

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND news

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Record number of doctorates



The photo shows at least 73 of the record 76 graduates awarded their doctoral degrees in a single ceremony. With them (centre front) are the University's Chancellor, Roger France and University councillor Lindsay Corban

History was in the making at Spring Graduation on 28 September when 76 Science and Medical and Health Sciences graduands were awarded doctorates.

"This is the most doctorates we've awarded at one ceremony," said Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon. "It reflects our strategy to grow the postgraduate programme and graduate high-calibre people that will be important to New Zealand's economy and future."

A total of 140 graduands received doctoral degrees at four ceremonies. Among them were twelve Māori and Pacific Islanders and the oldest graduand, 76-year-old former newspaper editor and publisher, Philip Harkness. Philip was the youngest judicial Justice of the Peace in New Zealand when he was appointed to the role in 1964. For his PhD in Political Studies he studied the lay magistracy in New Zealand.

Spring Graduation also saw the conferral of the University's first MSc in Biosecurity. Some years

ago MAF Biosecurity New Zealand approached the University to set up a biosecurity programme. The postgraduate diploma programme began in 2008 and the masters programme in 2009. New MSc graduate Josie Galbraith studied the ecology and impact of the Eastern Rosella – an invasive Australian species recently introduced into Auckland. Her project was co-sponsored by Auckland Regional Council.

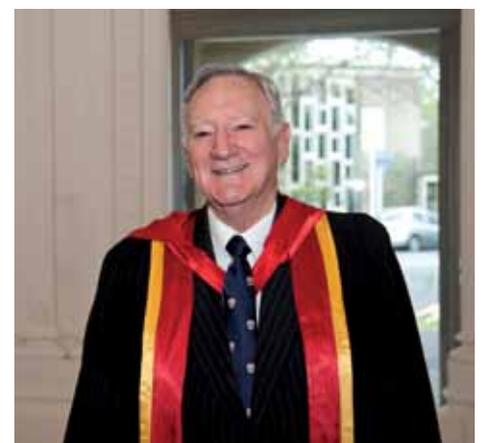
A total of 2819 qualifications were awarded to 2628 students at Spring Graduation. Science awarded the most qualifications with 649 followed by Business (620), Arts (570) and Education (320).

There were 246 in Medical and Health Sciences, 108 in Creative Arts and Industries, 93 in both Law and Engineering and 11 in Theology.

University Chancellor Roger France conferred 1949 degrees and diplomas, bestowing the rest (870) "in absentia" on those not attending.

Speakers included David McConnell, Managing Director of McConnell Group, Ian McCrae, Chief

Executive Officer of Orion Health, prominent Auckland surgeon, John Dunn and District Court and Family Court Judge, John Adams.



Dr Philip Harkness, PhD in Political Studies

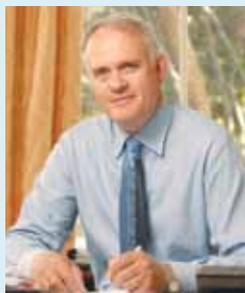
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New Zealand's underinvestment in its universities over many decades means that all universities have a backlog of deferred maintenance and many buildings that are far from being of international standard. In order to address that issue, The University of Auckland has a strategic objective to "provide an infrastructure that supports teaching, learning, research and community engagement of the highest quality". This, of course, will require massive investment to overcome the deficiencies we face in our buildings and systems.

The recent decision by the University Council to approve the refurbishment of the Maths/ Physics Building (303) means that the University now has committed projects underway with a total cost approaching half a billion dollars. Among the most significant of these are the Grafton redevelopment (ca \$240m), new hall of residence in the Elam precinct (ca \$50m), Thomas extension (ca \$25m) and Arts 1 refurbishment (ca \$22m). The large volume of work being undertaken reflects not only the need to "play catch up" in creating a quality environment but also the fact that, with private construction at a very low level following the global financial crisis, some good deals can be achieved in terms of construction materials and costs. And it's not just about buildings - we are also investing in the new student management system (costing over \$12m) and smaller but still significant IT projects such as Research+, the upgrade of our Finance system, and new timetabling software. That said, the increased investment we are making in our infrastructure will deplete our financial reserves and lead to the necessity of borrowing, with a consequent impact on our income/expenditure balance.

Although these projects will ultimately lead to a vast improvement in the quality of our campuses and the systems that support staff and students, it does have to be acknowledged that rebuilding the campus infrastructure while we continue to occupy and operate it places considerable demands on staff. The workload in Property Services and Information Technology Services, as well as in the various project teams, is at an extraordinary level, and will continue to be so for some time. Many staff and students are being inconvenienced by work going on around them and by being temporarily located to other campuses or buildings. I am grateful to all those who are contributing to, and putting up with, this very significant programme of infrastructure renewal.



Good things come in threes



Three PhD graduates in Planning. From left to right are Marjorie van Roon, Viv Heslop and Tom Davies.

There were two very good things that came in threes in the School of Architecture and Planning on Graduation Day.

One was the three PhD graduates in Planning, setting a record for a single ceremony.

The other was a personal thrill for Dr Marjorie van Roon, a senior lecturer in the School, who was one of three in her family to graduate that day. Also graduating were her two sons, Carl with a Master of Science in Sports Science and Andrei with a Master of Engineering Studies in Transportation.

Professor Jenny Dixon, Dean of Creative Arts and Industries, said at a morning tea held to celebrate the three PhDs "Completing a PhD is a very special moment in one's life and a major achievement of which to be very proud. The process of conceptualising, researching, writing, agonising, and finally producing a doctoral thesis takes much determination as well as some moments of inspiration; but it is mostly hard work.

"What is intriguing but not surprising about the three Planning theses produced is that while they traverse different topics, they are quite interrelated. All contribute in various ways towards improving the development and implementation of planning policies, processes and practices with the aspirational goal of improving sustainability.

"Drawing on their respective strengths and experiences in sociology, planning and environmental science. Tom [Davies], Viv [Heslop] and Marjorie [van Roon] each set out to make a difference."

Tom studied the application of sustainability assessment to policy development, basing his research on the Auckland Regional Growth Strategy 2050. Viv investigated the processes of institutional change and capacity-building, drawing on a case study of the Urban, Form, Design and Development Initiative which formed part of the Auckland Sustainable Cities programme from

2003 to 2006. Marjorie conducted her research on the application of Low Impact Urban Design and Development (LIUDD) as an alternative approach to current development practices.

Jenny noted that both Marjorie and Viv had developed their research in the context of the LIUDD FRST-funded research programme. "It is of interest," she said, "that there will be at least six PhD theses generated from the six-year research programme across three faculties, which is a considerable mark of success in building research capacity."

Jenny acknowledged the critical importance of support from family and friends - "through the various trials and tribulations, the highs and the lows" [of PhD study].

"I would really like to commend family, friends and colleagues today for their contribution to this process and for providing an all-important listening ear and sounding board when needed."

And indeed the families of the graduates were there in force to celebrate - from five-month old Olivia, daughter of Tom and Sharyn Davies, to Annie van Roon, Marjorie's mother-in-law, who celebrated her 90th birthday earlier this year.



Marjorie van Roon with her two sons, Andrei (left) and Carl.

Celebrating student achievement



Tama Toki, Māori Sportsperson of the Year.

Around 200 people gathered at the Alumni Marquee on the Friday night before Graduation to enjoy champagne, good food and live jazz and to celebrate another highlight of the University's year: the Blues Awards, which focus on a broad sweep of student achievements across the sporting and cultural fields.

Guest speaker was Robyn Malcolm, known to us all through the iconic TV series *Outrageous Fortune* and described by Li Chen, Student Central Manager of AUSA, as wonderfully witty, relaxed and down-to-earth.

"She was extremely funny," agreed Paul Minifie, who chairs the Arts and Cultural Blues Panel. "She talked about her work as an actor and corporate host, and let the guests know what it's like to be part of the celebrity scene in New Zealand.

"The Blues provide a wonderful opportunity," says Paul, "for the University and the AUSA to get together and celebrate student successes.

"Student life these days is particularly hectic. For students to find time to pursue their individual disciplines and be high achievers is a wonderful thing. Their accomplishments contribute to the richness of campus life."

The Blues Awards are organised by the Blues Planning Committee and

AUSA students. The organisers were delighted to welcome the University's Registrar, Tim Greville; the Chancellor, Roger France; the Vice Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon; and the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori), Jim Peters.

The top awards were the 2010 Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year, presented to Michael Jack (swimming) and Olivia Powrie (yachting), by Nick Tongue, who was Sportsman of the Year in 1994 and 1995; Most Meritorious Sporting Performance, presented to Teneale Hatton (flatwater sprint kayaking / surf life saving) by Professor Stuart McCutcheon; Māori Sportsperson of the Year, presented to Tama Toki (athletics) by Jim Peters; and Arts and Cultural Society Award, presented to Jack Woon (film direction) by Jennie Oakley from The University of Auckland Society.

Three degrees of brilliance



Dr Morad Al-Sahafi

Morad Al-Sahafi has packed lots of scholastic action into the six years he has spent at The University of Auckland.

During this time he has completed two masters

degrees with first class honours, an MA in Applied Linguistics and a Master of Professional Studies. Then, when he walked across the stage at this year's Spring Graduation, he became the first Saudi Arabian to gain a PhD in Language Teaching and Learning at The University of Auckland.

Jackie Greenwood, Graduate Adviser in Applied Language Studies, said he was "a brilliant student who has done fantastically well".

Morad and his wife and two daughters have enjoyed their time in New Zealand but were looking forward to going home and re-uniting with family. He said his daughters, aged nine and 12, have had all their primary schooling so far in New Zealand and would find the education system quite different - though the children have had tuition in Arabic while in New Zealand and have been regularly assessed to make sure that they will fit in at the right level when they return home.

Morad is on the academic staff at Abdul Aziz University in Saudi Arabia. He says he chose to come to Auckland because of the quality of staff in the department and because of the peaceful lifestyle in New Zealand. His PhD was supervised by Associate Professor Gary Barkhuizen.

Key events

Bruce Jesson Lecture

On 27 October at 6pm at the Maidment Theatre Annett Sykes, Ngati Pikiao, lawyer and activist, will deliver the Bruce Jesson Lecture, entitled "The politics of the brown table".

This lecture will contend that the commercial deals on Treelords, the Emissions Trading Scheme, geothermal resources, national parks, private prisons, mining, and whanau ora are all harnessing Māori to a global capitalism that impoverishes the mass of working class Māori. It will challenge an agenda - foreseen by Bruce Jesson in the 1980s - that excludes most whanau and hapu from decision-making and denies them rights over their resources.

It will identify the basic principles for a politics that genuinely empowers the people.

Professor Margaret Mutu, chairperson of Te Runanga-a-Iwi o Ngati Kahu, will be the discussant on the lecture.

Foraging, food and fat

In the third of the Liggins Institute's "Seasons of Life" lecture series for 2010 biologist and adventurer, Professor David Raubenheimer from Massey University, describes new research that is explaining how animals in the wild forage for foods and how this can help us to understand why humans, who have potentially many more choices, tend to overeat energy rich foods and become obese.

The lecture, entitled "A delicate balance: Foraging, food and fat" will take place on 27 October at 6pm in Lecture Theatre 1401, ground floor, Faculty of Engineering 20 Symonds St.

The lectures in this series last approximately one hour and are designed for non-scientific audiences. They are free and open to the public, but places are limited and bookings are essential.

Feast of jazz

Now in its fourth year, The University of Auckland JazzFest continues to provide jazz aficionados with the opportunity to sample local and international talent.

In addition to three nights of top calibre performances, Auckland JazzFest 2010 will also offer a series of free workshops.

The JazzFest will take place from 1-3 November at the Maidment Theatre (8 Alfred Street). Doors open at 7pm and shows start at 8pm. Tickets are \$30 full price or \$15 concession; \$50 two nights or \$70 three nights.

For more information, email jazzfest@auckland.ac.nz or call ext. 87707.

Highlighted awards

C Alma Baker Trust

Funding for research projects in the fields of agriculture, agriculture-based technologies and the study of rural society. For details contact Gemma Paton, Research Administrator, gemma.paton@auckland.ac.nz ext. 87070.

The Spencer Foundation (US)

This offers research grants of up to USD \$500,000 on educational topics, with an ongoing deadline. For details contact David Saunders, International Fund Specialist, d.saunders@auckland.ac.nz ext 84886.

National Institutes of Health (US)

The following calls, announced by the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), are open to applications from non-US institutions subject to satisfying certain criteria. For further information contact David Saunders, d.saunders@auckland.ac.nz ext 84886.

- Genetic and genomic resources for emerging non-mammalian model organisms (R24) Research Office closing date 16 December 2010
- Assay development for high throughput screening for nicotinic receptor subunits (R21). Exploratory/developmental research. Research Office closing date 11 Jan 2011
- Type 1 Diabetes Impact Award (DP3): For innovative research. Research Office closing date 4 Feb 2011
- Clinical research grants in arthritis and musculoskeletal and skin diseases (R21) Exploratory/developmental research - call open until July 2013

John Templeton Foundation (US): 'Can GM crops help to feed the world?'

This US philanthropic organisation is funding research into GM crops - including health, nutritional, social, environmental, agricultural, economic, trade, biosecurity, financial, regulatory and intellectual property issues.

For details contact David Saunders, International Fund Specialist, d.saunders@auckland.ac.nz ext 84886.

Government of Canada Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship

Two-year fellowships at a Canadian institution (or overseas for Canadian applicants). For further information please contact David Saunders, International Fund Specialist, d.saunders@auckland.ac.nz ext 84886.

Research Office news

Research Management Network seminar series

All University research support staff are encouraged to attend. Next sessions:

- Best practice systems and tools for providing enhanced research support (end October)
- Research capability databases (end November)

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Doctoral couples



Associate Professor Margaret Hyland (Chemical and Materials Engineering) and her husband Professor Jim Metson (Chemistry) both supervised PhD students who crossed the stage at this Spring Graduation.

There's nothing extraordinary in that of course, but the story goes further. The two PhD graduates

- Dr Anh Tran and Dr Chuong Nguyen - are wife and husband as well, and Chuong is on the staff as a senior research scientist with UniServices in the Light Metals Centre.

To add yet another dimension to the story, Chuong, for his masters degree, was supervised by Margaret, who introduced him to her husband Jim, who later became his PhD supervisor. And when Anh came from Australia, where she had completed her masters degree, Chuong introduced her to Margaret, who subsequently supervised Anh for her PhD.

And of course along the way they all became friends. With them in the photo is Kyan, four-year-old son of Chuong and Anh.

Focus for international discussion



O'Neal Mendoza (left) with Cathy Bolinga.

O'Neal M. Mendoza's masters thesis in Development Studies won't have a chance to lie idle on a shelf. Neither will Cathy Bolinga's.

Instead, these two recent graduates - both conferred with their masters degrees at Spring Graduation - will have the satisfaction of knowing that researchers all over the world can consult their work through the Working Paper Series on the Centre for Development Studies website.

Dr Yvonne Underhill-Sem, Director of the Centre for Development Studies, says the series has been established to encourage Development Studies staff and students to disseminate research findings quickly and to stimulate discussion on development

issues. It aims to become an intellectual focal point for innovative thinking and research.

At the official launch of the Working Paper Series site, held at the Fale Pasifika in August, three recent Masters graduates, O'Neal and Cathy - and Yardena Tankel who has just submitted her thesis - presented on their research in Development Studies and how they see the Working Paper Series as providing an early platform for publishing their work. O'Neal and Fleur Roberts, a previous graduate from the Centre, were the first students to publish their research in the series.

Barry Coates, Oxfam New Zealand's Executive Director, gave tribute to the students' work - and to the new site - as important examples of the many links between the University and organisations such as Oxfam.

"Speaking as a practitioner and user of research, I know how important this work is," he said. "The three theses are all of use both intellectually and practically in the work of organisations such as ours."

Associate Professor Caroline Daley (History), Acting Dean of Graduate Studies, described the Working Paper Series as a "wonderful way to get wonderful research out there. In Arts, we have a very long tradition of first-class international research. It's really important that we make our research available to as wide an audience as possible." To the students Caroline spoke of the site as "a wonderful international intermediary. You can get your work out there, receive feedback, note how many downloads you receive, and then go out and publish."

Both O'Neal and Cathy had a wonderful day at Spring Graduation, surrounded by family and friends who had travelled long distances to celebrate with them.

International rankings

Recently a vast increase in attempts to rank universities worldwide according to various criteria has provoked debate. Despite their deficiencies, they seem unlikely to disappear, given their usefulness for outsiders (such as international students) in making basic quality judgments (although some universities have apparently boycotted some rankings).

Some of the many issues involved are: what are they measuring? How accurate and unbiased is the data? How much is factual and how much opinion? How is the data aggregated? can the rankings be manipulated? I want to focus here (given space limitations) on a few of these, and exhort us all to apply our scholarly expertise to help improve the calculation and interpretation of such rankings.

The most famous rankings are probably those conducted by: *Times Higher* (from 2010 with Thomson Reuters using different methodology, formerly with Quacquarelli Symonds); QS (continuing from 2010 with the same methodology); Shanghai Jiao Tong. The first two aim to measure aspects other than research. Other, research-only, rankings seen as reasonably credible are conducted by Taiwan's HEEACT, University of Leiden, and very recently a group from University of Western Australia. Most rank at the level of university, and also (for research) at the faculty/discipline level. To give an idea of the variability, in 2010 QS ranks University of Auckland 68th; THE 145th; HEEACT 287th; Leiden 272nd; UWA 172nd.

The methodology of these rankings is similar. Several numerical measures are computed (either objectively or from opinion surveys), normalised in some way, and aggregated according to various weightings, in order to arrive at a single number which can be used for ranking. These final numbers are affected by quality of the data, institutional game-playing, and the chosen weights, in addition to the actual metrics used.

Many different objective metrics are used, many of which can be manipulated by institutions and have been, often notoriously, in recent years. They all measure (sometimes subtly) different things: for example, citation data can measure overall citation impact (favouring large institutions), impact per

staff member, relative impact (field-dependent), and/or use statistics such as h -index, g -index, etc.

The citation measures used by various rankings have ranked University of Auckland between 99th and around 300th in 2010. Measurement of teaching performance by any objective criteria is considered extremely difficult, and very crude measures (such as student-staff ratios) are used.

Subjective measures have their own problems. THE and QS use opinion surveys to measure reputation. The alleged positive aspect of this is that a university's reputation is difficult for the institution itself (or a competitor) to change by strategic action (manipulating the ranking). The negative aspect is that the institution's real improvements may be very slow to be reflected in such surveys, and reputation may depend on factors other than real quality. THE gives 19.5 percent weight to research reputation and 15 percent to teaching, while QS gives 40 percent to overall reputation and 10 percent to reputation among employers. My personal experience as one of the nearly 14000 academics surveyed by THE was that I had very little confidence in the accuracy of my opinions on teaching in North American universities.

The importance of the weights is shown by the 2010 THE performance for University of Auckland. In the five categories listed, with respective weights 30,2.5,30,32.5,5 and respective normalized scores 34.8, 94.3, 39.2, 71.8, 61.1, University of Auckland achieved an overall score of 56.1. Different choices of the weights could lead to any score between 34.8 and 94.3, with consequent rankings changing from well below the top 200, to the top 20.

It is clear that substantial interpretation of the rankings is required in order to make any use of them, and the media focus on simplistic analysis using a single final rank is not helpful to universities or to any of their stakeholders.

Dr Mark Wilson
Department of Computer Science
Acting Director, Centre for Mathematical
Social Sciences

O'neal's mother, father, brother and two sisters joined him from the Philippines, all on their first visit to New Zealand. O'neal took annual leave from his position as International Relations Officer in the University's International Office to go with his family on holiday to Rotorua and Taupo.

Cathy's sister-in-law came to Auckland from Papua New-Guinea, along with several of Cathy's closest friends, most of whom were also visiting New Zealand for the first time.

Off to New York



Director of the Centre for Development Studies, Dr Yvonne Underhill-Sem, has received a prestigious Fulbright New Zealand Senior Scholar Award for 2011.

This will allow her to spend three to five months at a New York University, where she will conduct research on the potential of feminist population geography theories to address maternal mortality.

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Previous sessions have covered New Zealand's new research & development, Environment and intellectual property, and Commercialisation. Videos are available.

For further information please contact Jody Howell at j.howell@auckland.ac.nz

Moment to savour

Dr Chin Boo Soon from Information Services and Operations Management took time to enjoy the sunshine and the flowers with his wife Christine and son Enoch at Old Government House before walking down to the Aotea Centre. His PhD, conferred at Spring Graduation, was on "Adoption of radio-frequency identification technology (RFID) in New Zealand supply chains". Chin Boo is a lecturer in ISOM.



Danger in the trees



The colourful eastern rosellas, originally from Australia, are becoming a familiar sight in Auckland gardens.

But are they a threat to our native parrots, such as the kea, kakapo and red-crown kakariki?

Josie Galbraith, the first-ever masters graduate from the University's Biosecurity Programme, has taken a step towards answering that question.

Josie's study has confirmed that the rosellas in New Zealand carry a parrot-specific virus that

causes "beak and feather disease". The risk is that the rosellas could pass it on to our native New Zealand species, though as yet we know very little of their susceptibilities, says Josie.

Her project has been co-sponsored by Auckland Regional Council in recognition of the risk posed by the rosellas.

Dr Margaret Stanley (Biological Sciences) says this type of work is of great value in adding to our knowledge of invasive species, the impact they might have here and how we can control them. Other students in the programme are looking at introduced animals such as the hedgehog, and at ways of invasion, such as maritime pathways (with some species arriving, for example, in ships and shipping containers).

The Biosecurity Programme was initiated after an approach to the University by the MAF Biosecurity New Zealand and regional councils, expressing the need for formal training in biosecurity. The postgraduate diploma began in 2008 and the masters programme in 2009.

From left to right are Associate Professor Mark Hauber, Josie's co-supervisor; Dr Margaret Stanley, Director of the PGDipSci and MSc in Biosecurity; Professor Mick Clout, Josie's main supervisor; and Josie Galbraith.

University hosts new wine awards

The inaugural Upper North Island Wine Challenge awards – for wines from Northland, Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty – were held at the University last weekend.

Waiheke-based Miro Vineyard won the Champion of Show award and a Gold Medal for its 2008 Miro, a Bordeaux blend of 52 percent Cabernet sauvignon, 20 percent Merlot, 17 percent Cabernet franc, and one percent Malbec.

Husband-and-wife winemakers Catherine Vosper and Barnett Bond also won a bronze medal for their 2008 Miro Syrah and Catherine said she was thrilled and delighted their small family operation had done so well. Silver medals were awarded to a total of ten wines, and bronze medals to 18 wines, from 65 wines entered in competition.

The competition was organised by the University's Wine Science Programme and Northern Winegrowers.

"The upper North Island makes a unique contribution to the New Zealand wine industry. It is the country's original winegrowing region and there are now more than 140 wine producers in the area," says viticulture tutor Gerard Logan. "Despite this, it is the only New Zealand wine region that has never had its own wine competition.

"We wanted to address this and to celebrate the quality and achievements of wines produced in our region. The goal of the competition was to promote excellence in winemaking for the benefit of winemakers and consumers. We also see it as a significant step towards the upper North Island becoming a more recognised and influential wine region."

"It's appropriate that the varied wine districts in

the upper North Island should enjoy the status of their own regional wine show," said Chair of Judges Bob Campbell, Master of Wine, who described the inaugural competition as "a great start for an exciting new event on the judging calendar."

"The upper North Island is home to many highly individual wineries making a range of wine styles that are distinctively different to the wines of our more southerly regions. They deserve to be judged with their peers rather than with wines made in significantly cooler regions."

Winemaker Allan Collinson from Okahu Estate agreed that the competition was an excellent opportunity to profile some of the less well-known varieties best suited to a warmer climate, like Okahu's own silver medal-winning 2007 Chambourcin.

The competition was run according to the same high standards and with the same judging criteria as major wine competitions around New Zealand, but also has some important points of difference.

Wine science postgraduate students took part as stewards and associate judges, and were congratulated by the panel for their professionalism. Student Annette Dansey said it was amazing to score wines alongside the judges and a real confidence boost when they reached similar results.

"In addition to a standard sensory evaluation and technical notes, all of the judges provided detailed feedback to the winemakers. It is a really valuable opportunity for producers to hear directly from a distinguished panel of judges," says Mr Logan.

"The competition is also a chance for

winemakers to network and to build links with the University, which not only trains future winemakers but has a significant wine research programme that works to benefit the New Zealand wine industry."

Catherine Vosper highlighted the importance of this relationship. "Waiheke winegrowers really value our close association with the University. We send the University information, which they interpret and feedback to us, on everything from winemaking to geographical studies and wine tourism. It's very helpful and shapes our business practice to an extent," she said.

A long-term objective of the competition is for winemakers and researchers to learn to identify sub-regional differences between wines, and to understand the challenges for local winegrowers and winemakers.





The University of Auckland campus is now home to two new art works which are part of the public art trail, initiated by the Advisory Panel for Public Art at Auckland City Council.

The dozen works are all situated within what planners have deemed “The Learning Quarter”, an inner city precinct encompassing Albert Park, The University of Auckland, AUT and surrounding streets and neighbourhoods.

Called collectively Micro Sites, this idea for temporary art projects in public spaces has given 13 recent graduates the chance to come up with small scale art works which will act as subtle interventions in a busy academic world. Appropriately enough, the word microsite is a term used in ecology to describe a pocket within an environment with unique features, conditions or characteristics. A microsite is also an internet web design term referring to an individual web page which supplements the primary website. These virtual microsites are typically used to add specialised information, neatly coinciding with the purpose of these art works.

Meant to “run against the grain or interfere with everyday perceptions and experiences of a place”, The University of Auckland’s collaboration in the Micro Sites project has resulted in the unlikely placement of a small 1970s glass chandelier on the roof overhang adjacent to the Recreation Centre.

An end and a beginning

Project FOCUS is coming to an end.

After nearly two years of planning and hard work by all those involved with the project, nDeva was retired and the new student management system, Student Services Online, had its launch on 23 August.

“For such a major project that affected so many staff and students the launch of Student Services Online went remarkably smoothly,” said Stephen Whiteside, Director of Organisational Performance and Chief Information Officer.

“Feedback since the launch has been very positive from both staff and students about the enhanced usability and new features of Student Services Online.”

The project received invaluable input from groups all over the University, including the dedicated FOCUS team, staff from ITS, and others

court below.

Around the corner in Princes Street, a bronze plaque designed by Elam MFA student AD Schierning is embedded in the footpath. The text on the plaque is in capital letters, and appears handwritten, distinguishing it from other commemorative footpath panels such as the one on Grafton Road marking the site of the original Auckland Philosophical Institute. Because such plaques are common in cities and parks, this art work is camouflaged and seems like an everyday part of its setting. Its appearance in Princes Street outside the service entrance to the General Library has gone unremarked.

The intention is for the text to be read in order to convey the uses of the leaves of the Ginkgo biloba tree, and in particular the properties which enhance memory. As AD Schierning has pointed out, here at the heart of The University of Auckland’s City Campus, where the highest concentration of learning and research takes place, stands a tree that itself is a symbol of knowledge, since its leaves can assist with the retention and distribution of knowledge.

The text which AD Schierning has chosen for the plaque reads: “Ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba) Maidenhair tree. Ginkgo has been used in traditional medicine to treat circulatory disorders and enhance memory.

who were involved through various governance groups and from all areas of the University.

The core team reports that they hugely appreciated the amount of time that people across the University were prepared to give to the project.

“These groups were key to the success of Project FOCUS, as they allowed two-way feedback between staff and project team members,” said Beth Macdonald, Change and Communications Co-ordinator. “Another key to the project’s success was the amount of time and effort our project sponsors, owners, team members and subject matter experts spent in keeping our stake-holders informed about what was happening, and what key changes they could expect.”

During the two years of the project, more than 200 presentations were given to a wide range of stake-holder groups to ensure people knew what to

Trembling slightly as buses roar past on the Central Connector Corridor that Symonds Street has become, Fairy Bright Eyes is a work by Ryan Monro, a graduate of the Elam School of Fine Arts. It adds a little touch of luxury to the otherwise utilitarian modernist architecture it adorns, and its faded glamour is an interesting counterpoint to the games of basketball played out in the

Arts

Scientific studies throughout the years lend support to these traditional uses. Ginkgo can maximize the benefit of studying for tests and exams. To make a tincture, place 150g of dried powdered ginkgo leaves or 400g of fresh chopped ginkgo leaves or 400g of fresh chopped ginkgo leaves in a jar and cover with 500ml of vodka. Cover and store in a dark place for four weeks, shaking the jar daily. After four weeks, strain the mixture, pressing all liquid from the ginkgo. Stored in a glass bottle this will keep for up to a year. For those who wish to avoid consuming alcohol, ginkgo tea is very simple to make. Simply add one cup of boiling water to one teaspoon of dried ginkgo or one tablespoon of fresh ginkgo. Allow to stand for several minutes, then sweeten as desired. The disadvantage to taking ginkgo in tea form is that the required dosage is much higher – two to three cups per day, rather than one to three teaspoons of tincture.

“Haemophiliacs and individuals taking anti-coagulant medication should never take ginkgo. Pregnant and breastfeeding women should avoid using ginkgo preparations. In addition, ginkgo use should be discontinued at least 36 hours prior to surgery. Please respect the trees and only harvest leaves from windfall. See your medical herbalist for further advice. www.nzamh.org.nz”

Having held a Goethe Institute Scholarship in Germany, and exhibited in the Sao Paulo Biennale in Brazil, AD Schierning is also the artist behind The Starving Artists Fund <http://www.starvingartistsfund.com> and Freedom Fruit Gardens <http://www.ofourempire.com/freedomfruit>. This latter art project aims to plant edible gardens throughout New Zealand, choosing sites by using a statistical scale called The Deprivation Index. AD Schierning describes her art practice at looking at values and what she identifies as important, paring things back to a basic and fundamental transaction, in order to simplify a complex world.

Linda Tyler

Photo by Sam Hartnett

AD Schierning Untitled (*Ginkgo biloba*), 2010, bronze, 400x500mm.

expect from the new system.

As in all projects of this size, the team has been faced with a few issues. Most, however, have been easily resolved.

The Student Management Services team has worked closely with the project team to ensure there is adequate resourcing and smooth knowledge transfer.

Some of the key members of the project will now be joining the Student Management Services team. This added resource will ensure that staff have the support they need to get the most out of the new system and to build on the foundations laid by Project FOCUS.

Plans are already underway to develop and implement enhancements to the system over the next few months.

What's on

FRIDAY 15 OCTOBER

Master of Public Policy seminar
NZ and the world: Building effective partnerships. 12.30-2pm FGW Rm, OGH. Lead speaker: Hon Murray McCully, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Commentator: Dr Jacqui True, Dept of Political Studies, UoA.

School of Music lunchtime concert
Featuring School of Music chamber music groups. 1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, 6 Symonds St.

Exposure Postgraduate Research Exposition: Prize Giving Gala
5.30pm refreshments, 6pm prize giving, 7pm entertainment. Showcasing the best of postgraduate research. Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/exposure

SATURDAY 16 OCTOBER

Panel discussion: Group Architects
1-3pm Gus Fisher Gallery. Linda Tyler MCs this session, with Marshall Cook, David Mitchell, Patrick Clifford, Julia Gatley and Jeremy Salmond.

Skyrise City
Large-scale installations by architecture students. 5-11pm Team NZ Shed, 101 Halsey St. Queries to events-archplan@auckland.ac.nz

SUNDAY 17 OCTOBER

Bus tour: Group Architect on the North Shore
1-5pm. A tour to half a dozen buildings by the Group Construction Company, Group Architects and their final incarnation, Wilson & Juriss Architects. Commentary by Julia Gatley. \$20. Bookings essential. Email gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 18 OCTOBER

Outlook information management workshop
1-4pm CAD, 4th Floor, 76 Symonds St. Phone 923 7951 with queries or to enrol.

Bioengineering research seminar
Dr Yubing Shi, Unit of Medical Physics, Dept of Cardiovascular Science, University of Sheffield: *Lumped-parameter modelling of cardiovascular dynamics.* 3-4pm Level 5 Seminar Rm, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

TUESDAY 19 OCTOBER

Dept of Maori Studies seminar
Hone Sadler: *The settlement process for Ngāpuhi claims: He whakaputanga o te rangatiratanga o nū tīreni me the Tiriti o Waitangi.* 1-2pm Rm 104, Maori Studies, Bldg 253, 16 Wynyard St.

School of Music seminar
Dr Polly Sussex: *The lost chord: A study of scordatura practices in string music from late seventeenth century Bologna.* 1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, 6 Symonds St.

Bioengineering research seminar
David Cumin, ABl: *Simulation in anaesthesia: Standards and models.* 4-5pm Level 5 Seminar Room, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

Inaugural lecture
Prof Alan Barber, Centre for Brain Research: *Making connections: The challenge of brain research in NZ.* 5pm Robb Lecture Theatre.

Future Proof lecture 2010
Shay Brazier: *Building integrated renewable energy.* 6-7pm Design Lecture Theatre, 22 Symonds St.

WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER

Dept of Computer Science seminar
Dr Mark Wilson, UoA: *What is computational social choice?* 12-1pm Computer Science Rm 279, Bldg 303S.

Europe Institute public seminars
Welfare reform and democracy: Lessons from Europe. 2.30-5.30pm Decima Glenn Rm, Owen G Glenn Bldg.

1) David Mayes, UoA and Zaidah Mustafa, Victoria University: *Social models in the enlarged EU.*

2) Katherine Lyons and Christine Cheyne, Massey University: *Social insurance and democratic governance.*

3) Anna Michalski, UoA: *Social welfare and the levels of democratic government in the EU.*

Queries to mr.thomson@auckland.ac.nz

Liggins Institute Seasons of Life lecture
Dr Deborah Sloboda, Liggins Institute: *You are what your mother eats: The impact of maternal nutrition on children's reproductive development.* 6-7pm Lecture Theatre 1.401, Faculty of Engineering, 20 Symonds St. Queries to ligginscommunications@auckland.ac.nz

Inaugural lecture/2010 Keith Sinclair history lecture
Prof Jonathan Scott, Dept of History, UoA: *Maritime orientalism, or the political theory of water.* 6.30pm Lecture Theatre 1.439, Faculty of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER

Department of History seminar
Dr Alice Te Punga Somerville, Te Kawa a Maui Maori Studies, Victoria University of Wellington: *I hope you write me a few lines: Mowhee and Teeterree write in London.* 4pm Rm 59, History Dept.

SATURDAY 23 OCTOBER

Malcolm Le Grice: The Image of Time
7pm Gus Fisher Gallery. Film and video performance by artist Malcolm Le Grice. Regarded as the most important filmmaker and theorists to emerge from the British avant garde of the 1960s and 70s, Le Grice's work is a manifesto for the reinvention of cinema. \$15. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 26 OCTOBER

Teaching and learning showcase
12.30-4.30pm Faculty of Engineering. Also 27 October. To register email cadreception@auckland.ac.nz with your name, ID number and department.

Critical Studies in Drama in Education International Symposium
1.30pm, runs until 27 October. Queries or to RSVP email s.davis@auckland.ac.nz

Public lecture
Paul Shanks and Matt Skellern: *Saving waves: Coastal planning and surf breaks.* 6pm Design Lecture Theatre, 22 Symonds St.

WEDNESDAY 27 OCTOBER

Department of Applied Language Studies and Linguistics seminar
Prof Peter Skehan, Visiting Professor, Dept of Applied Language Studies and Linguistics, UoA: *Foreign language aptitude revisited again.* 12-1pm Rm 103, Fisher Bldg.

Liggins Institute Seasons of Life lecture
Prof David Raubenheimer, Massey University, Auckland: *A delicate balance: foraging, food and fat.* 6-7pm Lecture Theatre 1.401 Faculty of

Engineering, 20 Symonds St. Queries to ligginscommunications@auckland.ac.nz

2010 Bruce Jesson Lecture
Annett Sykes, Ngati Pikiao, lawyer and activist: *The politics of the brown table.* 6.30pm Maidment Theatre, Alfred St.

Prof Margaret Mutu, chairperson of Te Runanga-a-Iwi o Ngati Kahu, will be the discussant on the lecture.

THURSDAY 28 OCTOBER

Master of Public Policy seminar
NZ and the Pacific: The leadership challenge. 12.30-2pm FGW Rm, OGH. Lead speaker: Amanda Ellis, Deputy Secretary for NZ's Aid Programme, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Commentator: Dr Yvonne Underhill-Sem, Dept of Development Studies, UoA.

Transportation workshop
1.30-3.30pm Rm 511, Fifth Floor Conference Room, Faculty of Engineering, 20 Symonds St. The event aims to bring together researchers from across the University in order to provide an opportunity for new collaborations to form. RSVP to c.ford@auckland.ac.nz

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Art Deco apartment available for short term rental. Quintessential 1930s apartment, faithfully restored with a superb blend of Art Deco furnishings and modern conveniences. Ideally situated in historic Westminster Court, on Parliament St across from OGH. Building is fully secure with swimming pool and recreational facility. In short, a lovely environment. The apartment comprises one bdrm + library/dining rm, large lounge, fully equipped kitchen with all mod cons and tiled bthrm and laundry. Perfect retreat for a busy academic. Carpark optional. Contact Dawn Judge, ph (021) 528 223 or email dawnjudge@ezysurf.co.nz

Glendowie. Fully-furnished two bdrm unit, with separate lounge and one bthrm, available for the period 15 Nov 2010 to 10 Feb 2011. Located five-minutes drive to Tamaki Campus/ Mission Bay, 20-minutes drive to City Campus. Bus stop just outside the house. \$300 pw including water + power. Contact Khurram on (021) 234 1134 or (09) 940 2936 or mjaw002@aucklanduni.ac.nz

North Shore, Auckland. Fully-furnished modern house available from Friday 26 Nov until Sunday 9 Jan 2011. There is also the option to rent for a shorter period. Quiet location with tranquil setting overlooking native bush, lots of lovely bird life. Very sunny with North-facing decks. Only ten-minutes from CBD and North Shore beaches. The main bus route is only minutes away with a direct University bus at peak hours and the Birkenhead ferry service is close by. Three dble bdrms, one ensuite + a separate bthrm and toilet. Internal dble garaging and plenty of OSP. N/s or pets. \$650 pw includes power, phone etc). Email shiraleenz@gmail.com

One bedroom flat in Chatswood, Birkenhead. Open plan lounge with kitchen area, separate bdrm and bthrm, morning sun, OSP, own entrance in quiet residential street, walk to cafes, shops and bus. N/s. Suit single professional person. \$285 pw, includes power and water. Contact Margaret on 480 9242.

One bedroom flat in Hillsborough. Sunny. Nice outlook. OSP. Garage. Quiet cul-de-sac. 274/277 bus route. \$250 pw + utilities. Available now. Phone Bill on (021) 208 7847.

Room and board for individual/couple, in central Auckland. 1-8 week stay (neg).

Dble bdrm and study available in our home. Two bus stages to city. We are a friendly couple with a happy 8-month-old baby. Suit visiting academic or mature student with daytime commitments. Phone Maree on 0274727095.

Sabbatical or holiday retreat in Greek fully-furnished apartment in East Peloponnese close to beach, overlooking the Aegean, pristine village, orange groves. Email t.fookes@auckland.ac.nz or visit www.tyrosapartment.com

MISCELLANEOUS

Conservation shareholding. Rare chance to share in a 420ha covenanted bush property, Brynderwyn Hills, ten minutes from Mangawhai Heads. Enjoy joint ownership of whole property with 17 other conservation-minded shareholders. Share includes own four bdrm house, sunny bush setting, alternative energy systems. Walking tracks, clean streams. Phone Pat on (021) 404 489. Ray White Bogue Real Estate (Licensed REAA).

For sale: Shea butter has nourishing, healing and anti-inflammatory qualities. We are selling cream containing 50% shea butter (other luxury products contain 25% or less), coconut oil, beeswax, organic rosehip oil and pure organic essential oils, attractively packaged in 50 ml jars (\$15). This Shea butter is made by a women's cooperative in Mali, and all income from sales goes towards paying a village nurse and other critical health-related costs. Ideal for gifts and personal use. Your purchase will make a real difference. Contact Kaaren Hiyama at sheabuttermali@gmail.com

For sale: Toyota Corolla Wagon GL 2003 (dark blue) 75,100 km, good condition, well maintained. \$9,000 ono. UoA car being replaced from the Schools Partnership Office fleet. For more information/to view the car contact Rhona Grogan, r.grogan@auckland.ac.nz or phone ext 85613.

Looking for a group of anglers to join. I am 30, not an experienced angler but happy to learn and ready to share the fun of the occasional fishing trip as well as the costs. Would prefer a group around my age and fishing on the Hauraki Gulf. Please phone 0226923486 or email s.kruekel@auckland.ac.nz

Proofreading and editing service for essays, dissertations and theses. Judy McDonald has qualifications in biological sciences, education and music, in addition to proofreading and editing. Hourly rate \$25. Contact judy.c.mcdonald@gmail.com, www.jmproofreading.co.nz or phone (07) 855 2019.

Sailing is more accessible than you realise. Are you looking to try sailing? Join the Richmond YC Friday Night series. A series of fun races taking place throughout the summer. For \$170 participants will get a year's membership with the club, entry fees for 8 races in series and workshops to support your racing. Contact (09) 376 4332; www.richmondyc.org.nz or info@richmondyc.org.nz

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

Writer's block: Don't stay stuck! Professional help available for PhD thesis writing and creative projects in all media. Juliet Batten, PhD, psychotherapist, writer and creativity coach. Phone 361 3384.

For a full list of The University of Auckland events see: www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/events

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