Healthy students, healthy world

If you walk into the refurbished lecture theatres in the basement of the University Library, the first thing you will notice is the striking designs by renowned Māori artists, father and son, Fred and Brett Graham – both former members of staff of Elam School of Fine Arts.

These designs, though markedly different in each of the three lecture theatres, share a deep cultural resonance which places them unmistakably in this part of the world.

The three rooms represent three epochs, from prehistory in Lecture Theatre B28 – expressed in the form of a Māori spiral relief pattern called “Takarangi” (literally translated as “falling universe”) – to the ancient schools of Māori learning called “whare wānanga” in B15, and to the more recent period of European contact in B10. The intention is to reinforce to the students that they are a part of a long history of human endeavour and learning in Aotearoa.

Project Manager Neil Buller from Property Services is delighted with the appearance of the lecture theatres and the layers of cultural meaning carried in the designs.

However, he is also in a unique position to appreciate another positive aspect of the project, the degree to which the work has followed principles of sustainable design.

There are two faces to sustainable refurbishments, Neil explains. One is recycling of original materials, thus reducing the amount of waste ending up in landfills. The other is the choice of new materials with a low environmental footprint – preferably locally produced or grown - which minimises the environmental impact in their manufacture, transportation and life cycle.

Though the contractors didn’t quite meet our aim of landfill diversion of 70 to 80 percent of the materials, they did achieve a creditable 63 percent, with the material sent to a waste management company for sorting, while desk-tops, for example, were handed on to a local school.

The new carpet tiles and chairs are 100 percent recyclable - including the structural plastic frames for the chairs, which can be stripped down and used again. Electrical products are without PVC (which is damaging to the environment) and desks are of laminate over low-formaldehyde wood. In addition the systems are chosen to save energy, with motion sensors that turn off lights and air-conditioning after pre-booked hours when no movement is detected.

The result, says Neil, are lecture theatres that are not just environmentally friendly but also good for the students’ health, and a source of pride for those involved in the project.

In this issue
1 Queen’s Birthday Honours
2 Improving processes
3 Hood Fellows

Key events

Incredible Science
Incredible Science is a free, public, one-day festival on 5 July hosted by the Faculty of Science to introduce primary and intermediate-aged children to the excitement of science. Children can watch a chemistry magic show, learn how to survive an alien encounter, meet a robot, or learn how we test athletes’ fitness. They can make their own computer animation, find out about dinosaurs, and discover the mathematics of origami. Admission is free, but adults must collect tickets for some shows. Visit www.incrediblescience.co.nz for a full programme.

APRU presidents meet
Vice-Chancellors, Presidents and senior staff from 33 universities around the Pacific Rim will gather at the University from 30 June to 2 July for the 2010 Presidents’ Meeting of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU). The programme will begin with a Mayor’s reception in Auckland Town Hall and a welcome dinner at the Fale Pasifika. A full conference programme in the Engineering Building on the Thursday will feature prominent speakers such as Professor Zha Daojing, Professor in International Studies from Feking University; Professor Thomas Fingar from the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University; the Rt Hon Mike Moore, next New Zealand Ambassador to the US; and Colin James, leading political journalist and analyst. On the Friday morning business meetings and an Open Presidents’ Forum will take place at the Hilton Hotel.

Oceanic conference
The University of Auckland and Victoria University of Wellington will jointly host the fourth Oceanic Conference in International Studies in Auckland from 30 June to 2 July. This is Oceania’s largest International Relations (IR) and International Studies conference. All are welcome. For more information see www.ocis.org.nz
Honoured for service

Three current University of Auckland staff members featured in the Queen’s Birthday Honours announced on 7 June.

Associate Professor Susan St John (Department of Economics) became a Companion of the Queen’s Service Order for services to social policy.

She has long promoted public policy discussion on such issues as taxation, welfare, retirement policy, pensions, accident compensation, and income support for families. Susan is co-director of the University’s Retirement Policy and Research Centre and economics advisor to Child Poverty Action Group Inc.

Associate Professor Phil Yack (Department of Physics) was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for services to astronomy.

He co-led a project with Japanese scientists to observe a rare supernova (exploding star) in the southern sky in the late 1980s. This led him to collaborate with other New Zealand universities as well as the Japanese on a groundbreaking quest to find extra-solar planets, black holes and other celestial “dark matter”.

Dr Teuila Percival, a Clinical Senior Lecturer in the Department of Paediatrics, was made a Companion of the Queen’s Service Order for services to the Pacific Islands community.

Dr Richard Fenwick, formerly an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for services to engineering.

An ONZM also went to Ian Wedde, the University of Auckland/Creative New Zealand Writer-in-Residence at the Michael King Writers’ Centre in 2009 and recipient of a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University in 2007. His honour was for services to art and literature.

Dr John Matthews, a former University Council member and a Fellow of The University of Auckland, was admitted as a Companion of the Queen’s Service Order for services to medicine and the community.

Alison Paterson, who is involved in the governance of two Centres of Research Excellence based at the University, was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (CNZM) for services to business. She chairs the National Research Centre for Growth and Development and is on the board of directors of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga.

Advancing good ideas

At a meeting held in the Arts Faculty for two purposes – to inform general staff about the University’s Continuing Improvement Process (CIP) and to brainstorm on ways of reducing waste – a subject came up for discussion that is close to all our hearts.

“What about the waste of human potential?” one of the participants asked. “Should we be considering that as well?”

The discussion that followed – about the best ways of using and sharing knowledge and skills both for the satisfaction of staff and for the benefit of the University – set Alison Salmon thinking.

Alison, who is School Assistant in European Languages and Literatures, had – at the same workshop - won the competition to name the faculty version of CIP, a system through which staff all over the University are invited to contribute suggestions about improving processes.

The winning name was strong, clear and simple: “Good Ideas Group”. The system, administered by Wendy Chambers, a Group Manager in the faculty, provides for staff to fill out “Good Ideas” forms to suggest improvements. These are then taken through the University CIP process – or the originator is assisted to investigate them.

Alison’s suggestion – one of nine that would eventually come out of that same workshop – was that regular meetings should be held by and for staff, to discuss what they do and share knowledge that might be helpful to others.

The General Staff Forum is now taking place in the faculty each month and has indeed proved helpful to staff, covering such topics as “shadowing opportunities within departments” (giving staff a chance to observe and learn from what others are doing); understanding the new room booking system; dealing with distressed or agitated students; and supporting students with disabilities.

The suggestions for topics are made by staff on a spreadsheet in the shared drive. Participation is optional, with some discussions attracting more participants than others. For example the session on dealing with distressed students – which Lesley MacKay, Head of Counselling Services, agreed to facilitate – attracted between 30 and 40 staff.

“It’s great to see people from other departments,” says Alison. “I love people popping up out of the woodwork when you haven’t seen them for a few months, and it’s amazing to discover what they know that you don’t.”

Alison also appreciates that there is no hierarchy, with people at all levels coming to share what they know and to learn from others. “We’re all working for the same purposes and often doing quite similar things in different ways.”

Alison coordinates the topics, but is encouraging staff to own the forum and hopes that it will become a self-perpetuating system.

Wendy Chambers is very positive about the “Good Ideas” system which she says has already generated many constructive changes.

To find out more about the University’s CIP, email bpmo@auckland.ac.nz
Honoured for service

One of the University’s outstanding members of staff has been selected as a Hood Fellow. Professor Paul Donaldson, Head of the Department of Optometry and Vision Science, will attend the XIX Biennial Meeting of the International Society for Eye Research in Montreal, Canada; will visit leading North American schools of optometry; and will visit the laboratory of his research collaborator Professor Rick Mathias at the University of Auckland. Professor Donaldson will give public and professional lectures on expanding evolutionary theory beyond the biological sciences, on multilevel selection theory, on human genetic and cultural evolution, or on religion from an evolutionary perspective.

- Professor Fernando Nottelbohm, Director of Rockefeller University’s Field Research Centre for Ethology and Ecology in New York, will be a guest of the Department of Anatomy with Radiology. Professor Nottelbohm, who has outstanding expertise in neural anatomy and auditory feedback mechanisms, was the first to demonstrate experimentally that neurogenesis actually occurred in a vertebrate (canary) brain and to show how the new neurons were incorporated into the song system.

- Professor Peter Goldie from the University of Manchester will be hosted by the Departments of Philosophy and Art History. Professor Goldie, who entered university as an undergraduate in 1990 after a 26-year career in business and completed his PhD in 1997 from Oxford, is now a leading scholar across a broad spread of areas including philosophy of emotion, philosophy of personality, moral philosophy and philosophy of art.

- Professor Michael Young from the University of London, one of the world’s most influential sociologists of education, will be hosted by the Department of Critical Studies in Education. Professor Young has generated huge international interest with his 1971 seminal text Knowledge and Control and with his later writings since 2000.

- Professor Peter Head, Director of Arup in London, will be hosted by the Faculty of Engineering. Professor Head is an eminent civil and structural engineer who has now become a recognised world leader in sustainable development in cities. His knowledge and expertise will be invaluable in further developing the “Transforming Auckland” thematic research initiative (TRI), and while in Auckland he will deliver the international keynote address at a workshop to mark the inauguration of the faculty’s Ecological Engineering Initiative.

- The Alice Griffin Shakespeare Fellow is Professor Stern, Professor of Early Modern drama from the University of Auckland who has transformed understanding of the English renaissance theatre who has transformed understanding of the English renaissance. Professor Stern is a leading historian of the English renaissance theatre who has transformed understanding of the English renaissance theatre who has transformed understanding of the English renaissance theatre who has transformed understanding of the English renaissance theatre who has transformed understanding of the English renaissance. Professor Stern is an expert in comparative structural and ecological engineering.

- Professor Barbara Fredrickson from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a specialist in the emerging field of positive psychology, will be hosted by the Departments of Psychology, Psychological Medicine and General Practice and Primary Health Care. Professor Fredrickson is a social psychologist whose main work relates to her “broaden-and-build” theory, which suggests that positive emotions lead to novel, expansive or exploratory behaviour which lead over time to the development of meaningful resources such as knowledge and social relationships.

- Distinguished Professor David Sloan Wilson from the State University of New York in Binghampton will be hosted by the Department of Psychology, the Faculty of Arts and the Liggins Institute. Professor Wilson will give public and professional lectures on expanding evolutionary theory beyond the biological sciences, on multilevel selection theory, on human genetic and cultural evolution, or on religion from an evolutionary perspective.

Applications are called for the 2010 round of Teaching Improvement Grants. These grants (TIGs) are intended for projects which lie outside the normal scope of departmental budgets. The main intention is to stimulate innovations and provide exemplars in teaching and course delivery that might serve as useful models in the University. All full-time and part-time members of the teaching staff are invited to apply. Proposals may be submitted by individual staff, groups of staff, or academic units. The total funding pool available is $100,000 and the maximum given for any one grant is $15,000. The money will be available for use throughout the 2011 academic year (rather than for a calendar year from the TIGs announcement, as has been past practice).

For further information, or to apply, see http://web.auckland.ac.nz/uaa/for/staff/teaching/excellence/

Applications close 19 July. Queries to Kelly Chen, Vice-Chancellor’s Office Support Services, kelly.chen@auckland.ac.nz ext 87643.

The University of Auckland News

In brief...

Seelye Fellowships

The University is calling for applications for Seelye Fellowships which are available to bring leading international visitors to the University.

This round of applications closes on 30 August, and visits may take place in late 2010 or 2011. Academic staff are encouraged to apply for these awards, each valued at up to $30,000.

The Ralph and Eve Seelye Charitable Trust was established in 2006 to help the University attract distinguished leaders in their field and to host internationally recognised experts for guest lectures and seminars. The trust provides one or more Visiting Fellowships/Lectureships across all faculties.

Further information and application forms can be found on www.uoa.foundation.org.nz/seelye.htm or for inquiries contact Pamilla DaSilva at External Relations on ext 88113 or email pc.dasilva@auckland.ac.nz

Excellence in equity

Nominations are called for The University of Auckland Excellence in Equity Awards for 2010.

These awards are to encourage and reward outstanding efforts and achievements in supporting the organisation’s equity objectives in the Strategic Plan, and to promote good practice and innovation in implementing equity.

Awards are presented bi-annually to individuals or teams in departments, faculties, service divisions, libraries, and other units, who demonstrate excellence in equity.

Visit the Equity website for nomination forms and more information on criteria for the awards. Nominations close 28 June.

Teaching improvement

Applications are called for the 2010 round of Teaching Improvement Grants.

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Research grant opens up new field

European organisational reality and Western theories became highly useful.

“All of a sudden my cross-cultural understanding was very relevant. The Berlin Wall came down and foreign businesses didn’t know much about organisations in the East.” Snejina, who made the most of this and other opportunities to become a highly respected academic, remained on the staff of the Copenhagen Business School until 2006, when she accepted an appointment in the Department of Management and International Relations at The University of Auckland.

Snejina’s growing area of interest, “knowledge sharing”, had begun appearing as a theme in management about 1999 and “knowledge governance” eventually emerged as a new focus for her research. At The University of Auckland she was able to further advance her research into this field with the help of the University’s Faculty Research and Development Fund (FRDF).

Despite the success she has enjoyed so far, Snejina fully understands the difficulty in obtaining funding for research and getting the findings published. “Publishing today is more difficult than ever,” she says. “The quality of submissions is rapidly improving, the competition among authors is fierce and the rejection rate has increased dramatically.”

She was therefore grateful for the $30,000 FRDF grant. Within the field of “knowledge sharing”, an academic area that had yet to be developed in the Faculty of Business and Economics, Snejina was examining the hypothesis that governance mechanisms have impact on and can be designed to foster optimal knowledge-sharing, with the aim of contributing to the emerging “knowledge movement” in business management.

Her intention was to use her project as a platform for strengthening her research programme and attracting students to work on related subjects.

Throughout the research Snejina, with her co-researcher Kenneth Husted, Professor of Innovation and Research in the Business School, has had three articles and three book chapters published or accepted for publication. The two investigators have also conducted two research seminars and presented three competitive papers at international academic conferences. In addition Snejina co-edited a book published by Oxford University Press on knowledge governance.

“Knowledge governance is relatively new and I am proud that I’m among the scholars who have got this established as a distinctive issue in the management literature. I am not only looking at my citations, I am also greatly satisfied when executives call me up because of my research.”

“I was glad of the FRDF funding which allowed me to financially support some of my key research activities and in this way enhance the further development of my research career.” FRDF is taken from the University’s annual budget, including funding derived from the Performance Based Research Fund (PBRF) to promote development of the research careers of its staff.

New Start reaches Northland

The University’s bridging programme that helps prepare adults for degree-level study has been successful in empowering a group of Northlanders to study teaching.

As a result of successfully completing the New Start programme at Tai Tokerau Campus in late 2009, 16 adult students are studying the Bachelor of Education (Teaching) Primary in Whangarei, with some also choosing to learn to teach te reo Māori in the Huarahi Māori specialisation.

The aim of New Start, offered by the Centre for Continuing Education, is to provide a supportive environment to assist adults in developing the knowledge and skills required for successful study at university. For some it may be many years since they left school, while others may not have gained university entrance or may need to build their confidence and develop knowledge of academic study skills.

Mother of two Julie Chaplin completed the programme and is now studying teaching in 2010. Out of the classroom for over 20 years she says it was “daunting” going back to study, but that the course really built her confidence.

“New Start is great for people like me who have been away from school for a long time because I now have the techniques to write and research essays. I can’t emphasise enough how beneficial it was for me.”

Taught by Academic Director Heather Peters and staff from the Tai Tokerau Campus on seven consecutive Saturdays, New Start covered essential skills like academic essay writing, referencing, proof reading, exam techniques, library, and ICT skills. Students were able to hone these skills in three essay assignments and gained experience in sitting an exam in a final two-hour test.

“Many travelled from outlying areas of Northland to attend classes, and the course generated real enthusiasm among the students,” says Heather.

Karla Rungarunga also found New Start an ideal way to kick-start a teaching career after returning to the North from extensive travel overseas.

“Teaching was something I’d always thought about doing but I’d been away travelling. New Start seemed ideal because I hadn’t studied for so long, and I was a little nervous – so I found it really helpful,” she says.

A new intake of New Start in Whangarei will commence in September 2010.

For more information about the New Start programme call the Centre for Continuing Education on 0800 864 266.
New professors

These two stories form part of a series in which University News invites new professors to introduce themselves to readers. In this issue we feature Professor Merryn Gott (Health Sciences) and Professor Fred Seymour (Psychology).

Professor Merryn Gott (Health Sciences)

I moved from the UK in November 2009 to join the School of Nursing as Professor of Health Sciences and Director of Research.

My childhood was split between rural Wales and the suburbs of London, but I moved to Sheffield Medical School to do my PhD and ended up spending 15 years in the City of Steel and the suburbs of London, but I moved to Sheffield Medical School to do my PhD and ended up spending 15 years in the City of Steel and the

Professor Fred Seymour (Psychology)

From 2005 I have served as Head of Department. With the appointment to Professor in Clinical Psychology I will return to a leadership role within the clinical psychology programme at Tāmaki campus.

My major research interests are in child abuse, parent separation and in particular its effects on children, adolescent suicidal behaviour, and behavioural problems in children and adolescents. My research over the last decade has focused particularly on children and the law, including children as participants in decision-making about living arrangements after their parents’ separation and children’s involvement as witnesses in criminal trial processes.

In my own and my students’ research I work closely with service providers in an attempt to maximise translation of research results into action. I have helped develop New Zealand’s first multi-agency centre combining child abuse investigation and prevention services in the one setting in order to improve co-ordination and response in service delivery. I also developed a programme for separating parents, “Children in the middle”, primarily as a prevention strategy to reduce the impact of divorce on the well-being of children. The Department for Courts adopted the programme for delivery throughout New Zealand.

My involvement with the profession of psychology includes a term as President of the New Zealand Psychological Society, convening the working party that conducted a major review of the code of ethics for psychologists. Currently I am a member and deputy chair of the Psychologists Board.

Psychology careers: finding out the facts

On 20 May University Careers Services, in partnership with the Department of Psychology and the Faculty of Science, conducted a careers information event for Psychology students.

This featured an employer panel chaired by Associate Professor Niki Harre (Psychology), who discussed industry trends, skill sets and requirements, internship opportunities and other employment-related topics with representatives from four organisations – Counties Manukau DHB, Refugee Migrant Services, Royal NZ Navy and Le Va Pacific Island Mental Health.

The information given by panel members was extremely valuable for the more than 300 undergraduate and postgraduate Psychology students, who also had the opportunity to ask their own questions from the floor.

The event then moved on to a more informal expo-style format, where students interacted with a broad range of employers face to face. Around 20 employers were there to discuss options such as volunteering, internships, graduate programmes and summer work.

Students also asked broad questions about the best ways to prepare themselves for the world of work in this area, as well as challenges and day-to-day activities in the industry.

Other successful events with the same format have been held this semester for the School of Environment, Chemistry/Physics and Biosciences.

In August, University Careers Services and the Faculty of Science will hold careers events for Computer Science/Mathematics/Statistics (on 5 August) and Sport and Exercise Science (also in August on a date to be arranged).

Feedback from students was very positive: “Interesting and inspiring ...” “soo helpful”, “speakers were great”, “finding out exactly what degrees were helpful and for which organisation was really good”, “made a degree in psychology more realistic”, “the people representing the organisations were clearly both passionate about and well-suited to their positions”.

The University of Auckland News
Books

The Invention of New Zealand Art

The Invention of New Zealand: Art and National Identity, 1930-1970 is a long-awaited study of nationalism in twentieth-century New Zealand art written by one of our most brilliant and original art historians and published by Auckland University Press.

Dr Francis Pound, an honorary research fellow and former senior lecturer in Art History at the University, in this volume brings to light the profusion, cohesion and intimacy of the nationalist movement and its imaginary life.

An Auckland to the core – “Most things of real significance in my life and the life of my family had happened somewhere in sight of the summit of Mt Eden” – C.K. Stead here turns his home town into a land of myth and symbol: portage for ancient waka, wasp-waist of the fish of Maui, site of a Pakeha-planned and never built coast-to-coast canal and of the harbour-to-harbour ghost-tram, no longer running except in the head of an elderly writer, late in the night, remembering at his laptop.

In a virtuoso performance, C.K. Stead wonderfully illuminates 23 years of his time and his place.

South-West of Eden

“I said many times I would not write autobiography – partly because it might signal, either to my inner self, or to others, a signing off as a writer; and partly because I did not want to mark off areas that were fact in my life from those that might yet be invented. Fiction likes to move, disguised and without a passport, back and forth across that border, and prefers it should be unmarked and without check-points.”

These are the words of renowned writer C.K. Stead, a former professor in the English Department, who has earned an illustrious international reputation as a poet, literary critic and novelist.

Happily for his readers, C.K. Stead has changed his mind. In South-West of Eden, a coming-of-age memoir published by Auckland University Press, he writes of a life “lived by history” – running wild in Cornwall Park, joining the Labour Party aged seven, discovering poetry in a third-form English class and enjoying a newly married annus mirabilis in a flat on Takapuna Beach down the road from Frank Sargeson and Janet Frame.

Walls to Kick and Hills to Sing From

The rats are back and they’re plaguing the ship. Who will be the hero of the time? Who will rescue us from this plague?

Walls to Kick and Hills to Sing From: A comedy with interruptions, published by Auckland University Press, is a theatrical assemblage of language and form, arranged in six acts.

In ballads, dialogues, choruses and songs, with topics from biking narrow Polish roads to storyboarding a nationalistic film, Associate Professor Murray Edmond (Department of English) presents a collection that is “alerting”, playful and subversive.

A consummate director, Murray balances his dramatic, mock-dramatic and narrative pieces with intense lyric poems, of which the superb, postcard-like “Narrow Roads to the East” sequence is a highlight.

Both a diverse miscellany and a well-structured variety show, Walls to Kick takes the reader into the complex sites where language and experience meet.

Murray is a poet, playwright, dramaturge, theatre director, editor and critic. He has published four books of poetry with AUP, most recently Fool Moon (2004), a finalist in the Montana New Zealand Book Awards.
The daughter of a realist painter, Jude Rae was enrolled in art classes at the Julian Ashton Art School in Sydney at the age of 11 years.

Despite the school being located in The Rocks, near the Museum of Contemporary Art, the Julian Ashton approach to art education is traditional, with strong emphasis on drawing skills. Introduced to the work of the Old Masters there, Jude Rae went on to study for a degree in Art History at Sydney University which she completed in 1981. Soon after, she returned to painting, working in a style influenced by the artists of the Northern European Renaissance and seventeenth century French still life painting, as well as by the French philosopher Maurice Merleau-Ponty’s ideas about the phenomenology of perception.

After receiving the Australia Council Residency in Paris and working in London in 1989 she came to New Zealand, founding the arts organisation, South Island Art Projects (which became The Physics Room) in Christchurch, and completing an MA in painting at the University of Canterbury in 1992. She exhibited her work in dealer galleries in Auckland and Christchurch, establishing a reputation for carefully considered, meditative paintings of drapery and other objects, and was included in many curated exhibitions in public art museums.

Returning to Australia in 2003, she broadened her focus on still life or “object painting” to include portraiture, winning the prestigious Portia Geach Memorial Award in 2005, Australia’s most prestigious award for female artists. The same year a series of her small “interiors”, portraits of friends with their eyes closed, were included in an exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery of Australia in Canberra. The same institution also commissioned her to paint the distinguished scientist Frank Fenner which was her first commissioned portrait of a male subject.

She won the Portia Geach prize for a second time in 2008 with Self Portrait 2008 (The Year My Husband Left), a full-length image of herself in which she stands alone in her studio, holding her paintbrushes, with her dog Tilly at her feet. The artist limits herself to one commissioned portrait a year, and has remarked: “Portraiture is both fascinating and daunting precisely because it lies at the juncture of the subjective and objective impulses in my practice. When a person sits for a portrait, the painter sees them as both subject and object. Negotiating a resolution to this duality is very complicated and subtle.”

Jude Rae was recommended to the Business School to paint a commemorative portrait of businessman and benefactor Owen Glenn. An

CCE prepares for 25th opera tour

The great majority of international short courses designed and delivered by the Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) are for groups of students, academics or business people coming from overseas and studying at The University of Auckland. The exception is the opera tours the Centre has been running since 1990.

In October this year the Centre’s 25th tour will depart, for the 20th time to Sydney. There has also been one tour to Melbourne (during Sydney’s Olympic year) and four to Europe.

During the past 20 years opera lovers from around the country have been heading overseas to enjoy lectures, performances, and the opportunity to spend time with others who share their interest and passion. Leading the tours since the very beginning has been Emeritus Professor Nicholas Tarling, at the time Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Chairman of the Deans Committee.

It was at first, according to Nicholas, rather experimental. “We tried various things over the first few years. However the core was and has remained the talks in the morning and the performances in the evening. The talks got more substantial over time, and we took to supplying libretti for study purposes. On these tours, unlike many tours, members have a common interest, and that makes for coherence and interchange. Generally we have enjoyed what is now a rare experience in the world, opera presented by a company, largely cast from its members, and so having human and dramatic qualities as well as musical.”

Lynn Lander, Acting Director of CCE, says; “Community education, in its many forms, is central to what CCE does. The opera tours are an excellent and enduring example of such education. The fact that a great many of the participants return year after year is testament to the format, personnel, and content on offer.”

For information on this year’s tour to Sydney, contact the Centre for Continuing Education on 0800 864 266, or email conted@auckland.ac.nz
what's on

saturday 26 june
exploded view: children's workshop
1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. $10. A young person's printmaking workshop, led by artist Nuala Gregory. Places strictly limited, ages 11-13 only, bookings essential. Email s.kohran@auckland.ac.nz

sunday 27 june
Matariki workshop
Whirimako Black. Taonga pūoro and traditional Māori song. 5-6pm Music Theatre, 6 Symonds St. Free. Registration essential. Ph 923 7701 or email concerts@auckland.ac.nz

tuesday 29 june
PASW (SPSS) introduction workshop
1-4pm CAD. Level 4, 76 Symonds St. Enroll at www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/ workshops or phone 373 7599 ext 88140 with queries.

wednesday 30 june
Oceanic Conference on International Studies IV (OCIS)
Until 2 July. OCIS builds on the successful legacy of OCIS III in Canberra, Melbourne and Brisbane bringing Oceania’s largest International Relations (IR) and International Studies conferences across the Tasman for the first time. All are welcome. For more information see www.ocis.org.nz
Department of Statistics seminar
Dr Catherine Macken, Los Alamos National Laboratory. Finding needles in a haystack: Identification of significant molecular changes in influenza viruses. 11am-12noon Statistics Seminar Room 222, Science Centre. For a full list of The University of Auckland events see: www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/events

the internships are two months in duration and participating students – as many as 30 a month – are drawn from around the world.

the three selected students – Natalie Bell, Linda Yang and Sandra Carmell – will assist in the daily operation of the museum four days a week, and will take part in discussions and seminars conducted by fellow interns, staff and visiting professionals.

the interns: Natalie Bell is currently working towards her PhD in Art History. She is investigating “non-marriage” portraits of women in the Italian Renaissance, specifically portraits of platonically lovers, mistresses and courtesans. She also tutors for the Department of Art History and for the University’s Centre for Continuing Education.

Natalie has a wide-ranging interest in Italian culture and language, and is currently completing an Italian archival and paleography course run by the Medici Archive.

Linda Yang has recently completed her BA(Hons) in Art History. She has tutored for the department and has begun her masters degree in 2010. She has always had an interest in Italian art and culture.

Sandra Carmell has just completed her MA thesis in Art History, which focused on temporary art in public space and audience engagement. Sandra has never been to Italy before and plans to immerse herself in the Peggy Guggenheim Collection and the Italian Renaissance art that she has studied.

Northcote Point apartment for rent
One bedroom in quiet, secure complex with own carpark and shared pool. Open plan living/flying to private garden. Great location - close walk to ferry, cafés and cinemas. Unfurnished, long-term rental. $310 pw. Phone Claire on (021) 025 95817 or email c.speedy@auckland.ac.nz

One-bdrm apartment available from mid-June in The Auklander, Rutland St, City, just behind the Public Library. Fully furnished, immaculate, everything included. North facing, sunny and warm. No smokers. $300 pw. Contact Bryan on 480 5857

Warm Ponsonby home available for rent for the month of July. Character bungalow with two bdrms, two living rooms, central heating, with private sunny deck. A two-minute walk to Ponsonby Rd, fully furnished with linen, crockery etc provided. $400 pw + power. Phone Trudi on (021) 135 5092

miscellaneous
Books for sale. Psychology, sociology, education and ancient history. Contact Dorothy on (09) 579 7543 or Dorothy.james@itex.co.nz
Carpenter/builders available. Over 10 years experience. Lots of renovations and historic places. References. Phone Chris on 270 0745 or (027) 293 2279.
Sweet Moments, cake shop
Celebrate your sweet moment with cakes, cupcakes, cookies and biscuits. All preparations are made by NZ qualified pastry chef at council-registered kitchen. We can bake to suit your theme, budget and for all age groups. We can also make sweets for university staff and lecturers. I pride myself on being reliable...we can provide it to you at the City Campus and some areas of Auckland city (no delivery charges). Please visit www.cakesforsweetmoments.co.nz or contact Vibha (09) 8359464 or Vibha@iwantit.co.nz

Carpenter/builders available. Over 10 years experience. Lots of renovations and historic places. References. Phone Chris on 270 0745 or (027) 293 2279.

travel. I have 12 years experience in booking all aspects of personal travel for university staff and lecturers. I pride myself in ensuring that you travel plans are sourced at the lowest possible costs and are tailor-made to your requirements. Contact Karen on Karen.emblenton@monardtravel.co.nz or 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.

adventures in venice

The Department of Art History is delighted to announce that three of its students have been selected for the 2010 Internship Programme at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice.

The internships are two months in duration and participating students – as many as 30 a month – are drawn from around the world.

The three selected students – Natalie Bell, Linda Yang and Sandra Carmell – will assist in the daily operation of the museum four days a week, and will take part in discussions and seminars conducted by fellow interns, staff and visiting professionals.

The interns: Natalie Bell is currently working towards her PhD in Art History. She is investigating “non-marriage” portraits of women in the Italian Renaissance, specifically portraits of platonically lovers, mistresses and courtesans. She also tutors for the Department of Art History and for the University’s Centre for Continuing Education.

Natalie has a wide-ranging interest in Italian culture and language, and is currently completing an Italian archival and paleography course run by the Medici Archive.

Linda Yang has recently completed her BA(Hons) in Art History. She has tutored for the department and has begun her masters degree in 2010. She has always had an interest in Italian art and culture.

Sandra Carmell has just completed her MA thesis in Art History, which focused on temporary art in public space and audience engagement. Sandra has never been to Italy before and plans to immerse herself in the Peggy Guggenheim Collection and the Italian Renaissance art that she has studied.