

# THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

# news

Fortnightly newsletter for University staff | Volume 40 | Issue 8 | 14 May 2010

## Celebrating research



From left to right are Elisapeta Heta, Dr Brad Coombes and Professor Michael Walker with a display reflecting the themes of Indigenous knowledges, peoples and identities.

The marquee on the lawn at Old Government House had taken on a festive air even before members and friends of the University flocked in for the annual celebration of the University's research excellence, which has reached a higher peak this year than ever before.

This year's celebratory ambience was boosted by a series of informative and colourful displays of some of the University's research highlights, focusing on a selection of projects that are producing rich insights through interdisciplinary collaboration.

Among the highlights of the evening was the summation, by Professor Jane Harding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), of the University's research achievements, which broke all records in 2009, supporting the University's standing as the leading New Zealand university and a highly-respected international contributor.

Next came the presentation of certificates to two groups of winners of prestigious awards, reflecting both the high value the University places on the contributions of its young researchers, and the quality of support they enjoy.

Jane introduced the six recipients of the Early

Career Research Excellence Awards, "targeted at those not more than eight years post-PhD, to enable these outstanding young researchers to further their current research, establish stronger links with the international research community, or embark upon new fields of research. The awards are selected by a highly competitive process, and provide up to \$30,000 to support each recipient's research programme."

The six recipients of this year's awards are featured on page 2.

Introducing the five winners of the Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Best Doctoral Theses was Associate Professor Caroline Daley, Acting Dean of Graduate Studies.

"In 2009," said Caroline, "246 doctoral candidates from across the University successfully defended their work.... Out of that group, faculties nominated 14 students whose theses were not only completed in a timely fashion but were clearly exceptional in terms of the originality, significance and excellence of the research... From that group of 14, the Board of Graduate Studies had to choose five theses for the Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Best Doctoral Theses. It was a tough meeting but we

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## Key events

### Global insights

On Friday May 14 from 2.30-5pm a symposium will be presented which forms part of the project "University reform, globalisation and Europeanisation", funded by the European Commission and the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology.

The symposium, entitled "Globalisation and higher education: Towards a new conceptual framework", aims to explore different dimensions of the way universities and higher education policies are being shaped by processes of globalisation. Speakers are Professor Susan Robertson (University of Bristol, UK), Professor Roger Dale (University of Bristol, UK), Dr Stavros Moutsios (Aarhus University, Denmark), and Professor Cris Shore (University of Auckland).

This international symposium will take place in the Presentation Room, Level 2, ClockTower, Princes Street. The contact person is Lynette Read (l.read@auckland.ac.nz).

### Creative PhD

A public discussion on the nature and importance of creative practice research will be held during The University of Auckland's Creative PhD Research Seminar on Tuesday 18 May. In this seminar leading creative practice researchers will reflect on how creative arts and academia can combine to contribute new knowledge. For information and registration visit: [www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/phd](http://www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/phd)

### Chinese movie

You still have a chance to see the last of four movies of a series presented at the Confucius Institute free movie nights. *Turpan love songs* will be shown on 20 May from 6-8.30pm in Lecture Theatre 1.401, Faculty of Engineering, 20 Symonds Street.

The movie, in Chinese with English subtitles, presents four Xinjiang love songs in a story showing emotional developments over two generations in two Uygur families living in the Turpan region. It will be preceded by a 30-minute Chinese documentary, commencing at 6pm.

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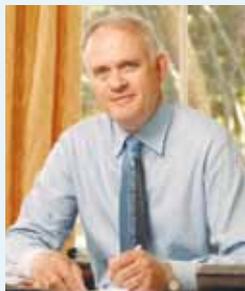
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## From the Vice-Chancellor

The government has recently announced its intention to allocate five percent of the tuition subsidy on the basis of performance measures including course completions, qualifications completions, and progression of students from one qualification to the next. The idea is that the system will reward those institutions that create an environment supportive of student success, while removing funding from those where student performance is below par.

While the concept of performance-related funding has merit, the likely impact of this proposal remains unclear. In absolute terms completion rates are on average higher in the universities than in other tertiary sub-sectors. For example, in 2008 average course completion rates were 83 percent in the universities, 75 percent in private training establishments (PTEs), 74 percent in wānanga and 69 percent in Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics (ITPs). Similarly, over the period 2001-2008, qualification completion rates averaged 59 percent in universities, 40 percent in ITPs, 42 percent in PTEs and 51 percent in wānanga. If funding were driven directly by such measures of relative performance, then it would inevitably flow into the universities to further support their already excellent performance. However, it seems likely that the scheme will be applied at the sub-sector level, in which event the movement of funding will be minimised and the system will mostly create an increased overhead burden for all the institutions. An alternative approach – that of excusing all institutions with acceptable performance from the scheme and focusing attention on the poorly performing institutions – has been suggested, but once again it seems likely that we will be locked into the “one size fits all” approach commonly seen in tertiary policy.

Also yet to be resolved is the question of how the Tertiary Education Commission will ensure that unscrupulous institutions do not simply lower their pass standards in order to increase completion rates, and carve up their qualifications into smaller units to enhance apparent progression rates. There seems to be a view in Wellington that it is possible to have enough funding placed at risk to induce good behaviours but not enough to induce cheating of the system. Unfortunately that ignores the experience of the early 2000s when hundreds of millions of dollars were wasted by institutions rorting poorly thought-out incentive schemes. If we are to benefit from performance based funding, it will have to be through a scheme that is designed carefully to prevent such behaviours.



## Up-and-coming scholars



Left to right are *Stephane Guindon, Ashvin Thambyah, Julia Gatley, Chris Sibley, Trudy Agar and Dipika Patel.*

**Six promising young academics across different disciplines have been honoured for their research.**

They have gained Early Career Research Excellence Awards for 2010, each receiving up to \$30,000 to support their research programme.

The six recipients of the awards are:

**Dr Trudy Agar** (French, School of European Languages and Literatures) for her work investigating gender as it is inscribed in North African autobiographical texts.

**Dr Julia Gatley** (School of Architecture and Planning) who will critically examine the career and work of the New Zealand architect Ian Athfield and his firm, Athfield Architects.

**Dr Stephane Guindon** (Statistics) for interpreting spatial information about species distribution to

answer important questions about patterns of colonisation as well as mechanisms by which new species are formed.

**Dr Dipika Patel** (Ophthalmology) who aims to analyse the relationship between corneal neuropathy and the extent of peripheral neuropathy in patients with type 1 diabetes.

**Dr Chris Sibley** (Psychology) for his work on discrimination and well-being in a representative New Zealand sample.

**Dr Ashvin Thambyah** (Chemical and Materials Engineering) for his study, “Impact mechanics of cartilage-on-bone”, which will compare the microstructural response of tissue with different levels of degeneration to impact loading, and determine the various levels of joint vulnerability to injury.

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were unanimous in our decision.”

The Best Doctoral Theses winners were Dr Jeremy Corfield, Dr Richard Espley, Dr Jennifer Kruger, Dr Enid Lam and Dr Samuel Veres (*University News*, Issue 7 page 2).

A further highlight of this year’s Research Excellence Awards celebration was the announcement by Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon of exciting new measures to boost the University’s research capability in four areas.

Some \$4.8 million will be invested, initially for three years, in three “Thematic Research Initiatives”: drug development, urban sustainability, and Māori and Pacific research. In addition a Food and Health programme will be established to enhance the contribution of New Zealand’s food industries to improving human health.

The Vice-Chancellor said teams drawn from across the University would tackle questions of major socioeconomic importance.

“In co-ordinating their efforts and working across different disciplines they will enhance the quality of our research overall. They will also work with external communities to ensure their research will be of value to New Zealand and beyond.”

The aims of the Thematic Research initiatives are:

**BioPharma Sector Development** (hosted by the Faculties of Science and Medical and Health Sciences) – to advance research into therapeutic agents, medical devices and diagnostics. The University of Auckland is already the largest drug

discovery unit in the country.

**Transforming Auckland: a Sustainable City** (hosted by the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries) – to act as a centre for research that focuses on innovations for sustainable cities using Auckland as a model.

**Te Whare Kura: Indigenous Knowledges, Peoples and Identities** (hosted by the Faculty of Arts) – to develop large-scale joint research collaborations which will create new knowledges, enhanced quality and capability in Māori and Pacific research, and benefits for indigenous communities.

**The Food and Health programme** will draw on the University’s specialist expertise in food science, food process engineering, nutrition, health, and commercialisation. Two new professorial chairs will be created.

Stuart said the University’s research performance had broken all records in 2009. Many of the University’s researchers had won significant national and international awards, external research income reached \$206 million, the highest figure ever, and 425 new doctoral candidates had been enrolled.

“The University of Auckland has a research capability that is extraordinary not only in its breadth but also in its quality. The new investments we are announcing today will help us apply that capability to create even greater benefits for New Zealand.”

# Graduates out in force



Autumn Graduation 2010: one of 11 ceremonies.

Years of hard academic toil reached a celebratory climax when thousands of University of Auckland students graduated during the first week of May.

Some 5766 people received a total of 6290 qualifications at 11 ceremonies spread over three days (3, 5, and 7 May). One hundred and fourteen doctorates were conferred.

Business and Economics was the faculty awarding the most qualifications with 1274, followed by Science (1154), Arts (1079) and Education (1011).

There were 545 in Medical and Health Sciences, 507 in Engineering, 469 in Creative Arts and Industries, 238 in Law and 13 in Theology.

Some 16,896 guest tickets were issued for the ceremonies at the Aotea Centre.

At 9.30am on each day graduands, staff and Council members processed through the city down Bowen Avenue and Victoria Street East, and up Queen Street, Wellesley Street West and Mayoral Drive.

University Chancellor Roger France personally

## Scope for creative work

Creative practice researchers may soon have the opportunity to incorporate practical elements to their research alongside their written thesis for doctorates at The University of Auckland.

The University is proposing to introduce an allowance for creative practice to be incorporated into PhD research. This option for study it is hoped will be available to students by July 2010.

The examination for candidates approved to incorporate creative work within their PhD will comprise the presentation of a body of creative work (including media such as fine art, performances or films) and a written thesis as an integrated whole. The maximum word count for a

conferred 4781 degrees and diplomas, bestowing the rest (1509) "in absentia".

Teaching excellence awards were presented to five staff members.

Speakers at the ceremonies included the Chief Human Rights Commissioner, Rosslyn Noonan, Fonterra CEO Andrew Ferrier, the Chief Executive of Deutsche Bank NZ, Brett Shepherd, ASB Community Trust Chief Executive Jennifer Gill, and film-maker Roseanne Liang.

The free Graduation Gala Concerto Competition on Thursday 6 May (7.30pm) packed out the Auckland Town Hall. Three School of Music student soloists, accompanying the University's Symphony Orchestra conducted by Uwe Grodd, vied for a top prize of \$5000.

Graduation services were held at the Maclaurin Chapel on each graduation morning, and special celebrations were held for Māori and Pacific graduates and their families.

For a full report on graduation and more on the Teaching Excellence Awards and the Graduation Concert, see the next issue of *University News*.

written thesis presented alongside creative work will be less than that required for a PhD without a creative work component.

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## In brief...

### Fulbright outreach

Fulbright New Zealand's graduate awards programme manager, Kara Wood, is attending the University's Campus to Careers Fair to inform students about opportunities to study or research in the United States. For information on educational options in the US and an introduction to the Fulbright programme's exchange awards, visit the Fulbright New Zealand stall between 10am and 4pm on 18 May, Level 0, Owen G Glenn Building. See [www.fulbright.org.nz](http://www.fulbright.org.nz) for further information.

### New eugenics

On 18 May from 6-7pm Clare Hansen, professor of twentieth century literature at the University of Southampton, UK, will give a public lecture entitled "Eugenic values, eugenic costs". Eugenics, defined as "the science of using controlled breeding to increase the occurrence of desirable heritable characteristics in a population", arouses immediate opinion and debate. Since the Human Genome Project was completed in 2003 there has been extensive discussion among medical ethicists and social scientists about "the new [or liberal] genetics". Clare Hansen will consider the claims of those who defend the new eugenics and those who challenge its practices and premises. She will explore ways in which literary and popular fiction has responded to eugenic scenarios, and look at whether scientists and medical ethicists can learn from such literary representations. The venue is Lecture Theatre OGGB3, Owen G Glenn Building, 12 Grafton Road.

### Art scoop for Elam

Elam School of Fine Arts is set to scoop New Zealand's most important award for contemporary art for 2010. All four finalists for the prestigious Walters Prize are alumni, staff or current students of Elam.

The \$50,000 Walters Prize is awarded for an outstanding work of contemporary New Zealand art produced and exhibited during the past two years. Winners have the chance to travel to New York and exhibit at Saatchi & Saatchi headquarters.

This year's finalists are Dan Arps, a Doctor of Fine Arts student at Elam, for *Explaining Things*, 2008; Fiona Connor, Elam alumna, for her work, *Something Transparent (please go round the back)*, 2009; Saskia Leek, another recent alumna, for *Yellow is the Putty of the World*, 2009; and Alex Monteith, an Elam alumna and Fine Arts Lecturer, for *Passing Manoeuvre with two Motorcycles and 584 vehicles for two-channel video*, 2008.

# Benefactors' generosity recognised



"I have never bought a painting as an investment," said Gus Fisher. "I have bought a painting always because it grabbed me so tightly that if I could afford it I just couldn't bear to be without it."

Gus was speaking on 28 April at the Gus Fisher Gallery, where he and his wife Irene were presented with the fifth Annual Arts Foundation Award for Patronage, honouring their significant contribution to the creative arts in New Zealand.

Gus Fisher's philanthropy holds a significant connection for NICAI's Centre for New Zealand Art Research and Discovery (CNZARD). His enduring support of art and design and his generosity contributed to the acquisition and refurbishment of one of his favourite buildings in Auckland, the former NZBC television studios. This enabled the University to open its own gallery, the Gus Fisher Gallery, in 2001.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon was amongst the first to congratulate Gus and Irene. "I am delighted to see their contribution

acknowledged in this way," he said. "Generous benefactors like the Fishers enable this University to maintain its pre-eminence. Philanthropists like this are richly deserving of recognition and our gratitude."

It was fitting that the award was presented at the Gus Fisher Gallery, where a tribute exhibition for Gus - who is also a pioneer of New Zealand's fashion industry through his 50-year directorship of the House of El Jay - has been curated by Doris de Pont and will open on 4 June.

To celebrate the Award, the Arts Foundation gave Gus and Irene Fisher \$20,000 to donate to artists or arts projects of their choosing. The Fishers have increased the amount with \$30,000 of their own and have announced five donations of \$10,000 each to visual artist Andrew McLeod, fashion designers Beth Ellery and Emilia Wickstead, and artist and composer Michael Smither, with a posthumous recognition of painter Pat Hanly (1932-2004). Andrew, Michael and Beth are all alumni of the University: Andrew and



Michael from Elam, and Beth from the School of Architecture and Planning.

In 2005, Gus Fisher received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from The University of Auckland for his contribution to the development of academic programmes, the Fisher Parkinson's Fellowship, research and infrastructure at the University, and his key role in establishing the Kenneth Myers Centre. Gus Fisher was also one of the founding donors to the Hood Fund, which enables leading academics from New Zealand and abroad to share their research knowledge.

*Photos from left to right:*

*Left to right are Irene Fisher, Michael Smither and Gus Fisher at the celebration of the Arts Foundation Award.*

*Gus Fisher with special guest, original El Jay model Dianne Boles, recreating a photo taken of them 30 years ago.*

Photos by Sam Hartnett

# Academics on YouTube



Campaign posters

Research is about creating knowledge and advancing new ideas which affect every part of our daily lives.

It stands at the core of human progress and gives us the key to transforming our world. It also stands at the core of advancing our country, economically and socially.

These are the words of Jane Harding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), as quoted in a recent University publication, *Transforming our Future*.

It is true that as a major research university, we seek to make the strongest contribution possible to the future prosperity of our county and its social vibrancy and well-being. And the wealth of research coming out of the University is something we can all take pride in, and which can always benefit from increased exposure outside the University.

For this reason the University has created a series of videos highlighting 11 magnificent research projects, and has placed them on a newly-created channel on YouTube - [www.youtube.com/researchworkswonders](http://www.youtube.com/researchworkswonders).

A media campaign is now running, nationally and internationally, to direct people to the YouTube channel. A further nine videos will be added to the channel mid-year.

Over the next few months, in most issues of *University News* we will feature one of the research topics in the "Research works wonders" campaign.

### Lessons from a changing place

Engineers will play a crucial role in addressing tomorrow's global challenges, from climate change to water scarcity and coping with an ageing population.

The Faculty of Engineering has stepped up to these challenges by creating four new research clusters, which bring together expertise across disciplines to address complex issues of socio-economic importance.

The four themes are Energy; Innovation in manufacturing and materials; Infrastructure and environment; and Technologies for health, and will be overseen by Associate Professor Margaret Hyland.

Faculty Dean Professor Michael Davies launched the themes with Margaret Hyland and alumnus Sir Ron Carter at a special event on 22 April.

"As a faculty we looked at what the global challenges are and asked 'how can we link up our resources in order to address these major international issues'" Michael Davies said.

Issues such as quality of life, sustainable energy, a vibrant economy and environmental sustainability emerged as real global concerns that engineers will play a crucial role in addressing.

"Major research breakthroughs are unlikely to come from single individuals toiling away in the lab. They will come from teams where the interplay of ideas from across disciplines can be combined to design innovative solutions."

The umbrella groupings will create a critical mass of research activity, linking with researchers in other faculties such as Science, Medical and Health Sciences, and Business and with New Zealand companies.

The Energy theme, for example, targets improved energy supply and use. Some of the projects undertaken by this cluster include improving performance of wind farms and addressing issues around use of biofuels. One of the projects under the Infrastructure and environment theme examines the impact on the New Zealand environment of pharmaceuticals and cosmetics in wastewater, and appropriate treatment technologies.

Guest speaker Sir Ron Carter told the audience about his own experiences meeting global challenges in his role as the Chairman of Beca Group, an internationally successful engineering firm.

University members and the public can hear more about the Faculty's research clusters at the 2010 Dean's Lecture Seminar Series, to be presented during the year by each theme leader:

Infrastructure and environment, Suzanne Wilkinson, 20 May

Technologies for health, Bruce MacDonald, 22 July

Innovation in manufacturing and materials, Xun Xu, 30 September

Energy, Rosalind Archer, 25 November.

Research conducted by geographers on Waiheke Island has produced a detailed account of wine tourism and a set of lessons for sustainable development on the island and Auckland more widely.

Funded by the Vice Chancellor's Strategic Development Fund, the Waiheke Project involved tourist surveys, interviews with wine and other tourism enterprises, and discussions with local government officials.

Results highlight the significance of Waiheke's physical and cultural distinctiveness as a source of economic value, alongside more conventional economic development concerns such as labour, infrastructure, governance, environmental management, and cooperation among enterprises. They suggest that questions of economic development attend more carefully to the significance of cultural values and diversity.

Tourism on Waiheke is growing and will continue to grow despite pressures on infrastructure and vocal opposition from some quarters. Ongoing development more generally is inevitable in so valued and accessible a place. The question is what kind of development and on whose terms.

In the short term, the island's infrastructure has become overloaded. Waste disposal, sewage, water extraction, roading and footpaths are all currently stretched. The area for subdivision within the Metropolitan Urban Limit is now at capacity. Any further development on Waiheke of whatever form will require attention to environmental concerns such as waste disposal, water extraction, monoculture, and the urban limit.

More specific tourism infrastructure is also under pressure, especially in the peak summer season. Restricted accommodation options, pressure on ferries, buses, roads, and limited eating options at peak times in peak periods, all threaten to erode the quality of the tourism product. Poor public transport access to Waiheke's different tourism offerings undermines in practice the image of Waiheke as a combination destination.

Each of these issues was identified in our surveys as a negative dimension of the tourist experience, by visitors and residents alike. Increasing tourist flow implies further confrontation with these issues.

Any solution will also have to confront the complication of seasonality. The vast majority of Waiheke's visitors travel to the island in the summer months. Stretching the tourist flow may be necessary either to offset pressures, or to pay for improved infrastructure and tourism services and facilities, impinging further on the cultural and physical nature of the island.

The challenge is to address these issues from beyond a narrow developmentalist frame. Debate is urgently needed on what type of development and how change might restrict damage to

Waiheke's diverse natural and cultural landscapes.

Currently, the wine and tourism products both draw on and create value from Waiheke's diversity, and in so doing create space for a diversity that promises sustainability. Whilst other forms of mass tourism and real estate developments are conceivable, they risk producing inappropriate and unsustainable development forms that will threaten the diversity and idyllic surroundings upon which current industries draw.

Providing for the expression of community values is crucial to sustaining the ability of wine tourism enterprises to make claims about the authenticity of a distinctive Waiheke experience and attach those claims to wines themselves. There is a lesson here reminiscent of the goose and the golden egg.

The study also revealed lessons about governance and good policy in the imminent "Auckland Super City". Proposed changes on Waiheke are subject to close scrutiny from the politicised and vocal community. There is no need for this to generate stultifying opposition. Rather, effective governance might turn scrutiny and concern into constructive change.

To sustain sensitivity to distinctive values and what might be golden eggs such as Waiheke's diversity requires local voices and ways of ensuring that they are heard and valued, and effective responses are made.

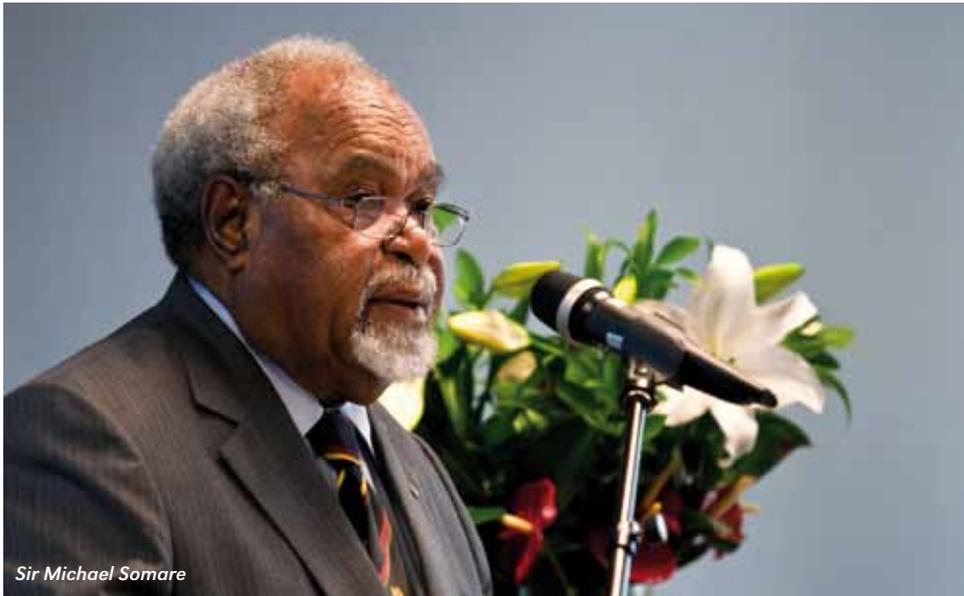
Waiheke, along with the other Gulf Islands, has been included in the new Waitemata and Gulf Islands Ward, which includes Great Barrier, the other Gulf islands, the central mainland suburbs from Parnell to Ponsonby, and the CBD. According to the Local Government Commission, wards are to be based on "communities of interest" identified in terms of "functional", "perceptive" and "political" dimensions. The research raises questions around the appropriateness of this grouping in enabling the distinctiveness of the islands to be recognised while simultaneously addressing the needs of the central city.

As debate around the shape of the Super City continues, the economic value of Waiheke's distinctiveness offers an example of the need for the new Auckland Council to balance regional perspective against the highly distinctive requirements of particular places within the city.

Similarly, as The University of Auckland contemplates an enhanced and coordinated urban research agenda centred on Auckland, the Waiheke case demonstrates the importance of grounded research, particularly into how Auckland's very different economies actually work.

Dr Lucy Baragwanath  
Dr Nick Lewis  
School of Environment

# Pacific welcome



Sir Michael Somare

The elegant architecture of the Fala Pasifika and the rhythm and passion of the welcoming performance by students from the Centre for Pacific Studies (Pacific 101) combined to create the ideal ambience for a relaxed and enjoyable lunch held to celebrate the visit of one of our longest-serving Pacific Prime Ministers.

Sir Michael Somare, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, who has served for a total of 16 years in three separate periods from 1975, visited the University on 23 April with a delegation of Members of Parliament, directors of government departments and senior staff and advisers.

Attending the lunch held to welcome him were University staff, including Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon, and representatives from the High Commission of Papua New Guinea in Wellington, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Department of Internal Affairs.

Before the lunch almost 100 staff and guests gathered in the Decima Glenn Room at the Owen G Glenn Building to hear a lecture by Sir Michael entitled "Personal reflections on regional developments".

Sir Michael acknowledged the "warm and

cordial relations that exist between Papua New Guinea and New Zealand", covering "both bilateral and multilateral cooperation in areas of human resource development, security, mitigating climate change and sea level rise, as well as developing strategies for sustainable management of fisheries and forestry resources".

He spoke of New Zealand's development assistance to Papua New Guinea, its contribution to the Bougainville peace process, and its development assistance programmes on Bougainville.

He also spoke of the "opportunities and challenges for our countries" which come as a result of globalisation, emphasising that the Pacific Islands Forum "remains the most appropriate vehicle to take the country forward".

Though acknowledging that "through the Forum we have established our solidarity as a bloc to be reckoned with in the international arena" and that countries of the region "can... take pride at the cooperative efforts in sustainable resource management" and at "mitigating climate change and sea-level rise", he also emphasised the need for "countries in the region to look seriously at greater sharing of resources".

The number and scope of questions following the lecture showed the depth of interest in Papua New Guinea, ranging from the autonomy of provinces, the advancement of women and the enhancement of human rights to sustainability and climate change and the possibility of amalgamation with Irian-Jaya at some time in the future.

# Landmark for Theology



First look at the book for some of the authors.

The launch of a new book on 30 April in the Vice-Chancellor's Suite at Old Government House marked a significant milestone for the School of Theology as well as the culmination of a pioneering task.

*Spirit Possession, Theology, Identity: A Pacific Exploration*, a collection of essays which explores different expressions of spirit possession in Oceania today, was commissioned by the George Sainsbury Foundation, represented at the launch by trustees of the foundation, Brian Everett and David Spencer.

"This was very significant for us as a new School in that it provided us with our first significant research funding and gave a focus to the School's research," said Professor Elaine Wainwright, Head

of the School of Theology. "It was also a challenge in that spirit possession was not the research area of any of our staff but one which opened up possibilities for contextual theology, to which we were committed as a School."

Written over a two-year period by 11 past and present faculty members of the School of Theology, along with two of the School's recent postgraduate students, and edited by Elaine Wainwright together with colleagues Dr Philip Culbertson and Dr Susan Smith, the book responds to the growing contemporary interest in spirit possession.

Elaine says this collection is timely both in Aotearoa New Zealand and globally. "Spirit possession is being addressed in a number of recent international publications and *Spirit Possession, Theology, Identity* takes its place among these."

She thanked the authors, her fellow editors and (behind the scenes) Pervin Medhora, the School of Theology Registrar.

Co-editor, Susan Smith, spoke of the richness of the authors' contribution.

"[Father] Henare [Tait] alerts us to the reality of spirit possession as he experienced it in his pastoral ministry among Māori. [Dr] Winston [Halapua], [Dr] Mary [Caygill] and [Dr] Philip [Culbertson] demonstrated how belief in the spirit world is so

much a part of Polynesian identity...; [Dr] Ann Nolan's paper explores some of the challenges that the interaction of modern psychiatry with holistic anthropologies of Pacific cultures can surface; [Dr] Laurie Guy's paper on spirit possession and deliverance in the Assembly of God in Auckland in the 1970s allows people from other churches to appreciate the varieties of religious experience that are part and parcel of the wider Christian community; [Dr] Alice Sinnott and [Dr] Keith Sturt both offer fascinating but different accounts of spirits in the book of Tobit while [Professor] Elaine Wainwright offers a scholarly reading of spirit possession in the New Testament. [Sister] Helen [Bergin] offers a rich theological reflection on God's spirit, the Holy Spirit.

"It is hard to see why *Spirit Possession, Theology, Identity* can be anything other than a best seller," she said.

The book, published by the Australian Theology Foundation Press, was launched by Anthony Molloy QC, who approached the School on behalf of the trust to arrange the contract.

## From the collection



Determined to succeed as a figure painter in a period dominated by abstraction, Richard McWhannell is a contemporary artist whose painting has lived by its own rules during his 35-year career.

With a nod to the great European masters Goya and Manet, and early references to local light and shade expert Tony Fomison, McWhannell has become a painter of big technique. Landscape

preoccupied him for a year in 1994, but it is portraiture that has defined him ever since.

To make a portrait, he sets his sitter up in a situation and lets them decide the gestures and pose so that the body becomes a formal arrangement. Although he paints his wife, his friends and himself repetitively, it is what he sees of that person, working from the exterior or surface that he wants to portray. As a painter of light, it is the style of his work that he wants to be the content, not the apparent subject, yet he is a sucker for female beauty.

For McWhannell, the sum of paradigmatic beauty appears in the face and form of his wife, the actress Donogh Rees, who has been his most frequent model ever since they married in 1984. Recently he has used Claudia Watson, a rebellious young woman whom he first met aged 14 in 1998, as his model. She featured in several of the works in his

2009 exhibition, "Introducing Cowboys and Girls, Girls, Girls" and she continues to pose for him, despite recent motherhood. The artist comments that female sitters offer respite from self-regard.

"As a painter of women I have continued with some new and some returnee sitters. They are all in their way family, who have been wonderfully committed and excellent company. It continues to be a (difficult) pleasure to have people in front of

me, to thrill at what light does on flesh and cloth, and to be able to laugh, snarl and all with those who see value in what the painter does. They are the other side of the 'Cowboy' coin, and very welcome after stretches on the Range."

The 1981 debut album of Los Angeles hard rock band, Mötley Crüe lends the name of its title track to this work. Being called *Too Fast For Love* positions the tattooed Claudia with her immodest Zambesi blouse open as a challenge to the viewer, making her seem both dominant and domestic. Like the girl in the song, she is big trouble, a "dream machine, so damn cool she can turn on the night/ She'll use her time up/Have nothing to show".

McWhannell's portrait of Hugh Fletcher, previously Chancellor of the University and Chief Executive of Fletcher Challenge, recently featured in Erin Griffey's exhibition *The Power of Portraiture* at Gus Fisher Gallery and the New Zealand Portrait Gallery in Wellington in 2009. He comments on the difference between portraying male and female sitters: "The women in my pictures are there because they're likely to solicit my attention as much as I do theirs. It's my opinion that women (and especially the young ones) have a strong awareness of mortality/sexuality and will happily participate in my locking them in an image of their youthful fecundity or their growing older. While blokes are more likely to come to me because they're required to be 'portrayed' to mark their status and will invariably protest they've been made to accept this job as sitter."

Linda Tyler

Richard McWhannell (b.1952), *Too Fast For Love*, 2008, oil on canvas, 1010 x 830mm

## Nonproliferation book earns kudos



Maria Rublee

International commentator Dr Maria Rublee (Political Studies) has been honoured with a major international award from the International Society for Political Psychology for her new book, *Nonproliferation Norms: Why States Choose Nuclear Restraint*.

The much-coveted Alexander George Book Award has been conferred for demonstrating the highest quality of thought and making a major substantive book-length contribution to the field of

political psychology.

*Nonproliferation Norms*, which examines nuclear weapons decision-making in Japan, Egypt, Libya, Germany and Sweden, has been judged the best book in the field of political psychology during 2009 and has increased substantially understanding of issues central to the concerns of political psychology and the world.

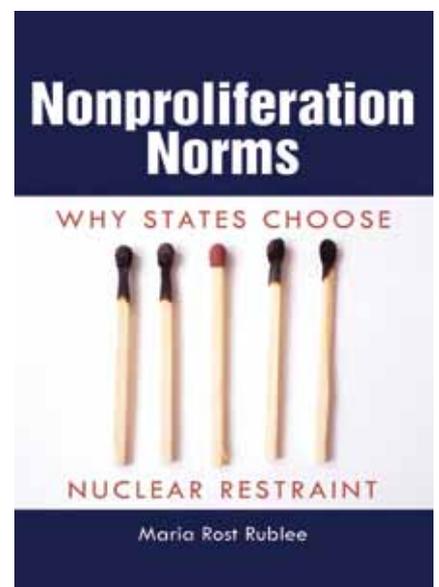
Maria says she is "thrilled to receive such a prestigious award and hope this honour will bring more recognition that the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and associated agreements are more than just pieces of paper.

"These agreements have shaped how states consider security, success, and the value of nuclear weapons. They must be supported and strengthened. Without them, we no longer have the normative and cognitive framework that defines nuclear weapons as uncivilised and unacceptable."

She states that this is especially important for New Zealand, a natural leader in promoting nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament.

Maria specialises in international security, international relations theory, and international organisations, with regional emphases on East Asia and the Middle East. In particular, she uses

both social psychology and the international relations theory of constructivism to understand how state elites perceive "security" and "success", and analyses the influence of grassroots movements and nongovernmental organisations on state security policy.



# What's on

## FRIDAY 14 MAY

**School of Music lunchtime concert**  
Chamber Music Ensembles. Featuring School of Music chamber music groups. 1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, School of Music. Free. All welcome.

**Globalisation and higher education: Towards a new conceptual framework**

An international public symposium. 2.30-5.30pm, Presentation Rm, Level 2, ClockTower, 22 Princes St. Featuring Prof Susan Robertson, University of Bristol, UK; Prof Roger Dale, University of Bristol, UK; Dr Stavros Moutsios, Aarhus University, Denmark; Prof Cris Shore, UoA. This symposium aims to explore different dimensions of the way universities and higher education policy are being shaped by processes of globalisation. Please RSVP to [l.read@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:l.read@auckland.ac.nz) All welcome.

**Department of Philosophy seminar**

Dr Justine Kingsbury, University of Waikato: *The limits of evolutionary aesthetics*. 3-5pm Patrick Hanan Rm 501, Arts 2.

Queries to [philosophy@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:philosophy@auckland.ac.nz)

## SATURDAY 15 MAY

**Miles: A Life in Architecture - tour**  
1pm. Visit the Nathan House in Remuera where Anna Nathan, the original client, discusses the 1979 design with Peter and Amanda Stanes, the current owners. The tour is free, but numbers limited. Bookings to 923 6806 or [gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz)

## MONDAY 17 MAY

**Postgraduate Information Week**

Until 21 May. Your chance to meet our Postgraduate advisers, academics and like-minded students, and attend free presentations and information sessions. To view the full programme visit [www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/for/future-postgraduates/fp-events/postgraduate-week/](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/for/future-postgraduates/fp-events/postgraduate-week/)

## TUESDAY 18 MAY

**Communiqué**

Peter Robinson: *Snow Ball Blind Time and other projects*. 12noon-1pm Design Lecture Theatre, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

**School of Music research seminar**  
Riette Ferreira: *Sight and sound: Made in NZ*. 1-2pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Queries to [concerts@creative.auckland.ac.nz](mailto:concerts@creative.auckland.ac.nz)

**Bioengineering research seminar**  
Jessica Jor, Auckland Bioengineering Institute: *Modelling the structure and mechanical properties of skin*. 4-5pm Level 5 Seminar Rm, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

**Faculty of Arts seminar**

Prof Gilbert Herdt, Chair, Dept of Sexuality Studies, Director of the National Sexuality Resource Center, San Francisco State University. *Moral/sex panics and rights: Lessons from the past quarter century*. 6pm Lecture Theatre 401, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

Queries to [p.sheddan@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:p.sheddan@auckland.ac.nz)

**Public lecture**

Prof Clare Hanson, University of Southampton (UK): *Eugenic values, eugenic costs*. 6pm OGG83, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Please RSVP to [ligginscommunications@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:ligginscommunications@auckland.ac.nz)

## WEDNESDAY 19 MAY

**Block teaching**

10am-12noon CAD Seminar Rm, Level 5, 76 Symonds St. Learn about the pedagogy and practicality of block teaching, and how to reshape your teaching and assessment processes. Enrol at [www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops](http://www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops) or phone CAD reception at ext 88140.

**Communiqué**

Astrid Klein and Mark Dytham: *My design life*. 6-7pm Engineering Lecture Theatre.

## THURSDAY 20 MAY

**Public Policy Group seminar**

Laila Behmeleit, Dept of Sociology, UoA: *The gendered management of earning and caring among single parents*. 11am-12noon Upstairs Dining Rm, OGH.

**Department of History seminar**

Dr Sara Buttsworth, Dept of History, UoA: *CinderBella: Twilight, fairy tales and gendering the twenty-first century American dream*. 4pm Rm 59, Dept of History.

**School of Critical Studies in Education seminar**

Prof Roger Dale, University of Bristol: *Capitalism, modernity and the future of education in the new social contract*. 4.30pm Rm N356, N block, Faculty of Education, Gate 4, 60 Epsom Ave. RSVP to [l.morris@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:l.morris@auckland.ac.nz)

**Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Lecture**

*Infrastructure and environment*. 6-7pm Lecture Theatre 1.439, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St. Speakers include: Kevin Mara is General Manager Asset Programme at Housing New Zealand, and will be speaking about the work that Housing New Zealand are doing on a national housing strategy.

Jim Bentley is the Director of the Centre for Infrastructure Research, and will be speaking about the investment needs for Auckland Regional Transport. RSVP to [foe-deans-lecture@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:foe-deans-lecture@auckland.ac.nz) Queries to [c.ford@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:c.ford@auckland.ac.nz)

**Student jazz ensemble concerts**

Large ensemble concert. Featuring School of Music students playing saxophone and percussion. 7.30pm Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre, Shortland St. Free.

## FRIDAY 21 MAY

**Department of Economics seminar**  
Dr Michael McAleer: *What happened to risk management during the 2008-2009 financial crisis?* 3- 4.30pm Rm 219, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Queries to El-Hadj Bah, ext 83896.

**Department of Mathematics/Les Woods Memorial Lecture**

Prof Gilbert Strang, MIT: *Is a random triangle acute or obtuse?* 7pm Lecture Theatre 1.439, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St. Visit [www.math.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.math.auckland.ac.nz)

## SATURDAY 22 MAY

**Exhibition talk**

Assoc-Prof Paul Walker, Architecture, Building and Planning, University of Melbourne: *Sir Miles Warren*. 1pm Gus Fisher Gallery. Visit [www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz)

## MONDAY 24 MAY

**Ask your Aunty about effective university teaching**

10am-12noon CAD Seminar Rm, Level 5, 76 Symonds St. Join us to hear a panel of four Teaching Excellence Award winners who will respond to questions from the audience on how to be an effective university teacher. Enrol at [www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops](http://www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops) or phone CAD reception at ext 88140.

**Student Jazz Ensemble concerts**

Jazz combo concert. 7.30pm, until 25 May. Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre, Shortland St. Free.

School of Music students perform a mix of jazz standards, modern pieces and original work, in two jazz combo concerts on consecutive nights.

## TUESDAY 25 MAY

**School of Music research seminar**

Aleisha Ward: *Jazz in NZ from the Jazz Age to the Rock 'n' Roll Era*. 1-2pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Queries to [concerts@creative.auckland.ac.nz](mailto:concerts@creative.auckland.ac.nz)

## WEDNESDAY 26 MAY

**Auckland Festival of Photography exhibition**

Until 12 June. 11am-4pm projectspace B431, Ground floor, 20 Whitaker Place. World designer Francis Hooper selects work by emerging Elam artists. Visit [www.projectspeaceB431.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.projectspeaceB431.auckland.ac.nz)

**Department of Psychology seminar**

Charles A Collin, Perception and Cognition Lab, University of Ottawa: *Who are you? (who? who?): Spatial frequency effects on brain responses to facial images in man and monkey*. 4pm venue tba. Queries to ext 83159 or [ccollin@uottawa.ca](mailto:ccollin@uottawa.ca)

**Department of Audiology seminar**

Louis Carroll, Chief Executive Officer, National Foundation for the Deaf: *The changing face of the sector. What is happening in the hearing impairment sector in NZ?* 5-5.30pm drinks and nibbles; 5.30pm seminar, Rm 730.220, School of Population Health, Tamaki Campus. Queries to 373 7536 or [h.seal@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:h.seal@auckland.ac.nz)

# Classifieds

## ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

**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 leases; call Chris or Mandy on 09 303 0601 at City Sales or email [rentals@citysales.co.nz](mailto:rentals@citysales.co.nz) or log on to [www.citysales.co.nz/rentals](http://www.citysales.co.nz/rentals)

**Apartment for rent.** Large two-bdrm apartment with terrace for rent in central city location. Walking distance to University, Britomart and Ferry terminal. Fully furnished, fully equipped kitchen and bathroom, all linen supplied. Secure with building manager on-site. Available

for 6 months (longer term negotiable). Please phone owner on (021) 544 836.

**House sit available in Glen Eden**  
villa from end of June to middle of September while owners on academic leave. Use of car can be arranged. Companionable cat. Some flexibility possible round September leaving date. Contact Murray (021) 0260 5109 or [m.edmond@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.edmond@auckland.ac.nz)

**Lovely three-bedroom Westmere house for rent**, 5 September 2010 to 3 January 2011. Fully furnished, including wireless, washer, drier, dishwasher, highly sociable and much-loved cat. With bath and shower. Big back yard, with storage shed and OSP. Walking distance from shops, parks, zoo and Auckland's best butcher. Ideal for visiting academics. Rent negotiable. Must love cats! Email [aotearose@gmail.com](mailto:aotearose@gmail.com)

**Northcote central**, two-bdrm unit fully furnished, available 7 June until 15 August, quiet and sunny, open fireplace, two-minute walk to shops, on bus route, very handy to Harbour Bridge. Rent negotiable, contact [lukeachapman@gmail.com](mailto:lukeachapman@gmail.com)

**Spacious two-bedroom apartment for rent.** Warm, sunny, quiet, 90 sqm, fully furnished, with two secure car parks in Ellerslie from 15 June to 26 January while owners on academic leave. A car can be arranged. Ideal for visiting academics. Rent negotiable. Phone Sergiy on (021) 1836219 or email [sergiy.klymchuk@aut.ac.nz](mailto:sergiy.klymchuk@aut.ac.nz)

## ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

**Experienced house and animal sitters available for semester two.** We are a n/s graduate student and librarian couple with previous experience looking after the homes and pets of several UoA staff members. References available. We also maintain lawns, gardens and composts. Contact Laura at [lmcl034@aucklanduni.ac.nz](mailto:lmcl034@aucklanduni.ac.nz) or Paul at (021) 151 4911.

**House needed for long-term rental.** Four bdrms in an inner city suburb preferably with off street parking and two bthrms but negotiable. Tenants tidy and reliable with good references. Rental up to \$650 pw. Phone Jaimee on 021 054 9064.

**New professor** (and husband and ten year old) arriving in Auckland in July are looking for house-sit or short-term lease. Preferably close to University. Happy to provide refs. Please contact Miriam [Miriam.Meyerhoff@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Miriam.Meyerhoff@ed.ac.uk)

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Carpenter/builder available.** Over 30 years experience. Lots of renovations and historic places. References. Phone Chris on 270 0745 or (027) 293 2279.

**For a limited time:** \$20 hearing tests available for children aged from 6 mths to 5 years. Please phone the Hearing and Tinnitus Clinic, Tamaki Campus for an appointment on 373 8791 (ample free parking).

**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](mailto:Karen.embleton@mondotravel.co.nz) or 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.

For a full list of The University of Auckland events see:  
[www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/events](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/events)

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