not shape the past but it shapes the present and the future. It constructs a consciousness, it provides genealogies, and it functions rhetorically to shape meaning.”



Elaine Wainwright speaks at the launch

## From the collection

One of the most iconic images of a New Zealand subject is *Mt Egmont from the Southwards*, painted in September 1840 by 20-year-old Charles Heaphy.

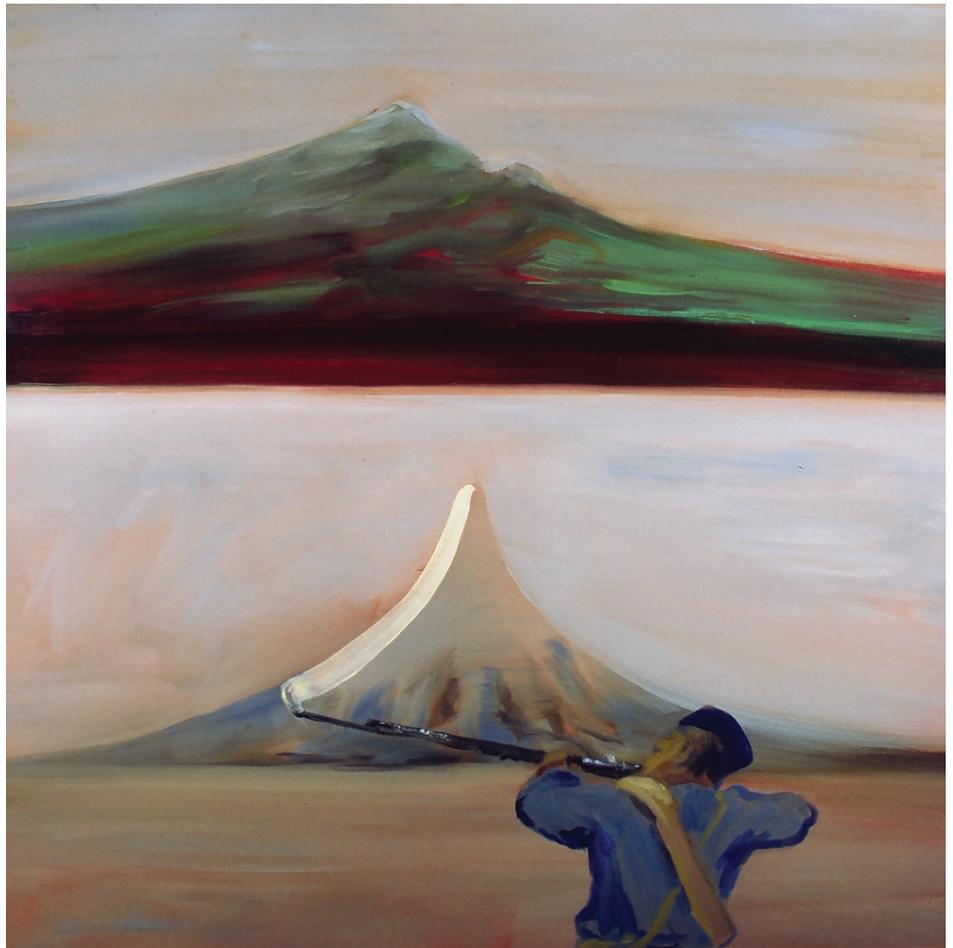
As draughtsman for the New Zealand Company, Heaphy had the task of encouraging immigration to "the little Britain of the South" by showing pleasant scenery and arable pasture. Settlement of New Plymouth in 1841 led to tensions between Te Ati Awa and the new colonists, with the Taranaki Wars and corollary land confiscations ensuing.

Nearly 160 years later, Julian Hooper's oil painting corrects Heaphy's earlier watercolour representation with a double rendition of the symmetrical volcanic peak. Below, the mountain appears as Heaphy described it – impossibly steep and Mount Fuji-like. By sweeping white paint up the peak from the end of the cocked carbine rifle held by the Forest Ranger in the foreground, Hooper implicates his artistic predecessor in the alienation of Māori land in the province.

Atop this history-laden scene, the mountain looms again, this time with its contours more naturalistically described, allowing Fantham's Peak to be discerned on the right. Lower slopes extend horizontally beyond the picture plane on both sides, making the mountain seem benign, enduring and implacable in the face of human history. Above all, Taranaki reigns supreme as the inescapable geological feature of the region.

Titled *Taking Taranaki*, this work uses the typically postmodern strategy of appropriation, quoting the work of another artist to create a new work. The "taking" of its title refers to Cook's renaming of the mountain as Egmont, and the use of force in imposing colonial rule which resulted in the taking of ancestral lands.

As an artist, Julian Hooper continues to be interested in history. His exploration of his Hungarian and Tongan ancestry in the exhibition *Liliu* features as part of "Turbulence: the 3rd Auckland Triennial", on exhibition at the Gus



JULIAN HOOPER, *Taking Taranaki*, The University of Auckland Art Collection

## No cars in Alfred Street

Cars and motorcycles will be barred from Alfred Street from 2 April in the first move to make it a pedestrian mall.

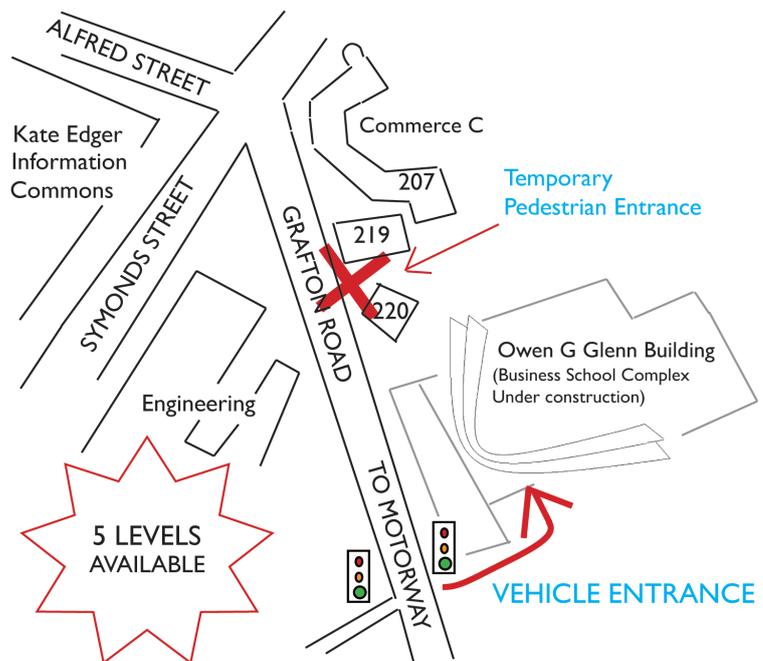
The street will be closed to all vehicular traffic except current buses, emergency vehicles, bicycles, University service vehicles and disabled access vehicles, and a 10km/h speed limit imposed. From that date it can no longer be used for parking or as a dropoff and pickup point.

Removal of what is now a crowded and dangerous thoroughfare for cars will greatly improve the environment for staff, students and visitors. It will also better unite busy sectors of the City Campus.

The pedestrian mall will ultimately form part of the Central Transit Corridor, a dedicated busway providing a quicker bus route between the CBD and Newmarket.

Staff and students are asked to be patient and to exercise care during the changeover which will be effective from 6am on Monday 2 April. There is further information on the Auckland City website at [www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/auckland/transport/ctc/alfredstreet.asp](http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/auckland/transport/ctc/alfredstreet.asp)

## STAFF & STUDENT CAR PARK



Casual hourly parking \$4 an hour\*

Flat rate \$5 after 6pm Monday to Friday and weekends\*

Early Bird Rate: \$12 all day before 8.30am with verification card\*

Students: talk to [Student Admin](#) in the ClockTower for information on Early Bird cards.  
Staff: click on the [New car parking information](#) link on the staff intranet homepage.

\*All parking subject to the University parking policies and the rules of operation and availability of parking facilities

# WHAT'S ON

## FRIDAY 23 MARCH

Fragility Fractures Symposium  
5-8pm Grand Atrium, Auditorium,  
Auckland Museum. Queries to Rocco P.  
Pitto, ph 276-0044, ext 7666 or email  
rpitto@middlemore.co.nz  
Dept of Philosophy seminar  
Ruth Irwin, UoA: Concerning 'the line'  
inHeideggerastheonto-epistemological  
zone. 3-5pm Rm 202, Fisher Bldg.

## MONDAY 26 MARCH

Dept of Political studies seminar  
Prof Keith Banting, Queens University,  
Canada: Multiculturalism and the  
welfare state: Is diversity the enemy of  
redistribution? 12-1pm Upstairs Dining  
Rm, OGH. Email j.true@auckland.ac.nz  
Europe Institute lecture  
Terry Wynn, Member of European  
Parliament, EuropeInstituteEuropeanin  
resident:Nuclearenergyforagreenfuture.  
6pm Lecture Theatre 1.439, School of  
Engineering. Queries to Prof Cris Shore,  
ext 84652 or Dr Maureen Benson-Rea,  
ext 87356.  
NZAI and Faculty of Arts public lecture  
Prof Varun Sahni, Professor in  
International Politics, Jawaharlal Nehru  
University: India's perspective on Asia.  
6-7.30pm Theatre 402, School of  
Engineering. www.auckland.ac.nz/nzai

## TUESDAY 27 MARCH

Bioengineering research seminar  
Prof Eric Hoffman, Dept of Radiology,  
University of Iowa: Comprehensive  
lungstructureandfunctionalanalysisvia  
MDCT:Inflammatorylungdisease.4-5pm  
Fifth Floor Seminar Rm, Bioengineering  
Institute.

## WEDNESDAY 28 MARCH

Dept of Psychology forum  
Dr Karl H. Brisch, Dept of Psychosomatic  
Medicine and Psychotherapy, Children's  
Hospital, Ludwig-Maximilians University,  
Munich, Germany: Attachment therapy:  
Diagnosis and treatment of attachment  
disorders. 1pm Rm 203, Bldg 734, Tamaki  
Campus. Queries to ext 85011 or  
j.read@auckland.ac.nz  
Centre for Digital Enterprise seminar  
Prof Chris Mitchell, Computer Science,  
University of London: Trusted computing:  
A universal security infrastructure.  
5.30pm Commerce C501. RSVP to  
h.braddock@auckland.ac.nz  
Visit www.code.auckland.ac.nz/  
comwebcontent/c\_currentevents.aspx  
Auckland Branch of Society for Legal  
and Social Philosophy meeting  
Prof Jim Evans: Rights-preferring  
interpretation: Where are the limits?  
5.30pm Algie Lecture Theatre, 2nd Floor,  
Bldg 801, Eden Cres. Preceded by a  
meeting. Queries to  
pj.evans@auckland.ac.nz  
Hood Fellow public lecture series  
The science and art of sleep  
Professor Anna Wirz-Justice, University  
of Basel, Switzerland: Light and  
architecture: A biologist's view.  
6-7pm Lecture Theatre 1.439, School  
of Engineering. Queries to ext 89302 or  
email g.warman@auckland.ac.nz

## THURSDAY 29 MARCH

Electrical and Computer Engineering  
research seminar  
Dr Mark Johnson, Woods Hole  
Oceanographic Institution, Massachusetts,  
USA: Electronics under pressure: New  
multi-sensor tags offer a window into the  
world of deep-diving whales. 11am-12noon

Rm 3.407, School of Engineering.  
Queries to  
n.nair@auckland.ac.nz  
Dept of Psychology forum  
Dr Ros Gill, Gender Institute and  
Dept of Sociology, London School  
of Economics and Political Science:  
Supersexualise me! Advertising and the  
midriff generation. 12noon HSB 604.  
Queries to ext 86877 or n.gavey@  
auckland.ac.nz  
Dept of Anthropology seminar  
Dr Evie Plaice, University of New  
Brunswick: Anthropology and the politics of  
difference. 4-5.30pm HSB 704. Queries  
to ext 82458 or v.strang@auckland.ac.nz  
Hood Fellow lecture  
2007 Alice Griffin Shakespeare Fellow  
Professor Adrian Poole, Trinity College,  
Cambridge: Shakespeare and the dogs  
of war. 6.30pm Lecture Theatre 439,  
School of Engineering.

## FRIDAY 30 MARCH

Dept of English seminar  
Prof Adrian Poole, Trinity College,  
Cambridge: Dickens and the ghost of  
Shakespeare. 10am  
Rm 423-342, Conference Centre.  
Philosophy Department seminar  
Dr David Rodin, Oxford University:  
Explaining the absolute prohibition of  
torture. 3-5pm Rm 202, Fisher Bldg.

## MONDAY 2 APRIL

Public lecture by John Key  
National Party leader presents education  
policy. 12.10pm J2, Epsom Campus.

## TUESDAY 3 APRIL

English Department research seminar  
Brean Hammond, Prof of Modern English  
Literature, University of Nottingham:  
Chance or necessity? Coincidence in the  
novel. 1pm Rm 426, Arts 1  
School of Music seminar  
David Lines: Music as cultural practice:  
Research threads and directions. 1-2pm  
Music Theatre, School of Music. Contact:  
Queries to d.lines@auckland.ac.nz  
Bioengineering research seminar  
Vijayaraghavan Rajagopal, UoA: A  
biomechanical model of the breast:  
Towards reliable tracking of breast cancer  
across medical images. 4-5pm Fifth Floor  
Seminar Rm, Bioengineering Institute.  
Dept of Anthropology seminar  
Dr John Hutnyk, Goldsmiths College,  
University of London: Pantomime terror:  
UK hip hop at war (or paranoia in London:  
'Lookout, he's behind you!') 4.10-5.30pm  
ALR5.

## WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL

Computer Science seminar  
Prof Craig Chambers: Rhodium: A system  
for provably correct optimisations. 12noon  
Computer Science Seminar Rm, R279,  
Level 2, Science Bldg.

## THURSDAY 5 APRIL

English Department research seminar  
Prof Adrian Poole, Trinity College,  
Cambridge: Henry James and the mobile  
phone. 1pm Rm 426, Arts 1.  
Dept of Anthropology seminar  
Dr Gillian Cowlishaw, University  
of Technology, Sydney: Cultures of  
complaint: An ethnography of rural racial  
rivalry. 4-5.30pm HSB 704. Queries to  
ext 82458 or v.strang@auckland.ac.nz

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

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