University of Auckland students and alumni cleaned up at the inaugural 2010 Prime Minister’s Pacific Youth Awards announced last week.

Samuelu Siilata (pictured left), Tammy Atatose Manaki Makatagaloa Kingi-Fakaloa and J’aime Monaki Mokatagaloa Kingi-Fakaloa each received one of the three new and coveted awards from Prime Minister John Key, designed to recognise outstanding achievers from the New Zealand Pacific community.

New Zealand-born Samoan J’aime Laurenson, who graduated last year with a BE (Honours majoring in Mechatronics)/LLB (Hons) conjoint degree, has been awarded The University of Auckland-sponsored Leadership Award. The 24 year old from Herne Bay says: “I was stoked to hear that I was shortlisted for an interview, even more so when I heard I received it. The scholarship pays fees towards a masters or PhD at The University of Auckland, and postgraduate study has always been a goal of mine.”

Samuelu Siilata, who is of Samoan, Fijian and Māori descent, graduated last year with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Film, Television and Media Studies with a minor in Anthropology, and has been awarded the much sought-after Weta Workshop-sponsored Creativity Award, which provides one-year’s paid internship at the Weta Workshop in Wellington. Samuelu, who is also 24, says: “I’m still in shock. This is the opportunity of a lifetime, I’m just blown away.”

Recipient of the Cogita-sponsored Inspiration award, Tammy is currently enrolled at the University in a Postgraduate Diploma in Arts. The Inspiration Award will provide Tammy with $5000 towards overseas travel, which she hopes to use to explore the best process to save the Niue language and other endangered languages from extinction.

“The University of Auckland is committed to ensuring access and opportunities for Pacific communities and is proud to sponsor the Prime Minister’s Award for Leadership as it recognises the valuable contributions youth already make to their respective families and communities,” said the Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon. “A scholarship to The University of Auckland will place them in an even better position to make their mark on the world.”

With 3,000 Pacific student enrolments and academics teaching and researching across many Pacific-related disciplines, Auckland is New Zealand’s leading Pacific university.

Rugby lectures

The University is putting rugby under the academic spotlight with the 2011 Winter Lecture Series.

The series, entitled “New Zealand’s Rugby World”, will feature academics from the Arts, Education and Business faculties and is sponsored by Dr Jennifer Curtin from the Department of Political Studies who is currently writing a book More than a Man’s Game: Women and Rugby in NZ.
From the Vice-Chancellor

On 17 November we held the final major alumni event of 2010, hosting 90 alumni and friends in Whangarei. This completed a very busy annual programme in which over 8000 of our “friends and family” have attended events hosted by the University. These have included receptions in London, Shanghai, Hong Kong, New York, Washington and Boston, as well as special events at home, including the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner, Golden Graduates Luncheon (for those who graduated at least 50 years ago), Richard Dawkins’ lecture, Chancellor’s Dinner, University Strings Concert and Mayoral candidate debate.

Having attended most of these functions, I am struck by the very strong interest our alumni retain in the University – an extreme case being those who flew (at their own expense) from the West Coast USA to attend an alumni dinner hosted by Ambassador Mike Moore in Washington in September. For many of those based overseas, interest in the University is a key part of their Kiwi connection and identity. Many want to send their children back to the University for study to ensure that the connection is retained across the generations. Alumni talk fondly of their “social” adventures at University, belying the common view that we do not have as good a student experience as elsewhere. And they speak glowingly of staff who made a particular impression on them. Many were set on their current career paths by the accident of enrolling for a particular course, sometimes as a “filler”, and being switched on to a new subject by an outstanding teacher. That is an important reminder of the need to have our new students exposed to our best teachers.

The organisation of these events is a huge undertaking for our staff, but it is one that will continue to reap significant rewards. Although it is sometimes said that universities are interested in their alumni only from a fundraising viewpoint, the truth is that many of our largest donors are graduates at all. And while the financial support of alumni is certainly welcome, their ongoing value, and a common interest with the University in ensuring that their value continues to be enhanced.

How do we turn Auckland into a more sustainable city? This is the question being addressed by four cross-faculty research teams that are part of the university-wide thematic research initiative (TRI), “Transforming Auckland: Institutional, technological and cultural innovations for sustainable cities”.

Within days of the birth of the new Auckland Council, the TRI launched its first interdisciplinary research projects at a special luncheon on 5 November. “Cities are increasingly seen as core sites of environmental and economic change and significance for our sustainable futures,” said Acting Director of the TRI, Professor Larry Murphy (Property). “The University’s position in Auckland and its significant research profile and expertise, combined with the emergence of a new regional governance, define this as a strategic moment to engage in creating a more sustainable future for Auckland.”

The purpose of the TRI is to build on the expertise of individuals and groups within the University, creating dynamic new interdisciplinary research teams. Of seven projects involving 27 academics from seven faculties, four have initially been funded to a tune of $127,000 in total.

The projects are:

• “Active transport to reduce carbon emissions in Auckland”. This project employs Vibat Auckland, a transport carbon emissions model that is being calibrated for Auckland city in a partnership with researchers at the University of Oxford. It starts with desired reductions in greenhouse gas emissions for Auckland by 2041 and then models the likely impacts of policies that could be implemented to achieve the targets. Researchers involved include Senior Lecturer Tricia Austin and Tania Utley (Architecture and Planning), Associate Professor Niki Harré and Dr Quentin Atkinson (Psychology), Research Fellow Dr Graeme Lindsay, Dr Jamie Hasking and Dr Alexandra Macmillan (Population Health).

• “Anchor organisations, sustainability and new forms of leadership in transforming Auckland” investigates cross-organisational leadership initiatives among key economic actors (public and private) with long term and defining commitments to Auckland. A sustainable future Auckland must draw on a transformational political economy that is embedded in, and responsive to, its communities and environments. Co-principal investigators are Senior Lecturer Nick Lewis (School of Environment) and Professor Larry Murphy (Property), and other researchers on the project include Professor Richard Le Heron (School of Environment), Professor Brad Jackson (Business) and Research Fellow Dr Charlotte Šunde (NICAI).

• “The place of diverse ethnic communities and business innovation in transforming Auckland” project asks the question: How does the contemporary ethnic diversity of Auckland promote positive socio-economic transformation of the city, enhance economic innovation, and foster engagement between New Zealand and Asia? The research team, includes Professor Robin Kearns and Senior Lecturer Wardlow Friesen (Environment), Professor Hugh Whitaker (Business) and Professor Manying Ip (Arts).

• “Transforming Auckland into a bicycle-friendly city” is a project led by Dr Judy Wang, a Research Fellow at the Business School’s Energy Centre, and includes Dr Andrea Rath (Engineering Science,) and Senior Lecturer Hugh Byrd (Architecture and Planning). It looks at why cycling in Auckland is lower than the national average and will find out what puts people off bicycling and what encourages them. Researchers will look to international cities like Denmark, The Netherlands and Germany to see what Auckland can learn from their experience.

The next round of TRI funding will close in March 2011. Leading up to that, a symposium will be held on Monday 21 February 2011 to
bring together University of Auckland researchers from different disciplines with an interest in urban innovations and sustainable cities research. The purpose is to identify new research projects of critical relevance to urban sustainability challenges in New Zealand, and to begin a dialogue with the Auckland Council to ascertain research needs in meeting Auckland’s sustainability challenges. Researchers interested in the Transforming Auckland TRI are encouraged to contact Professor Murphy (l.murphy@auckland.ac.nz) or Dr Šunde (c.sunde@auckland.ac.nz) to ensure they are included in the TRI Research College email list and stay updated on the TRI’s activities.

Librarian stamped his mark

Ever since Brian Marshall was a young boy he’s been fascinated by maps.

Now after 37 years looking after thousands of maps as the University’s Geography and Environmental Science Librarian at the General Library, Brian is retiring to pursue his passion as a collector of stamps with maps on them.

“A whole pile of maps appear on stamps,” he says. “In some places like South America different countries will show conflicting borders on their stamps, or a different version of a map showing a bit of land differently. Often there’s a political and strategic reason behind a map on a stamp. If you look at Korean stamps for example, there is no such thing as a North or South Korea – it’s all a happily united country.”

A University alumnus, Brian completed his masters in History in 1968 and then went to Library School in Wellington. When the Alexander Turnbull Library created a new position for a historical map librarian, he was perfect for the job. After three years there, he headed north returning to his alma mater in 1973 as the Geography Librarian, housed in the Geography Department. In 1987 he was promoted from Senior Librarian to Associate Librarian and in 2002 when the Geography Library was amalgamated with the General Library he became the University’s Geography and Environmental Science Librarian.

A life member of the Australian and New Zealand Map Society, Brian has written for numerous publications. This year he self-published If you take care of the pennies, the fullfaces will look after themselves, A history of Pim and Company stamp dealers.

His most recent task has been helping get many of the University’s 50,000 maps online.

“Brian has been a cornerstone of Geography and cognate disciplines through his exemplary service to students, staff and members of the public,” says Professor Glenn McGregor, Director of the School of Environment. “He embodies all that is important in a valued colleague and the fact that he is the first person people ask after when I have conversations with former students and staff is testament to his legacy as a star!”

For Brian too working with staff and students in the Geography Department and latterly the General Library has been one of the high points of his time at the University.

“And I still enjoy the job,” he says sitting in his spacious corner office looking out through the trees to Alfred Street. “But I’ve got other things I want to do now and I think it’s time to move on to new adventures.”

Te Whare Kura congress: Maura Tangata

Te Whare Kura congress: Maura Tangata, the third research theme congress for the Thematic Research Initiative Te Whare Kura, will be held on 26 November, 9.30pm-12.30pm at the Wharenui, Waipapa Marae. Focused on well-being and identities of indigenous peoples, proposed research includes restorative justice, mental health and indigenous curriculum development. The theme is led by Dr Melani Anae (Pacific Studies) with support from Dr Rhys Jones (Population Health), Dr Tracey MacIntosh (Sociology), Associate Professor Elizabeth McKinley (Education) and Julie Park (Anthropology).

Growing Up in New Zealand findings

The first Growing Up findings – the University’s longitudinal study of more than 7000 children born in 2008, 2009 and 2010 – will be released on Friday 26 November, 2-3.30pm at the Fale Pasifika.

The findings come from antenatal interviews with mothers and some fathers/partners undertaken before the babies were born. Study Director Dr Susan Morton says “the information collected to date clearly paints a picture of a changing New Zealand and poses challenges for the country’s decision-makers.”

See www.growingup.co.nz

Highlighted Events

Te Whare Kura congress: Maura Tangata

Growing Up in New Zealand findings

Summer learning

Learn Italian, French or Spanish on a four-day intensive course. Have a go at botanical painting or chronicle the beauty of Tongariro National Park on a three-day journey to the Central North Island’s volcanic plateau.

These are the sorts of courses on offer during the Centre for Continuing Education’s “A Summer Affair” from 8 to 12 January next year. The centre is offering 22 short courses during the week-long programme and University staff members get a ten percent discount. So enrol now!

See www.cce.auckland.ac.nz/summer

The University of Auckland News 3
Every year since 2006, thanks to the generosity of the recently deceased Dr Eve Seelye – and the Ralph and Eve Seelye Charitable Trust – the University has been able to award the Seelye Fellowships, with the purpose of attracting distinguished leaders in their fields and hosting internationally recognised experts to deliver guest lectures and seminars.

This coming year five distinguished academics will visit the University to share their skills and scholastic passions with staff, students and the wider community; and to collaborate or exchange ideas.

These Seelye Fellows include experts in thermal engineering (from Spain), in law and psychiatry, in philosophical theology and in history (all from the United States), and a leader in health geography (from the UK).

The first to arrive (just this month) is Luisa Cabeze, a professor of thermal engineering at the University of Lleida in Spain, who has broad research interests in applied energy and is a world expert in the use of phase change materials in buildings. She is leading a large group working on thermal management of buildings in Europe, using innovative building materials to improve thermal mass and building insulation.

In Auckland Professor Cabeza delivered a seminar at the Faculty of Engineering on how to make buildings more sustainable and energy-efficient.

April 2011 will see the arrival of Professor of History, Jay Winter from Yale University, whose special expertise is in the history of the two world wars, the history of the human rights movement, and history and memory.

He intends to offer three public lectures relating to these themes: one on “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights”, another on “Reflections on silence”, and a third on “The lost generation of the First World War”. In addition he will share his interests and knowledge with staff and graduate students.

Michael Perlin, Professor of Law at New York Law School and an Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry and Law at both the New York University Medical School and the New York College of Medicine, is an internationally recognised expert on mental disability law and has devoted his career to championing legal rights for people with mental disabilities.

In May and June 2011 he will deliver a public lecture, lead three seminars for staff and students, and conduct two master classes for selected interdisciplinary researchers studying mental health law at the University.

John E. Hare, Noah Porter Professor of Philosophical Theology at Yale Divinity School, will be hosted in July and August 2011 jointly by the Department of Philosophy and the School of Theology.

Professor Hare, who has achieved international distinction for his work on the relationship between religion and morality, will give at least one public lecture relating to ethics or international affairs, will give guest lectures in one undergraduate and two postgraduate courses, and will speak at a Theology seminar and at two conferences hosted by the Department of Philosophy.

In July and August 2011, Professor Graham Moon from the School of Geography at the University of Southampton will further stimulate and consolidate interdisciplinary links between the Faculties of Science, Arts and Medical and Health Sciences.

A leader in health geography and its intersections with public health and the “medical humanities”, he will assist in advancing critical understandings of the socio-cultural contexts of health services and behaviour through University and public seminars and lectures. He will also meet with key groups of researchers in his area.

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Generosity draws rich harvest

A door tenant is a barrister granted permission to join a set of chambers and work with them from elsewhere.

Peter is a recognised expert in agency, company and commercial law, including on directors’ powers and duties, and is the current General Editor of the leading work on agency: Bowstead and Reynolds on Agency. He writes extensively for the Law Quarterly Review and other academic journals.

Fountain Court has as members 27 Queen’s Counsel, and 34 other full-time barristers. Many past and present members of the senior judiciary of England and Wales practised from Fountain Court before becoming judges, including Lord Bingham of Cornhill and before him, Lord Scarman.

Peter also holds a door tenancy at Bankside Chambers in Auckland. He will have no rights of audience in English courts and expects to visit Fountain Court once a year.

He knows of only one other New Zealand academic in a similar position: Professor Campbell McLachlan at Victoria University of Wellington who is a door tenant at Essex Court Chambers in Lincoln’s Inn, London.

A subcommittee of Fountain Court members approved his application to become a door tenant.

“l am very pleased to have been made a member of the Chambers, principally because it raises my credentials to be editing the English book Bowstead and Reynolds on Agency,” he says.

He was appointed along with David R Wingfield, a leading Canadian commercial litigator, and Lawrence Boo, a leading Singaporean arbitrator.

Timothy Dutton QC, Head of Fountain Court, said they would be “working on the kind of legally significant, high value, complex cases that Fountain Court Chambers is known for, whether in the English courts, or in arbitral tribunals, both in London and globally.

“These appointments will further enhance our existing reputation for providing extremely high quality advice and assistance to the world’s leading law firms and their clients.”
Our top researchers, teachers and senior management gathered with donors at the annual Chancellor’s Dinner on 4 November.

One highlight was the announcement of a new attainment figure for the University’s “Leading the Way” campaign: $120 million at the end of October, up from the original target of $100 million.

This year the dinner introduced a new form of donor recognition, the Chancellor’s Circle, to honour the University’s most significant benefactors, past and present.

Over the years 11 families, organisations, and individuals have each given more than $5 million to support the University’s research and teaching, including: the Goodfellow family, who established the Maclaurin Chapel and have supported healthcare education and many other activities; the Neal and Annette Plowman family, who established an endowment fund to support business growth and innovation; and the Maurice and Phyllis Paykel Trust, funders of ophthalmology and child health research.

Also included are several New Zealand organisations: the Auckland Medical Research Foundation; the Cancer Society Auckland; the Maurice and Phyllis Paykel Trust, funders of business growth and innovation; and the Neal and Annette Plowman family, supported healthcare education and many other activities; the Goodfellow family, who established the Maclaurin Chapel and have supported healthcare education and many other activities; the Neal and Annette Plowman family, who established an endowment fund to support business growth and innovation; and the Maurice and Phyllis Paykel Trust, funders of ophthalmology and child health research.

ASB Community Trust; the Neurological Foundation and the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board; as well as high-profile philanthropist Owen Glenn, who has funded improvements in business education, marine science and cancer research, and who was in Auckland for the event.

Internationally, the Wellcome Trust has funded advances in human and animal health, and Friends of The University of Auckland (US) has supported scholarships, fellowships, and research projects.

They were honoured at the dinner as founding members of the Sir Maurice O’Rorke Society, named after the original instigator of a university for Auckland.

A further 35 donors, each of whom has made gifts totalling between $1 million and $5 million, were named members of the Sir George Fowlds Society, after a former Minister of Education and Chair of Auckland University College.

A third group, the 179 donors who have each given between $100,000 and $1 million, were honoured as members of the Sir Douglas Robb Society.

The University of Auckland has been awarded $884,000 in Lottery Health funding for ten researchers and two PhD scholars. Awards to University of Auckland researchers comprise 27.4 percent of the total funding pool, marginally up on our 2009 share. For further information, please contact Mandy Brown ext 82735 or email mandy.brown@auckland.ac.nz

“Research Expertise Database – What Do We Need?”
This month’s Research Management Network Seminar will take the form of a facilitated discussion on the topic: “Research Expertise Database – What do we need?”
Date: Thursday 2 December, 2010
Time: 12.30 to 2pm
Venue: Owen G Glenn Building; Case room 4 (260-009)
Anyone with a view on the Expertise Database is encouraged to attend. Contact Jody Howell at j.howell@auckland.ac.nz
From the collection

In 1986 Auckland University Press published (jointly with Oxford University Press) a collection of ten poems by Allen Curnow titled *The Loop in Lone Kauri Road* (poems 1983-5). The cover illustration echoes the title and features a circular gleam of blurred metal in motion. The image is in fact a photo of Len Lye’s kinetic sculpture Roundhead, which includes a whirling wedding band at the centre.

Curnow would have seen Roundhead (a version of which now resides in The University of Auckland Art Collection) when he visited Lye’s 20-year-old student and poet. At this stage, what was left of the West Coast’s grand kauri forests would have been not much more than the seeds of the recently felled trees, now predecessors to a significantly regenerated landscape. It is around these circular motifs of return, regrowth and repetition that Simpson traces his essay, also observing that Lone Kauri Road’s loop returns from the coast to the Piha Road under a different name, as Karekare Road.

From this exhibition, The University of Auckland acquired the title work, which is overlaid with the poet’s own jottings and a wet texture that reinforces the text’s damp imagery. Another text enlarged for the exhibition is “A Fellow Being”, which is printed with the texture of kauri bark in the background. Just as the West Coast’s Kauri Forests were also influential on Colin McCahan in the 1950s, these same locations continue to provide an evocative setting for a new generation of artists with Alex Monteith and Sarah Munro now living on Lone Kauri Road and many others, including Joyce Campbell, living not far away.

Andrew Clifford

To celebrate a big year in publishing Auckland University Press (AUP) is offering all staff 25 percent off 2010 history and biography books for orders received by 3 December 2010.

The Press enjoyed some major achievements in 2010: Alan Bollard’s *Crisis* soaring up the bestseller list; Paul Millar’s biography of Bill Pearson, *No Fretful Sleeper*, and C K Stead’s memoir *South-West of Eden* filling the review pages; plaudits for the visual magnificence of Julia Gatley’s *Group Architects* and Chris Bourke’s *Blue Smoke*.

“We have more finalists than any other publisher in New Zealand’s national book awards for the third year in a row, our commitment to great minds and big ideas seems to be paying off,” says AUP Director, Sam Elworthy. “The Press could not flourish without our great authors and readers at The University of Auckland,” he adds pointing out that five out of the six finalist authors in the 2010 New Zealand Post Book Awards were current or former University staff.

Books that are part of the special deal include:

- *Crisis: One Central Bank Governor & the Global Financial Collapse* $29.99; UoA price $22.50
- *No Fretful Sleeper: A life of Bill Pearson* $59.99; UoA price $45
- *South-West of Eden: A Memoir 1932-1956* $45; UoA price $33.75
- *Blue Smoke: The Lost Dawn of NZ Popular Music, 1918-1964* $59.99; UoA price $45
- *Shear Hard Work: A History of New Zealand Shearing* $45; UoA price $33.75
- *The Treaty of Waitangi Companion* $49.99; UoA price $33.75

Christmas books special

*The Loop in Lone Kauri Road, 1995*
Photographic image produced by Gail Haffern. 1420 x 970mm
The University of Auckland Art Collection
THURSDAY 2 DECEMBER

Women Returning to Work Network

1:2pm FGW RM, OGH. The Tertiary Education Union will be hosting this meeting: Items for the agenda are:
1. A panel discussion on taking parental leave and returning to work by women who have recently returned to work;
2. Five top tips for successful management of your parental leave and return to work;
3. Update on the Salary Sacrifice Scheme. RSVP to ma.freeman@auckland.ac.nz

FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER

Outlook information management workshop
9am-12noon CAD, 4th Floor, 76 Symonds St. Contact cadliteracy@auckland.ac.nz with queries or to enrol.

Public seminar
Growing Up in New Zealand: first findings. 12.30-2pm Rm 220, School of Population Health, Bidg 720, Tamaki Campus. Professor Iain Martin (Dean, FMHS) will introduce the seminar followed by a presentation by Growing Up in NZ Research Director, Dr Susan Morten. There is a visitor car park available via the main entrance, gate 1, opposite the School.

MONDAY 6 DECEMBER

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences research seminars
3-5pm Rm 303, eCom House.
1) Prof Iain Martin. Challenges for health professional education. System and political issues.
2) Assoc Prof Jennifer Welller. Interdisciplinary simulations to reduce communication failures and improve outcomes.
3) Assoc Prof Phillipa Poole. Medical workforce development in NZ. The contribution from FMHS.
4) Dr Boaz Shulruf. Student admission policies: the good, the bad, and future directions.
RSVP to n.earnshaw@auckland.ac.nz or phone 1 Decemver.

TUESDAY 7 DECEMBER

HTML introduction workshop
1-4pm CAD, 4th Floor, 76 Symonds StSt. Contact cadliteracy@auckland.ac.nz with queries or to enrol.

WEDNESDAY 8 DECEMBER

Business School lecture

AMMOCATION AVAILABLE

Apartment for rent. Large two-bdrm apartment with terrace in central city location. Walking distance to University, Brtish Museum and ferry terminal. Fully furnished, fully equipped kitchen and bthrm, all linens supplied. Secure with building manager on-site. Available for six months (longer term negotiable). Phone or email 021 544 836.

Apartments for rent. Call us for your rental requirements; we offer city apartments furnished/unfurnished, all sizes and prices; great rental deals for long-term learners. Contact Chris or Mon 09 303 0601 at City Sales or email rentals@citysales.co.nz or log on to www.citysales.co.nz/rentals
Devonport, refurbished 2/7 bungalow in kid-friendly blind street, good neighbours. Fully furnished, two bdrm, two bthrm; let from mid-June to mid-Sept 2011 (neg). Two living areas, nice deck, garden, close to suburban and public transport. Available to 2/3 bdmr person (minimum two nights). Rental $175 pw neg. Please contact Ian at 09 377 2939.
Parnell townhouse. Private, designer furnished townhouse, two bdrm, two bthrm, luxurious Balinese tropical garden, three minutes to Rosehill cafe, La Gigale weekend market and Parnell Pool. Five minutes to Parnell village, walk or Link bus to University. Ideal for single or couple. Available for three months from late November. $550 pw plus facilities. Phone (09) 709 1896 or email geraldine@cmansuz.com.
Room available in Epsom. I’m looking for a fantastic person to share my lovely sunny furnished two bdrm unit, recently redecorated, on bus routes to city, close to Cornwall Park, walking distance to Epsom Campus. N’s $180 pw + shared expenses. Further enquiries to Helen, (027) 276 6372 or worldsandwaste@paradise.net.nz
Room available to rent in private city apartment, own bthrm. Easy walking distance to University and City. Share with older very active woman. For further information phone 377 2599.
Waiheke Island, Auckland, NZ. Commencing March 2011 minimum four months. House/ten acres (maintained) with sea views, very private, direct access to private beach, four bdrms, three bthrms + toilet, tablet/two, two woodburning fires, free firewood, 10m x 4m solar pool, carport, internal garage. Rent depends on number of persons. Email seewieze@xtra.co.nz

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For a package with spectacular 180 degree ocean views. Iconic kiwi beach nestled on a cliff top, with beach access, 30 minutes North of Central Auckland. Shareholder needed, with three others, only $60,000. The perfect opportunity to secure an easily accessed retreat. Contact Stephanie on (027) 245 5851 or email stephford@netscape.net

Free Oral-B Vitality Electric Toothbrush (RRP $19.59) for new patients to luminol Travel. The Dentists, located in The Health Centre, Level 3, The Commons Building, visit luminol.co.nz/newpatient to have the voucher emailed to you. Then call 373 7960 to make an appointment. The voucher must be presented at the appointment. Offer ends December 17, 2010.

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@mandotravel.co.nz or 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.
The University buys and uses enormous amounts of paper, either printed – for example, in prospectuses – or for use in printers and photocopiers.

Since paper production involves removing trees – as well as using chemicals that can cause damage – the University cannot help but have an impact on the natural world.

“As large users we have a responsibility to ensure that our consumption is not detrimental to the environment,” says Richard Steveni, Procurement Project Manager. “However, as large users, we also have the power to influence the practices of our suppliers.”

The University orders paper only from companies that are approved by international accreditation agencies.

“That way,” says Richard, “we ensure the paper is from renewable resources, managed through appropriate forestry practices – and that the production process is also managed well, with responsible use of bleaching agents and proper management and disposal of effluent.”

Richard’s responsibility, as one of five in the University’s recently set up Procurement Review Project team, is to procure a whole range of goods and services on behalf of the University by engaging appropriate suppliers and formalising relationships into contracts and supply agreements.

In issues concerning the environment, Richard stays in regular contact with the University’s Sustainability and Environmental Co-ordinator, Dr Lesley Stone, who sees his work as immensely helpful in improving the University’s environmental performance.

“One of the first areas Richard worked on,” says Lesley, “when he began at the University in 2006, was on including environmental key performance indicators (KPIs) in the reports we get from suppliers.

“Before he did this it was time-consuming and difficult to extract data on many of the resources the University uses, and because of these difficulties the data was not always reliable. The fact that suppliers do now report on these KPIs has enabled us to develop baselines on what we use – and to show trends.”

The University’s paper use, for example, has decreased in the past three years. “In 2006 paper we used would have formed a pile as high as 23 Sky Towers; this had dropped back to around 18 Sky Tower’s worth in 2009.”

This is another reason why it is essential for people to use our preferred suppliers, Lesley explains. “Richard and the procurement team have put a lot of effort into securing preferred suppliers that are environmentally responsible – but if users do not comply with using preferred suppliers, we’re less able to keep track of our consumption.”

Baseline data is an important first step in changing purchasing behaviour to more environmentally considerate products. “This is because we have to have something to measure change against, and for giving feedback to our decision-makers, as well as to staff and students.”

Another focus for the Procurement Review Project team is on travel by staff and students. The travel consultants used by the University have now been asked to include the carbon usage of the quoted itineraries, so that travellers can make informed choices. This, of course, also allows Lesley to make more accurate assessments of the impact of travel, and is helping us to investigate how best to respond to responsibilities with regard to greenhouse gases.

In addition a new project is looking at rationalising the transportation of goods and services. For instance four companies all supplying goods and services to the University – though located close to each other in East Tamaki – all have their own distribution infrastructures.

“This means it makes sense to encourage the four to come to an agreement to distribute products on a daily basis, not jeopardising service but axing inefficiencies, and reducing the fuel used and the number of vehicles coming on campus,” says Richard.

He sees these procurement practices as an essential support for the University’s Strategic Plan.

“If the Vice-Chancellor’s vision is for us to be among the best universities in the world then everything we do must align itself to allow that strategy to be realised. This includes the suppliers we use, the way we conduct ourselves towards them, and what we expect of them.”

Judy Wilford