Early Childhood Education provision seen as vital

A recent review of Early Childhood Education (ECE) at The University of Auckland highlighted its importance not only to the welfare of families and the career advancement of individual staff and students but also to the strategic objectives of the University as a whole.

ECE was identified as vital for recruitment, retention and success of staff and students, with particular relevance to women, Māori, Pacific and postgraduates, and with the potential to meet the needs of older staff and students with grandparenting responsibilities.

Links to professional training and to the University’s research goals were also seen as highly relevant.

Led by Trudie McNaughton, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equal Opportunities), with external consultant Kim Hope as reviewer, the review team’s working group included students and staff, two unions – the Association of University Staff (AUS now tEU) and New Zealand Educational Institute (NZEI) – as well as the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori), Property Services, the Pacific Reference Group, Student Administration and Human Resources.

In addition the team received academic advice from the Faculty of Education on ECE research and training, and from the University’s Department of Statistics on the survey development and analysis.

Kim Hope said one pleasing aspect of the review was the degree of support for quality provision of ECE from across the University, including from those who had no direct personal need for the services.

The Women Returning to Work Report (2007) identified access to ECE centres as the single greatest priority for women returning to work after taking parental leave. The report noted the importance of retaining highly skilled women after they had taken leave, and the benefits this had for the organisation.

“Our approach was to engage very broadly, both in the composition of the group and its spread across the campuses,” says Trudie McNaughton. “We worked very hard to get a diverse range of views and expertise.”

Kim Dirks, Auckland Branch President from the tEU, said: “The whole process was so positive and story continued on page 2
From the
Vice-Chancellor

From 27 July to 3 August, I presented to staff on each campus (and will present to the University Council on 17 August) the outcomes of the 2009 Staff Survey. Although the Survey participation rate was down slightly from the first Survey in 2007 (49 percent vs 53 percent), the results nonetheless give us a very useful insight into how staff view the institution.

In all but one of the Survey categories (Satisfaction with the work), there was a statistically significant increase from 2007 in the proportion of staff who had a positive view of the University. This change was most apparent in the categories of: Leadership (+10 percent), Employee engagement, Communication and career development (+9 percent), and Working relationships and collegiality, Image and reputation, and Work organisation and Operating efficiency (all +6 percent). Lesser (+3-5 percent), but still significant, improvements were recorded in Innovation and empowerment, Immediate manager and Reward and recognition.

The Survey also allows us to make comparisons with the Global Applied and Academic Researcher Norm calculated by the survey company, Towers Perrin-ISR, using responses from staff in international research and educational institutions. University of Auckland staff were more positive than the international norms about their institution’s environment for communication and reward/recognition, but less positive in areas such as leadership, image and reputation, and the opportunity for innovation in the working environment.

While improvements since 2007 are encouraging, there are several potential confounding effects in a study of this kind. Following the last Survey we worked hard to improve staff knowledge of and interaction with the Senior Management Team (something that was noted as a particular area of concern) and that appears to have paid off in terms of how staff view University leadership and feel engaged with the organisation. On the other hand we have also, since 2007, entered a worldwide recession with increasing unemployment and therefore perhaps a tendency for staff to feel more positive about an organisation that provides a relatively stable employment environment. Future surveys may help us to understand the relative magnitude of these effects. Meanwhile, each Dean and Service Division Director will be provided with results for their area so that they can discuss them with colleagues. Action plans will then be developed and incorporated into Annual Plans to make the University an even better working environment for staff.

‘Giant leap’ for biotechnology

Construction of an innovative new research space at the University to house an incubator for biotechnology companies began on 28 July, with the Honourable John Banks, Mayor of Auckland City, turning the first sod.

The Institute for Innovation in Biotechnology – the first such incubator in New Zealand – brings together academics and industry in one location. The new purpose-built annex, designed by Stephenson & Turner, will increase the existing research space and facilities to over 10,000 square metres, giving the Institute a permanent home and allowing its expansion.

“The concept is very simple – it’s about inviting the biotechnology industry to work alongside University scientists,” said Professor Joerg Kistler, Director of the Institute, explaining that it would allow companies to share costly equipment as well as encouraging the flow of information between scientists.

“There are also many benefits for the University. Additional research projects will come from industry – there are already examples of this with industry internships – and it’s a way to grow the next generation of biotechnology scientists.”

John Banks quipped that this start of construction was “one small step for this great University and a giant leap for the biotechnology industry.”

He quoted Sir William Jervois, Governor of New Zealand, at the opening of the University in 1883. “The work in which we are engaged – placing the advantages of a university within the reach of every man and woman of Auckland – is one the importance of which it is almost impossible to over estimate. It is work that will, I trust, influence not merely the immediate neighbourhood and the present generation, but also indirectly the whole colony, and that for all time.”

“It’s extraordinary that on this day in 2009 we are repeating these words, and it’s wonderful to see that the Governor’s vision continues to benefit not just this city but the nation,” said John Banks.

Story continues from page 1

forward-looking, that was what made it so successful.”
Alex Sims, also from TEU, added that the availability and quality of ECE is extremely important, to the extent that it “makes a difference to whether people can continue to work at the University”.

Prue Tuft, EEO Manager, also noted that high quality and affordable ECE centres aid staff recruitment. Many staff are “dual career couples” and may not have family living locally to provide back-up. Good facilities on campus can support their decision to work at The University of Auckland.

The major outcome from the review is a set of strong and comprehensive recommendations, building on the excellent work already being done in ECE and closely in accord with the University’s strategic objectives.

These recommendations are already approved in principle by the Vice-Chancellor and the University’s Senior Management Team.

“We can now move towards the development of a business case and an implementation plan,” says Trudie.

She is pleased that the University’s Campus Development Plan gives a “wonderful opportunity to align the review’s recommendations with future planning”.

Among major recommendations are that the University commits to the “provision of high-quality ECE centres utilising research and teaching expertise and opportunities”.

The full set of recommendations covers planning (for example, that the University commits to provision of high-quality ECE on each campus); quality (for example, by providing non-contact time, pay parity and professional development for ECE staff); communication (for example, improved accessibility of information and establishment of online registration); accessibility (for example that the ECEs reflect the University’s standard hours of 8am till 6pm and should open at least from 7.30am to 6.30pm); and service provision (for example, that the University investigate the feasibility of campus school holiday programmes).

The review recommends that the University continue to provide both Kāhanga Reo (with total immersion in Te Reo Māori) and Kāhungahuha Centres (providing instruction in Māori language). It also recommended investigating the feasibility of provision of a Pacific Island language nest.

Trudie McNaughton’s own family “has benefited in the past”, she says, “from very high-quality early childhood education from dedicated ECE staff at the University including the iconic Elaine McCulloch”.

Her overall vision for ECE provision is that it be of highest quality, that it support the strategic objectives of the University including high-quality research, growth in postgraduate studies, and training for ECE professionals, that it support our commitment to Māori and Pacific communities, and that it assist in recruitment of talented staff and students. She says that while the recommendations of the Review are ambitious, she is sure that they are achievable over time.

The review is available on www.auckland.ac.nz/ uoa/home/about/eo/equal-opportunities/ eo-updates-and-events
Significant stories preserved

Stories of the most important twists and turns in the University’s history over the past 50 years – remembered by those who led the changes – are now on record, thanks to the 125th Jubilee oral history project.

Historian Megan Hutching was commissioned last year to interview 16 former senior administrators about their early lives and their time at the University. The results – more than 50 hours of recordings featuring a veritable “Who’s who” of University decision-makers – have now been lodged in the Library’s archives.

More students! More buildings! is a recurring theme of the interviews, which cover long periods of University expansion. The establishment of the Tamaki Campus, Maidment Theatre and student Recreation Centre are discussed by several interviewees including Sir Colin Maiden (Vice-Chancellor 1971-94), and Dulcie McNaughton (North Shore Teachers College dean 1960-80), recall their own days as undergraduates in the 1940s and 1950s, when the Clocktower and Old Choral Hall were practically the only permanent buildings on campus. Fast-forward 60 years, and Professor Barry Spicer (Dean of Business and Economics 1998-2008) talks about the Owen G. Glenn building, officially opened in February 2008.

Of particular significance in the growth of the University were the establishment of the Medical School in 1968 – discussed by founding staff members Professor Sir John Scott and Professor Jack Sinclair – and the opening of Waipapa Marae 20 years later, recalled by Professor Ranginui Walker, first Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori), Professor Dame Anne Salmond, first Pro Vice-Chancellor (EO), and others. But expansion wasn’t always smooth – regarding the Human Sciences Building, built in the late 1970s, long-time Registrar Warwick Nicoll quips: “At one stage during its construction, it was further from completion than when it started.”

The increasing importance of research – and research funding – is highlighted by recollections of the founding of Auckland UniServices Ltd in the 1980s to manage applied research funding. The firm, recognised world-wide, is now probably “the most successful university spin-off commercial company in Australasia”, says Warwick Nicoll, who also talks about the development of Auckland University Press as one of his “joys”.

University wins at Montana Awards

Emily Perkins, an acclaimed New Zealand fiction writer and member of the Department of English, has won the top prize in this year’s Montana New Zealand Book Awards.

Novel About My Wife (Bloomsbury UK; distributed in New Zealand and Australia by Allen & Unwin) was awarded the Montana medal for fiction or poetry. The book, about a grieving husband reconstructing events that led to his wife’s death, was described by judges’ convenor Mark Williams as “highly assured fiction by a writer working at the height of her powers”.

Emily Perkins is currently enrolled in the University’s Master of Creative Writing programme, and next year she will work as an MCW adviser. The MCW is a one-year full-time programme in which students who are interested in writing a novel, short story or poetry collection, cross genre/multimedia work, or other approved project, explore both the theory and practice of writing. Participants undertake first and second drafts of their project in seminars, research their writing subjects and genres, and work under the guidance of academic staff and professional writers.

Esteemed writer, poet and literary critic Emeritus Professor C.K. Stead (English) won the Montana Medal for Reference and Anthology for his Collected Poems 1951-2006 (Auckland University Press). The judges said the book’s “editorial intelligence marks it as an anthology that adds something significant and new to the work as it has appeared thus far”.

Sam Sampson, who earned a masters degree in Philosophy from the University and tutored for some time in ethnomusicology, won the NZSA Jessie Mackay Award for Best First Book of Poetry. The judges said his collection, Everything Talks (Auckland University Press), “displays an uncompromising effort to make language work intensely, to generate excitement and involvement from the reader, and to toy with access to meaning”.

The University of Auckland News
Waste not

"This is something people have been wanting for years and it's really great that it's happening now," says Environmental Coordinator Lesley Stone.

Lesley was speaking of the new recycling system for bottles and cans now being rolled out across all campuses.

A survey of 1,000 staff found that 94 percent of those surveyed would like to see the University recycling its waste.

After two and a half years of research, preparation and trialling, the University's waste and recycling team is satisfied that the system chosen for University-wide roll-out has been proven to work well.

The research began with a look at just what comprised the University's waste. "We took eight tonnes of the University's waste, had it dumped on a concrete pad and took a one-tonne sample from it," says Lesley. "We found that 22 percent of the waste stream by weight was bottles and cans, with another 12 percent paper, so we set about finding effective ways to get them out of the waste stream in both the common areas and offices."

The result after two years of work and trialling is a set of internal and external bins that enable bottles, cans, paper and cardboard to be separated in all the main common areas, and in increasing numbers of departments and units. For offices, a system of desktop cubes and paper trays is now being used by more than 2,000 staff and is helping to reduce by up to 60 percent the paper sent to landfill.

When the team, made up of staff from Property Services, first discussed recycling, it seemed fairly straightforward. "But that turned out to be famous last words," says Lesley with a laugh.

As well as renegotiating contracts with waste collectors and bringing the cleaners on board the project involved research and trialling of several possible bins and systems.

When blue wheelie bins were introduced for cans and bottles in the open areas, the results were disappointing, with high levels of contamination from waste of other kinds. However, the working group discovered that by placing the "bottle-and-can" bin beside one for general waste, the level of contamination then dropped dramatically – to around nine percent. "But wheelie bins remain problematic because they can be moved around and people are so used to just using them to dump things in. If a recycling wheelie bin gets separated from a general waste bin, it tends to get trashed," says Lesley.

By trial and error the team discovered also that the shape and position of openings made a difference. "If both types of bins had open tops, the rate of contamination went up."

The final decision was to use stainless bins with a rubber flange for bottles and cans - which reduced contamination to 0-6 percent – and to use three different recycling combinations in different environments around the University.

In high-use areas – for example close to the cafeterias – large purpose-built double stations have been installed, with different apertures for rubbish and recyclables. In the lower-use areas, matching bins are placed together, while in the public spaces inside buildings, smaller paired bins are used.

This three-tiered system is now being put in place in all campuses.

Lesley acknowledges the tireless work of many people in this University-wide initiative. The waste and recycling team is made up of staff from Property Services - Emmett Mackle, facilities manager, Kieran Pollard, campus services manager, Michael Steves, contract administrator, Doug Oliver, transport officer, Bob Koaasche, superintendent, Tamaki and Epsom, and Stanley Jones, grounds and precinct manager. Also involved have been the waste management and cleaning contractors, the cleaning staff "who have been very supportive", and the thousands of staff and students who have helped with the trials. AUSA's Albie Morsley and Tom O'Connor, and their team, have played a significant role in trialling and effecting a workable system for high-use areas such as the main student quad.

The new bins are now working very well in high-use areas, says Lesley. Intensive monitoring will continue as the team streamlines the system and works out where more bins are needed. It's now over to students and staff to make sure the work of the team pays off in terms of a cleaner environment for the University and for the wider world.

Stories without end

President of the Polynesian Society, Dr Dame Joan Metge, presented the Elsdon Best Memorial Medal to Emeritus Professor Judith Binney (History) in a packed lecture theatre at the Department of Māori Studies on 22 July.

The medal, first presented in 1970, recognises "outstanding scholarly work on the New Zealand Māori… in the fields of ethnology, social anthropology, archaeology, prehistory or linguistics".

Like pioneer ethnologist Elsdon Best, Judith Binney has worked for many years in close co-operation with the Ngāi Tūhoe of the Urewera. In three groundbreaking books, Mīhaia, Nga Morehu – the Survivors and Redemption Songs, she developed scholarly methods for handling oral sources and demonstrated convincingly that discrepancies between multiple versions of the same events are both meaningful and illuminating.

Responding to the award, she delivered an address entitled "Stories without end". First she entranced her audience with stories of nineteenth-century gift exchanges between Tūhoe and representatives of the Crown that featured such exotic items as a rooster and a billy-goat. Then she explored the way these stories have been repeatedly retold, adapted to changing circumstances, in later contexts. Her address will be published in the Journal of the Polynesian Society later this year.

The Polynesian Society was founded in Wellington in 1892 with the aim of interpreting and preserving the traditional knowledge of the Māori and other indigenous peoples of Oceania before it was lost. These aims have been widened over the years to include "scholarly studies of the past and present" New Zealand Māori and other Pacific peoples and their cultures.

In addition to the quarterly Journal of the Polynesian Society, an international journal now in its 118th year, the society publishes other works, such as a new edition of Aprirana Ngata’s four-part collection of Māori waiata, produced in association with Auckland University Press (2002-2007).

Since 1980 the Polynesian Society has been based at The University of Auckland, where the Departments of Māori Studies and Anthropology provide support and facilities.
Urban spaces

The Hood and Seelye Fellowships aim to promote a stimulating exchange of scholastic expertise between the University of Auckland and other parts of the world.

The advantages of the visits always flow both ways: visitors bring knowledge at the highest levels; but they also take benefits away with them.

In the case of Seelye Fellow, Professor Roberto Segre, hosted last month by NICAI School of Architecture and Planning, and the NZCLAS (New Zealand Centre for Latin American Studies) the reciprocal advantages of the visit are especially clear.

Not only is Professor Segre the first historian of architecture to visit New Zealand from Latin America, bringing a lifetime of knowledge at the highest level of expertise, he is also experiencing the architectural environment of this part of the world for the first time, and is keen to pass on his impressions when he returns home.

He has observed a similarity here between Latin American and New Zealand architecture, particularly in the recent experimentation with new materials, novel spaces and combinations of different elements, for example of wood and metals. “Both share a search for what is different.” He also notes the increasing use of innovative locally-produced materials.

“Has there never been a publication in Brazil featuring New Zealand architecture,” he says. “I have seen many interesting buildings here and would like to write an article to be published there.”

Says Dr Rosangela Tenorio, senior lecturer in Architecture: “Professor Segre’s visit is enormously important for us as architects. Usually we look to Europe for our architectural influences. Latin America is a continent of rich contrasts to which Roberto has applied a deep critical analysis. During this visit he has helped raise our awareness of Latin American traditions and connections with the New Zealand context.”

Professor Segre, who was born in Milan and has been a professor in Brazil, Argentina and Cuba, says his favourite city in Latin America is Buenos Aires, which he places on a level with the great cities of the world.

“I have taught in New York, in Paris, in Buenos Aires – I love all three – for the life of the city, the intensity of the experience, the environment which creates the support for a vibrant urban life.”

Professor Segre’s interests are strongly focused on architecture as an expression of cultural values and a creator and reflector of aesthetics. He therefore gives his attention not only to the past but also to current cultural trends and the ways these will need to be accommodated in the architectural and urban spaces of the future.

“Over the last 50 years, young people are present in the cities much more, because of changing lifestyles and changing patterns of family responsibilities. To stay healthy, they need room to move. They need places to play sports and games. Old people, who now comprise a higher proportion of the population, also want to be out in the squares and gardens.”

Issues of space will also preclude cars as transport for individuals in the future. “Sao Paio now has 15 million cars. There is simply not enough space to keep accommodating their increase.”

“In the 1980s and 1990s there was a privatisation of public space,” says Professor Segre. “Now there is a move to reclaim the centre of cities as public space.”

The message he would like to leave behind about Latin American architecture is that even in a continent we think of as having limited resources, there is immense creativity in its architectural approach to sustainability and in creating living and cultural spaces that will continue to serve people’s needs for a satisfying life as we move into the future.

Attention staff

Please help to create an inclusive learning environment for students with impairments.

The University of Auckland’s EO Office is asking for the participation of all general and academic staff in completing anonymous online surveys between now and Friday 14 August.

We are committed to providing all of our students, including those with impairments, with the best possible opportunities for educational success. We know all staff – general and academic – have the potential to support students with impairments.

Please help us and go to www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/survey/EO

The questionnaire is anonymous, will only take about 15 minutes and any questions not applicable to you can be skipped.

Thank you for your assistance in making this project a success.

Trudie McNaughton
Pro Vice-Chancellor (EO)
Any enquiries contact Vicki Watson ext 84923, or v.watson@auckland.ac.nz

Viewpoint

Foreshore and seabed Review – all this expense to say what was evident

Despite international United Nations bodies finding the Foreshore Seabed legislation as discriminatory to Māori and despite the hikoi on Parliament (May 2004), in reflection of the overwhelming majority of submissions made to the Select Committee opposing the Foreshore and Seabed Bill, the Foreshore and Seabed Act was enacted vesting title of the foreshore and seabed in the Crown.

This Bill was the catalyst for establishing the Māori Party. In my opinion there is no doubt that this current review of the Foreshore and Seabed Act would not have arisen if the Māori Party had not advocated for a review.

This is provided for in the Confidence and Supply Agreement between the National Government and the Māori Party.

A panel was established comprising former Chief Judge of the Māori Land and High Court Justice, Eddie Durie, historian and academic Associate Professor Richard Boast, and cultural and Māori language expert Hana O’Reagan.

After national hui and feedback the panel provided responses to the four areas within its terms of reference.

Confirming the legal views espoused in the Ngāti Apa decision, that native or aboriginal title existed unless it was evident that this title had been clearly and plainly extinguished, the panel offered a raft of options to respond to the Ngāti Apa case. This included negotiating with Māori a nationwide settlement and substituting a special statute.

The panel also noted that the Foreshore and Seabed Act was discriminatory, failed to enhance mana whenua, and advanced the general public interest at the considerable expense of Māori interests.

After reviewing various models, the panel provided various realistic options available, favouring a “mixed” model, to recognise and provide for customary and public interests in the coastal marine area. These options require a repeal of the Foreshore and Seabed Act and the enactment of new legislation.

Given the initial reaction to this legislation from Māori, the courts and international bodies and the public, although it is hardly surprising that the panel has reached this decision, it is encouraging.

This will provide a test case as to whether a “compromise” can be met over a space that all New Zealanders perceive as their own, a test case that perhaps should have been made in 2004.

Valma ine Toki (Law)
In a remarkable burst of creative endeavour, five current and former academics from the English Department have had volumes of poetry published this year. In addition, a former staff member, C.K Stead, has won a Montana award for his *Collected Poems of 2008*.

“To have books of poetry published by so many English staff members in a single semester is remarkable, and indicates our continuing strength in and commitment to creative writing and New Zealand literature,” says the head of English, Professor Tom Bishop.

All of the books have either appeared on the books pages of *University News* or will appear in forthcoming issues. Already featured have been Associate Professor Lisa Samuels’ *Tomorrowland*, published by Shearsman, Associate Professor Michele Leggott’s *Mirabile Dictu*, and Dr Selina Tusitala Marsh’s *Fast Talking PI*, both published by Auckland University Press.

Still to come are Associate Professor Murray Edmond’s *The Fruits Of* (with images by Joanna Forsberg), published by Holloway Press, Emeritus Professor Albert Wendt’s *Adventures of Vela*, a novel in poetry published by Huia Publishers, and Lisa Samuels, *Throe*, published by Oystercatcher Press.
From the collection

The large silvery ball of ferns that floats above Civic Square in Wellington is possibly one of New Zealand’s most iconic sculptures.

It was produced in 1998 by Neil Dawson, who has created similarly spherical works in Paris for the Centre Georges Pompidou, as well as Manchester, Melbourne, Kuala Lumpur and Hastings. A Christchurch-based artist with an international reputation, he has also had works installed in Osaka, Hong Kong, the Australian National Gallery and the entrance for the Stadium of Australia for the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

Initially trained as a teacher at the University of Canterbury, Dawson later completed a graduate diploma in sculpture at the Victorian College of the Arts in 1973. His first suspended sculpture, Echo, was produced in 1981 for the Christchurch Arts Centre, a line drawing of a building that seems to invert itself as you walk around it, much like an Escher drawing.

Architectural forms, especially stairs into the sky, continue to appear in many of his works, including Throwback (1990), the large upturned arch that resides behind the Auckland Art Gallery in Albert Park, forming a giant signature “D” but also a monument to Auckland’s architectural history which suffered much in the 1980s. Along with foliage, feathers are another favourite motif of Dawson’s, emphasising the lightness suggested by his suspended works – there is a large example floating between floors in the Aotea Centre.

Produced two years after the 18-metre Chalice that has become a landmark in Cathedral Square, Christchurch, Chevron was created for The University of Auckland Art Collection in 2003 as a special commission for the Kate Edger student amenities complex. Both these works anticipate his Bomber Command Flybuy, 2005, which shoots into the sky like a spotlight.

Chevron, like all of Dawson’s works, is solid yet ethereal, produced from steel but appearing weightless, even when fixed to the ground. It is hard but transparent, integrating with the environment and accentuating its height with the exaggerated perspective effects that make many of his works appear to sit in the air as if he was sculpting with sky.

A remarkable piece of engineering, Chevron transforms flat sheet materials into complex three-dimensional geometry, in this case a triangular stainless steel beam bent to form a chevron shape with a dissolving lattice at the top. As Dawson described the work in his preliminary design report, the sculpture “will be angled from vertical by 20 degrees and will bend back 40 degrees upon itself at ‘knee’ point at a height of approximately five metres…. The upper section will be perforated, with the density of perforations increasing with height.” Precision-cut by laser, the hexagonal lattice forms of the upper section progressively open up, helping the cantilevered structure balance. This also makes the work seemingly evaporate into the sky, an effect that is particularly dramatic when its flame-like lighting is accentuated on an autumn evening.

The University also owns a small wall-piece, Skywalls, purchased in 1987 which resides in the School of Music.

Andrew Clifford

Winter Week gets bigger and better

A record enrolment for this year’s Winter Week on Campus was a very positive start to the Centre for Continuing Education’s semester two programme.

Over 240 keen adult learners, from as far away as Wellington, who relish the opportunity to access the expertise of University lecturers in their chosen field, spent the week of 6–10 July on campus. They attended lectures in such diverse topics as “Ancient Greek mythology and the encoding of culture” (Professor Anne Mackay, Classics and Ancient History), “Antarctica: The frozen continent” (Associate Professor Clive Evans, Biological Sciences), “America and the rest of us: The Obama effect” (Associate Professor Steve Hoadley, Political Studies) and “Europe transformed: Pre-modern to the present” (Lindsay Diggelmann, History).

Afternoon sessions entitled “Celebrating Darwin” and “Medical matters” were presented by academic staff from the Faculties of Science, Arts, and Medical and Health Sciences.

Continuing Education programme managers, Libby Passou and Jo Davies, enjoy designing a new programme of lectures each year and say the quality of presentations this year was extremely high. “Ground-breaking research was outlined, previously accepted knowledge and opinions were challenged, and current directions of politics, medicine, and the environment were reassessed. Both participants and lecturers enjoy the Winter Week experience.”

To quote one participant: “It is a privilege to have hugely complex material presented by people so steeped in their topic that it is easy to grasp, and relevant to life experience”.

For others the best aspect of Winter Week is that it offers a fascinating window into some of the world-class research being done at the University.

Lindsay Diggelmann (History) enjoys teaching for CCE at Winter Week and says: “The adult students are really keen to learn. They ask intelligent questions and are a very responsive audience.”

Some were so inspired by Lindsay Diggelmann’s lecture series that they enrolled as non-credit students though CCE for the “Body and blood: Religious cultures and conflicts” CS0-1650: CCE course which Lindsay co-teaches in semester two.
SATURDAY 8 AUGUST
Māori and the city workshop
This workshop will bring together a group of Māori researchers interested in both historical and contemporary issues related to Māori and the city such as urban Māori communities, Tangata Whenua spaces in the city, and the city’s role in inspiring and inspiring the city, inspired Māori art, architecture, and comparative indigenous experiences. To register your interest or for more information contact Aroha Harris, a.harris@auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 15 AUGUST
University of Auckland interfaculty rugby tournament
UOA Rugby Football Club, Colin Maiden Park, 85 Merton Rd, Glen Innes. Match details: Commerce v Law and Medicine v Engineering
Bye: Property. Queries to Tim Brightwell, phone 027 233 5345 or email interfacultyrugby2009@gmail.com

TUESDAY 18 AUGUST
Essential skills for managers
8.30am-4.30pm Rm 336, Level 3, Bidg 810, 1-11 Short St. Two-day course designed for UoA managers/team leaders to explore key management concepts. Part two on Tuesday 22 August. Enrol via PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (code HRIMP). For queries phone ext 89630.

Fifth Winter Lecture
Dr Bronwyn Daley, Deputy Chief Executive, Ministry for Culture and Heritage. Writing NZ history in the twenty-first century: Some old stuff. Engaging a public past and present for the future. 1-2pm Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St. Queries to Bill Williams, ext 87698 or wrs.williams@auckland.ac.nz Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/winter

School of Music research seminar
John Coulter: Creative practice as research. 1-2pm Music Theatre, School of Music.

Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) Roadshow
1.30pm, Floor Seminar Rm, 70 Symonds St.

School of Asian Studies seminar
Byron Smith, University of Otago. The future of electoral politics in NZ. 30-40 minutes. 2pm, 15 August. 2pm, 15 August.

THURSDAY 13 AUGUST
NZ Governance Centre: Small and medium enterprises and family business conference
Until 14 August. There will be an accommodation workshop to help participants followed by the conference tomorrow. Keynote speakers include: Prof Joe McCarthy, University of Auckland; Prof John Forrester, UoA; Prof Jean Jacques de l’Eissler, Deakin University. Queries to: nagovernance@auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 20 AUGUST
Doctoral morning tea
10-11am, 4th floor, Katie Edger Information Commons. This is a chance for all doctoral students to unwind, talk and share common issues. This event is supported by the PGSA, Graduate Centre, Auckland International and WAVE/AUSA.

Kawakawa Institute free movie screening
Keiko! 6.30-8pm Lecture Theatre 3.402, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St. Queries to confuciusinstitute@auckland.ac.nz

MISCELLANEOUS
Administrative assistant. Dept of Obstetrics and Gynecology, School of Medicine, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. We are seeking a positive, enthusiastic and proactive individual to provide administrative assistance. This role will work closely with the National Coordinator for the Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Committee and the NZ Cachexia office. The successful candidate will ideally bring a background in communication skills, the ability to prioritise and work under pressure, and be capable of working autonomously. Applicants would need to have proven administrative experience preferably within a tertiary and/or health environment. This is a fixed-term appointment for two years, term time, 30 hours per week.

HRC - supported PhD opportunities in heart, lung and gastrointestinal research at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI). Several PhD studentships are currently available in the ABI, as part of three major research projects recently awarded by the Health Research Council. The research projects will suit students with a keen interest in the quantitative study of the cardiovascular and pathophysiology of the heart, lung or digestive system. Some but not all of these projects will require a strong undergraduate degree in engineering, physics or biomedical engineering. These funded studentships include tuition fees of $5,000 per annum plus a stipend of $25,000 per annum. Further details and applications are invited from interested students who are eligible to undertake PhD study at The University of Auckland. The closing date for applications is 14 September 2009. Students must discuss the projects in person with the project supervisors prior to making an application (for further information on the projects and the application process please contact Dr Merryn Tawhai (Associate Director, Postgraduate, ABI), in textbook auckland.ac.nz)

I am a postgraduate student looking for a babysitter for my two and a half year-old daughter. We are looking for a kind-hearted, intelligent person; fluent English and experience with children are essential; studies in childcare would be an advantage. $7-8 an hour. We live in Parnell. Pay is from $15 per hour. Phone Inna on 021 509 5637.

Research Cooperative
http://researchcooperative@gmail.com, an international NPO and network for research students, researchers, science writers, technical editors, proofreaders, translators, and publishers. All languages, topics, countries. Volunteer or paid services. Administration contact researchcooperative@gmail.com

The Zukerman Experience. A giant of classical music, violinist Pinchas Zukerman makes his NZ debut. Presented by the NZSO and Chamber Music NZ.

Wednesday 13 August
2pm, Auckland Central Library: Chamber music by Cambridge’s Fitzwilliam Trio.

Thursday 14 August
The Auckland Symphonic Winds hold a “Building with Brass” workshop for brass players of all ages and stages.

Friday 15 August
The Auckland Symphony Orchestra perform “The Processional” by Gustav Mahler.

Saturday 16 August
2pm, Auckland Central Library: Weta Workshop present a Māori cultural experience, with a craft demonstration and performance.