



## REPRODUCTION RESEARCHERS BREED SUCCESS

From left to right are Dr Fang Guo, Dr Qi Chen, Dr Deborah Toney (International Research Developer, Research Programmes), Dr Ting Peng and Associate Professor Larry Chamley

### Science is rising in the east.

These were the words of journalist Michael Brooke in a recent issue of the *New Statesman*, referring to China's spectacular advances in scientific endeavour and achievement.

Associate Professor Larry Chamley from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology agrees that the pace of change is phenomenal. He greatly enjoys his time in China and is glad to be part of the scientific advancement which is proceeding much faster than he imagined it would.

"Five years ago, I thought researchers in China would need our contributions for 20 years," he says. "Now it's down to ten and still reducing. There is just a small window of a few years where they will find our help useful as they advance and adjust to an English-speaking scientific environment and a western culture of research."

The Biology and Immunology of Reproduction Research group, which Larry heads, is one of eight recipients of the International Research Team Development Awards (IRTDA), a strategic initiative aimed at building international relationships and attracting international funding to The University of Auckland.

For five years, this group has been nurturing its collaboration with researchers at the Obstetrics and Gynaecology (Red House) Hospital of Fudan University in Shanghai, with numerous visits and staff exchanges between The University of Auckland and Fudan University.

In November last year the research group used IRTDA support to facilitate a five-day visit from Professor Wu Jing Lei, President of the Shanghai Red House Hospital and Professor Xu Gong Jian, Vice-President (for Research) of the Shanghai Red House Hospital of Fudan University.

The professors visited the Chamley lab and

Auckland City Hospital and met with staff in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and with the Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Professor Iain Martin. Very informative meetings were held with the International Office; the Dean of Graduate Studies, Associate Professor Caroline Daley; the International Development Manager for the faculty, Karen Dorrian; and with Drs John Hooker and Seishi Gomibuchi from the Research Office's Strategic Development Unit.

The visiting professors were enthusiastic about increasing collaboration with The University of Auckland for research and teaching purposes, and the two teams are actively seeking joint research funding opportunities in China.

A key member of the Auckland group is Dr Qi Chen, who trained as a medical practitioner in China, completed his PhD in Japan and joined Larry's lab in 2002. Qi assisted in introducing the Fudan professors to the city of Auckland and

*(continued page 2)*



On 23 February, I had the pleasure of officiating at the opening of the new Library and Information Commons at the recently renamed Tamaki Innovation Campus.

This new facility, located in Building 730 and replacing the previous library in an old building left over from the 1990 Commonwealth Games, represents an important step forward for the Campus. Its development reflects very positively on the cooperation between the staff involved - the Campus management team, Property Services, the University Library and the faculties with staff and programmes on the Campus.

It is fair to say that the University struggled for some time to identify the appropriate strategic role for Tamaki. There was a view at one time that the campus could grow to encompass 10,000 undergraduate students. However, the realities of cross-town travel and the cost of offering, at several locations, the multiple programmes characteristic of a comprehensive university meant this was not viable.

The Accommodation Strategy adopted by the University Council in 2008 envisaged that the Tamaki Campus would become a centre for postgraduate education and research that was particularly relevant to its local communities. Under the leadership of Professor Ralph Cooney and then Professor Michael Davies, that vision has increasingly been realised. The student body is now over 55 percent postgraduate, and staff have generated very significant external research funding - both major contributions to the University's Strategic Plan.

The development of two key research themes will also be an important step in enhancing the Campus's profile. The first of these, "Health Innovation" has recently been strengthened by the reorganisation and integration of the Tamaki clinics, which also provide an important community service, and will be further boosted by relocating the Anaesthesiology Advanced Clinical Skills Centre from the City. The second theme, "Materials Innovation", will benefit from further integration with the Faculty of Engineering through the planned redevelopment of Buildings 403 and 404, City Campus. This will enhance the likelihood of local manufacturing businesses engaging even more strongly with the Campus. Finally, the location on the Tamaki Innovation Campus of HalolPT, a UniServices joint venture with international company Ove Arup to commercialise our technology for cordless charging of electric vehicles, represents yet another step forward in the Campus' push for innovation.

## Drug development and disclosure

It's only a matter of time before drug companies put all their trial data on the internet, says biostatistician Stephen Senn, Professor of Statistics at the University of Glasgow.

And, he says, greater openness is not a bad thing in a world where consumers and advocates are better informed than ever and Wikileaks is spearheading a culture of disclosure.

"One point of view is that it's completely unstoppable," says Professor Senn, who visited the University to lead a two-day workshop hosted by the Department of Statistics on 23 and 24 February. The "old model" where regulators decided what went public "is disappearing fast."

It's an opinion Professor Senn has held for some years, and he says that colleagues once thought it a mad idea. But "every pharmaceutical company is going to have to work out a way to put their data on the web. I think some pharmaceutical companies are doing well, putting data on the net mostly in the form of summaries, but in the long run I think we'll get a more detailed picture".

Yes, that will lead to rival analyses. Yes, there's a risk of consumer misinterpretation. "From one point of view, we just have to accept that it's reasonable that patients...will interpret the data incorrectly sometimes...but that's their good right. We just have to get used to presenting data in such a way that makes it easier for people to come to the right conclusion, and provide high-quality good analyses, rather than thinking that by some sort of censorship we can lead people to come to the right conclusion."

Professor Senn did his first two degrees at Exeter and his doctorate at Dundee. In the late 1980s, he moved to Switzerland to work for CIBA-Geigy (a forerunner of Novartis), and admits he arrived thinking pharmaceutical companies were a bit suspect. But he changed his opinion.



"The thing that struck me was the professionalism and dedication of a lot of people working in the industry. Many experts in branches of statistics work for the pharmaceutical industry."

Professor Senn's experience in pharmaceuticals led to his workshop "Statistical Issues in drug development: A course for life scientists and statisticians". He found that "many of the life scientists with whom I worked were severely puzzled about the way statisticians thought about things.

"So I developed the course and a book [*Statistical Issues in Drug Development* (Wiley)] to try and explain to each side what the other thinks."

### cover story continued

to New Zealand in general.

Larry and Qi visited Shanghai several times, the last being at the beginning of December to further the collaboration. They plan to go again at the middle of this year.

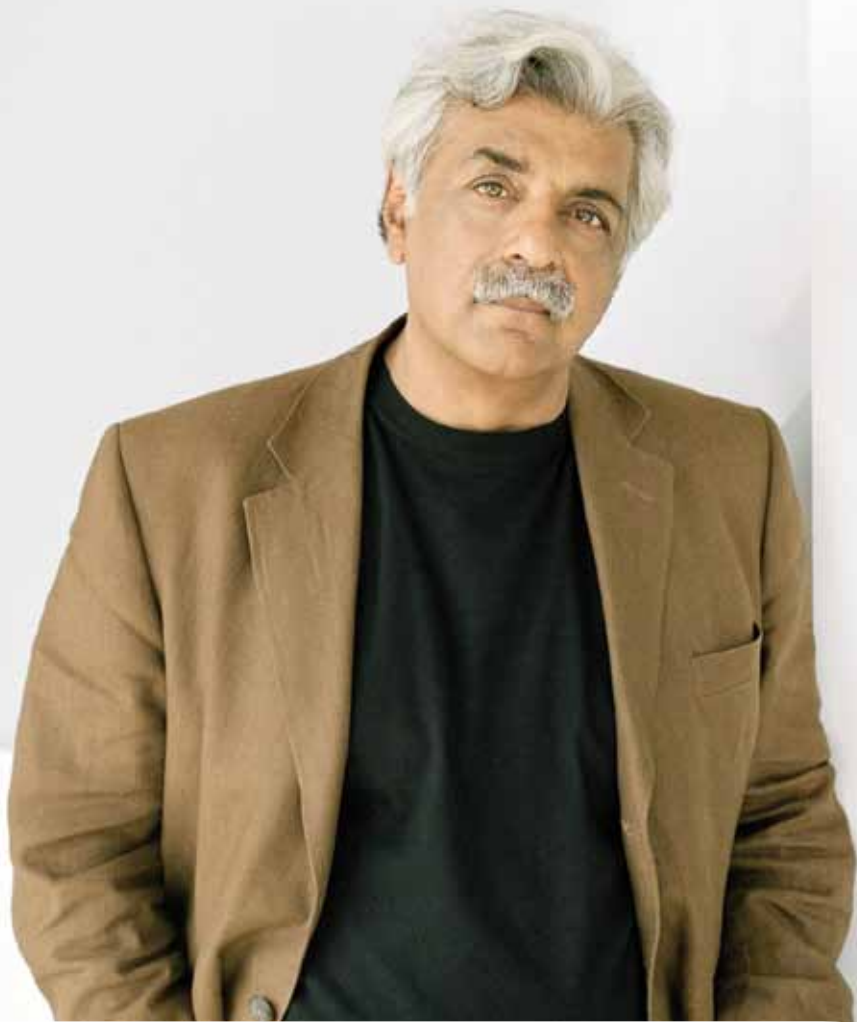
In the meantime, now on a visit to The University of Auckland are two staff members from Fudan University, Dr Fang Guo and Dr Ting Peng, who arrived on 17 January and will work for six months in collaboration with the Chamley group, investigating the role of dead fragments of the placenta, called syncytial knots, in the pathogenesis of preeclampsia, a disease that affects approximately 3000 New

Zealand women and their babies annually.

The two are medical practitioners undergoing training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and the visit to Auckland forms part of their career development.

They welcome the chance to gain exposure to an English-speaking research and teaching environment, while conducting research with a world-leading group - work which will perhaps result in one or more joint publications.

Says Dr Fang: "Here I will learn about new technologies, new experiments and how to create new ideas. The experience here will help my career."



## Robb Lectures on empire power shifts

The prominent political commentator and activist Tariq Ali will lecture on “Empire and its futures” at The University of Auckland next month.

As speaker at the 2011 Sir Douglas Robb Lectures he will deal in turn with three issues: “Islam and its discontents”, “US power today:

The global hegemon”, and “The rise of China”.

His lectures are on 17, 21 and 23 March (7pm) in the Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Building.

Tariq Ali will discuss the likely outcomes of a changing world, with American military power transcending US economic weaknesses, the amazing rise of China and the continuing occupations in the Arab world and South Asia.

“Is it the case, as many argue, that the US empire is now in irretrievable decline? Will China flex its military muscles one day?”

His opening lecture is particularly topical, looking at the impact on the region and elsewhere as US-backed dictators crumble and fall in the Middle East, heralding a new Arab reawakening. He will also ask how these changes will affect the jihadi groups that have been active in the region.

London-based and published on every continent, Tariq Ali has been a leading figure of the international left since the 1960s. He is an editor of *New Left Review* and has written more than 20 books on world history and politics as well as seven novels.

Born in Pakistan he attended Oxford University where he became involved in student politics and the movement against the Vietnam war. He is a critic of neoliberal economics and his book *The Clash of Fundamentalisms: Crusades, Jihads and Modernity* was a response to 9/11. His latest book is *The Obama Syndrome: War Abroad*.

All are welcome at the Robb Lectures and admission is free. Full details are at [www.auckland.ac.nz/robb](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/robb)

## Highlighted Events

### Round the bays

Campus Recreation are entering a team again this year for the Round the Bays, to be held on the Auckland waterfront on 13 March, and you are invited to join the team. Last year there was a great turn out for this social event combining fun and fitness.

The distance is 8.4 kilometres. The cost is \$35, which covers race entry, a branded T-shirt and refreshments at the Campus Recreation barbecue site at Glover Park.

Entry is open to everyone: students, staff and friends, and remember, you can walk or run. A brisk walk will take about one hour.

You can register, with payment, at the he Recreation Centre, 17 Symonds Street.

Find out more by visiting [www.recreation.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/recreation/programmes/round-the-bays](http://www.recreation.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/recreation/programmes/round-the-bays)

### Refiguring relationships

Jon Altman, a research professor in anthropology at the Australian National University, will speak in lecture theatre B10 in the University Library Building at 6.30pm on 16 March about “Alternate development for difference”. Drawing on findings from a multi-site research project in north Australia, this lecture explores how powerful state and corporate interests might be shifted to new ways of thinking about the Indigenous estate. How might a more productive balance be drawn between development and conservation? How might the actions of Indigenous people influence such processes? How can Australian public discourse be shifted from a language that highlights Aboriginal deficits and instead recognises assets that might be mobilised in the Aboriginal and national interests? This is a Department of Anthropology/James Henare Centre seminar

### Know your mind

Have you ever wondered how your brain cells work? Or where your memories are stored? Do you want to know how to keep your grey matter in optimum condition?

At this year’s Brain Day, to be held from 9am-4pm on 19 March, you can take a giant tour of the brain, as the new Mind Map winds its way around the Owen G Glenn Building.

Including anatomy demonstrations, fun science experiments, informative lectures and community group stands, the event is designed to help expand your minds and perhaps help grow some new brain cells as well.

Brain day is hosted by the Centre for Brain Research in association with the Neurological Foundation as part of International Brain Awareness Week.

See [www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/cbr/brainweek](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/cbr/brainweek)

## New associate professors

Twenty-six new associate professors were promoted in the latest round. Some of their stories are told on these pages and others will follow in later issues of Uninews.



Associate Professor Christine Rubie-Davies (Teaching, Learning and Development) was a primary school teacher in Auckland for a number of years, before being seconded to The University of Auckland in 1998 to help set up the primary teacher education programmes.

After completing a masters degree in teacher education in 1999 and a PhD in educational psychology in 2003, Christine moved from teacher education into an academic role within the new Faculty of Education.

As a primary school teacher, Christine won a national Te Reo Riu Award for Teaching Excellence in 1995. She won a University of Auckland Teaching Excellence Award in 2006 and a National Tertiary Teaching Excellence award in 2007. So, having mastered teaching, Christine is now working to strengthen her research capabilities. Her major research interests relate to teacher expectancy effects, teacher beliefs and particular characteristics of teachers that make a difference for students and their learning.

Christine recently won a Marsden Fast Start Grant for a large intervention project aimed at raising teachers' expectations and changing their beliefs and practices. It is predicted that the intervention will result in enhanced academic and social outcomes for students. Christine was elected a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science (US) in 2009, an honour normally reserved for those who are already professors. This is testament to the impact that her research has had within her field.

In her spare time, Christine has a large organic fruit and vegetable garden that she enjoys relaxing in, growing enough fresh produce to feed her whole family.



Associate Professor Elsabe Schoeman (Law) joined the Faculty of Law (in July 2002) after spending a year in Germany on an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship at the Institut für Internationales und Ausländisches Privatrecht at the University of Cologne.

She holds a Doctorate (by thesis) in Private International Law and is also the author of a Monograph on Private International Law in the *International Encyclopaedia of Laws*. Originally from South Africa, Elsabe has taught and researched in a number of different jurisdictions, as a result of which her teaching and research is informed by a strong international and comparative perspective.

In response to the lack of a comprehensive and up to date source on New Zealand Conflict of Laws, Elsabe recently authored the first electronic database of scholarly writing in this area of the law: <http://www.conflictz.auckland.ac.nz>. This database provides access for local and international academics, practitioners and students to New Zealand Private International Law. Elsabe hopes the database will promote a distinct New Zealand identity in the subject field.

Elsabe specialises in cross-border commercial litigation with specific reference to international contractual and non-contractual obligations. Her current research focuses on the response of third (non-EU) countries (like New Zealand) to recent EC Regulations in the area of trans-border commercial transactions, in the light of the UK having opted into these Regulations.

Elsabe is married with two children (both at university), and has a Staffie, Penny, who is her constant companion and always ready to embark on new journeys.



Associate Professor Liz Beddoe (Counselling, Human Services and Social Work) was appointed to lead the social work programme in the former College of Education in 1994 after 14 years in practice as a health social worker.

She is a BA graduate from Auckland, graduated with her MA in Social Work from Victoria and a PhD from Deakin University in Australia. For many years her main teaching and research has focused on clinical supervision and professional education. She recently co-authored *Best Practice in Professional Supervision: A guide for the helping professions* (2010, Jessica Kingsley Publishers) with Allyson Davys and *Mapping knowledge for social work practice: Critical intersections*, with Jane Maidment (2009, Cengage).

More recently her research has focused on the role of clinical supervision in helping resilient practitioners sustain their commitment to extremely challenging practice. In Semester Two she will spend part of her research leave at the University of Edinburgh to carry out the first part of a four-country study of clinical supervision. She maintains strong links with the health sector and in 2008, with her colleagues, she launched the interprofessional postgraduate programme in professional supervision for practitioners in health and social services. She leads this programme and teaches in the core courses. She also teaches in the Bachelor of Social Work including stage one and four courses.

In 2008 she became head of the new School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work. "It has been incredibly satisfying to see the school grow in student and staff numbers and gain a higher profile in our academic and practitioner communities," says Liz.



Associate Professor Jacqui True (Political Studies)

Since Jacqui's second year at Victoria University, when she surreptitiously photocopied an entire special issue of a journal from the London School of Economics on women and international relations to read in her holidays, she has been fascinated by the idea that international politics is a man's world or that "men make wars and wars make men".

She went on to Monash University in search of theorists of international relations where her thesis, "Woman, the state and war", received first class honours. One examiner commented: Hadn't she got the title a bit wrong?

More than 20 years later and after 11 years away from New Zealand studying for an MA and PhD at the University of Arizona and York University, Toronto, respectively, followed by postdocs at the University of Southern California and Michigan and nine years at the University of Auckland, she is still "incredibly curious" about gender and international relations.

Between raising two young sons and teaching courses on international political economy, global civil society and feminist political theory, she has been able to publish four books. Her fifth, *The Political Economy of Violence against Women* is well underway and to be published by Oxford University Press, New York.

Jacqui says it has been a great privilege to work on this book and engage with many scholars and activists in the struggle to achieve women's human rights and global gender equality. Like Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wu Dunn (Pulitzer Prize winning authors of *Half the Sky*) she believes this is the key struggle of the twenty-first century – and has staked her career on it.

One of the greatest pleasures in her career has been "following the successes of the young women I have taught at Auckland as they become impressive change agents in their own right on the global stage".

## On hand to offer all possible help

Professor Michael Pender, Associate Professor Jason Ingham and Associate Professor Charles Clifton from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering were in Christchurch when the devastating earthquake struck on 22 February.

The trio – all experts in earthquake engineering – were in a hotel in Cashel Street in the CBD preparing for a seminar on earthquake building standards when they felt the 6.3 magnitude quake.

All three escaped without injury and stayed on in the city to help investigate structural damage as part of the official building assessment team.

They were also able to offer expert opinions to a range of media in New Zealand and overseas.

Other staff from Civil and Environmental Engineering joined them with all haste after the event to offer all possible help. The department has also been providing expertise in the wake of the earlier major earthquake which struck Christchurch on 4 September last year.



The devastation in Christchurch, as witnessed by the team. In the photos is Jason Ingham.

### Goodbye to RIMS

This may not be a leap year but 28 February was an auspicious day nevertheless. It was the day we said goodbye to RIMS, which is being replaced with a new electronic research management system. The Research Office and Research+ project team will be progressively rolling out the new Research Funding module to faculties and large scale research institutes in alignment with FRDF rounds. This module will create a step change in the management of research funding at The University of Auckland, improving and streamlining the research application and approval process for researchers and administrators.

Migration activities were taking place during the first week of March. Activations of research projects will not be available during March whilst the new system is commissioned, tested and Research Office staff are trained, although for urgent cases please contact the Manager Funding Processes at [m.inglis@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.inglis@auckland.ac.nz). Researchers and faculty staff will have continued access to financial information through Peoplesoft Financials which will remain open throughout. To assist those who need research project data the Research Office is offering a reporting solution which can be accessed by emailing your request to [researchoffice@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:researchoffice@auckland.ac.nz)

Following the rollout in each faculty, researchers will be able to prepare and submit FRDF applications through the new system. Applications for external research funding will also progressively be managed through the Research Funding module, which will replace the current coversheet and manual sign-off process, providing researchers with greater visibility of the status and progress of funding applications. A pilot rollout will be completed first with NICAI in April, followed by a progressive rollout to all other faculties and LSRI's. This will be supported by faculty transition planning, training sessions and Research Office help-desk support.

For further information please email [researchplus@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:researchplus@auckland.ac.nz)

### Marsden update

In January, the Research Office was busy helping to prepare submissions to the preliminary round of the Marsden Fund, which closed on 3 February. The University submitted 251 preliminary proposals, up 18 percent on 2010 numbers.

### Introduction to Research at the University of Auckland

A workshop for new and emerging researchers was held on 23 February. The workshop provided an overview of research management at the University. It will be a regular event and was attended by almost 100 academics and administrative staff.



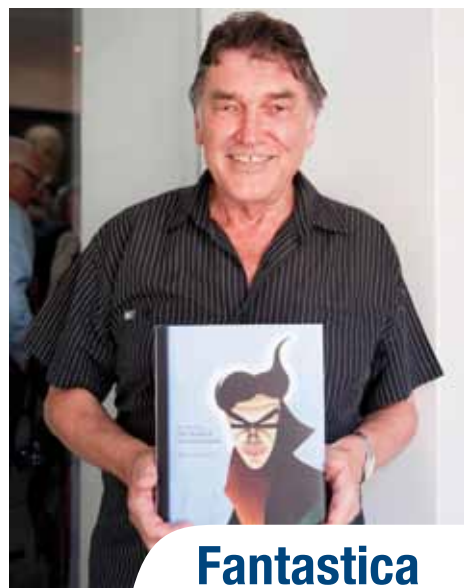
Seung Yul Oh (b.1981), *Oddooki*, 2010 (left) and *Oioio*, 2010 (right)  
Two-pot automotive paint on fibreglass  
The University of Auckland Art Collection

Seung Yul Oh graduated Master of Fine Arts from Elam School of Fine Arts in 2005, one of a new generation of migrants drawn to study in New Zealand from South Korea, also including Jeena Shin, Hye Rim Lee and Jae Hoon Lee (no relation).

Oh moved to New Zealand in 1997 and, at time of writing, has just opened his first solo exhibition in his home town of Seoul, where he is currently undertaking a residency in an artist-run space founded and managed by

well-known artist Choi Jeong Hwa, who shares Oh's playful sensibility.

It has been an eventful year for Oh. Last February he opened a solo public gallery exhibition, *Bogle Bogle*, at the Dowse Art Museum in Porirua as part of the Wellington Arts Festival, and in June his first public sculptures were unveiled in Newmarket. In December he was awarded the Harriet Friedlander New York Residency, an all-expenses paid eight months in New York City, which he



## Fantastica

UnineWS asked Peter Simpson, formerly Associate Professor of English and now Director of The Holloway Press, about his new book.

Tell us something about *Fantastica*?

It's a study of the art and career of Leo Bensemann (1912-86), one of the most accomplished New Zealanders of his generation with expertise in painting, print-making, drawing, calligraphy, music, typography, book design, editing and publishing – a sort of antipodean Renaissance man. He was born in Takaka in Golden Bay, later went to Nelson College, then moved to Christchurch in 1931 where he lived for the rest of his life.

In 1938, a crucial year, he joined The Caxton Press as a partner with Denis Glover, and participated fully in Caxton's important

will take up later this year. And early last month he had his first Wellington commercial gallery exhibition, *oioioioio*, which develops the highly finished egg forms he is now renowned for.

In the midst of this activity, The University of Auckland purchased a pair of Oh's sculptures, based on a commission he produced for Te Papa in 2009. The five pieces he produced for Te Papa's wind-blown sculpture terrace are named *Oddooki* after weighted self-righting toys he remembers from Korea. Their forms are part-bird, part-egg, recalling the conundrum over whether chickens or eggs came first, and contain a bell that jingles when the sculpture is rocked.

Hidden workings and folksy motifs are recurring designs for Oh, exemplified by jingling eggs and vibrating boxes. Oh's works celebrate the joy of creativity and surprise. Sometimes messy, usually bright and boisterous, they recall folk-art, DIY or children's toys. It is this mix of familiarity and fun that captures the viewer's imagination. His recent works may appear as simple, streamlined forms with a highly-polished finish but, despite the complex processes that go into their production, it is their effortless appearance that provides a very immediate appeal.

One explosive video work captured the uncontrollable glee of people blowing up balloons until they burst, an activity he had the well-heeled audience repeat to conclude the Art Foundation's ceremony when he was awarded the Friedlander residency. This was a request that needed little encouragement.

*Oddooki* and *Oioio* feature in the Gus Fisher Gallery exhibition, *Top Ten: new acquisitions for The University of Auckland Art Collection*, which concludes on Saturday 5 March with a celebration of ten years of the Gus Fisher Gallery.

Andrew Clifford

contribution to the development of New Zealand literature, through publishing writers such as Curnow, Bethell, Sargeson, Fairburn, Baxter and Frame. In the same year he became a member of The Group, the most significant art collective in the country in the middle decades of last century, to which he contributed in almost every annual exhibition until it disbanded in 1977; he also from 1940 designed all The Group's annual catalogues, now regarded as a masterpiece of design.

In 1938 he and his Nelson friend Lawrence Baigent joined Rita Angus at 97 Cambridge Terrace, a place which became the epicentre of the vital arts scene in Christchurch at that time. Leo was a pivotal go-between who linked the worlds of literature and the visual arts.

Tell us about the exhibition you have curated and how it relates to the book?

In partnership with Dr Noel Waite from the University of Otago, I have curated an exhibition which opened at the Christchurch Art Gallery simultaneously with the publication of the book. Called Leo Bensemann: A Fantastic Art Venture, it includes about 100 works, and runs until 15 May. Unfortunately it will not tour to other centres. The book reproduces all the works in the exhibition but also many others not in the show. It is a stand-alone publication, not a catalogue, and reproduces close to 200 works, all in colour.

You have worked on other Bensemann-related projects, haven't you?

Yes, several. In fact the book/exhibition is the

culmination of more than 30 years' research. I first wrote about Bensemann's work in the 1980s, stimulated by a painting of his I purchased in 1981 called Takaka Landscape. (Bensemann focused at first on portraiture and graphic work but later turned with great success to the (by then) unfashionable genre of landscape painting.)

Later, through the Holloway Press, with which I've been involved since 1993, I edited two books of his graphic work: *Fantastica: Thirteen Drawings* in 1997 (first published in 1937), from which I have taken the title of my book, and *Engravings on Wood* in 2004, which printed his striking engravings from the original wood blocks lent by his family.

Also, in 2000, at the invitation of Linda Tyler, now at The University of Auckland but then at the Hocken Library, I curated Leo Bensemann and Rita Angus: The Cambridge Terrace Years which toured to nine centres and focused on the extraordinary portraits which grew out of the mutual stimulus of the two artists when they shared accommodation in Christchurch. All these projects led up to the present book/exhibition.

What kept me going all these years was the inherent quality of the work, the importance of Bensemann's role in cultural history, and the conviction that he was a much more significant artist than had been recognised.

Peter Simpson, *Fantastica: The World of Leo Bensemann*, Auckland University Press, \$75

## What's on

### FRIDAY 4 MARCH

#### NZ Society for Sustainability Engineering and Science seminars

*The future of buildings.* 9am-12noon Conference Centre Lecture Theatre, 22 Symonds St.

Details at [www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/about/events/events/template/event\\_item.jsp?cid=352925](http://www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/about/events/events/template/event_item.jsp?cid=352925)

#### Consortium for Health in Ageing seminar

Prof Vincent Mor, Florence Pirce Grant University Professor of Community Health, Program in Public Health, Brown University: *Hospitalisation and re-hospitalisation of residential care home residents and what that means for hospitals.* 12.30-1.30pm Function Hall 730-220, Population Health, Tamaki Campus.

Queries to Tina-Maria Elliott, phone ext 88450 or email [t.elliott@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:t.elliott@auckland.ac.nz)

#### Consortium for Health in Ageing seminar

Prof Vincent Mor, Brown University: *How ObamaCare will change the US health care system (if it survives).* 4.30-5.30pm Conference Centre Lecture Theatre 423-342, 22 Symonds St.

Queries to Tina-Maria Elliott, phone ext 88450 or email [t.elliott@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:t.elliott@auckland.ac.nz)

### SATURDAY 5 MARCH

#### Auckland Live!

10am UoA Business School. Interactive displays of cutting edge research will combine with presentations and discussions from leaders in business, politics, medicine, science and law, including appearances from engineering alumni and academics. Visit [www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/events/template/event\\_item.jsp?cid=340171](http://www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/events/template/event_item.jsp?cid=340171)

### TUESDAY 8 MARCH

#### Bioengineering research seminar

Xinshan Li, ABl: *Modelling levator ani mechanics during the second stage of labour.* 4-5pm Level 5 Seminar Rm, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

### WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH

#### Word presentation and graphics workshop

9am-12noon CAD, 4th Floor, 76 Symonds St. Visit [www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops](http://www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops) (IT Literacy) to enrol or phone 87951 to inquire.

#### Faculty of Law public lecture

Prof Dr Albin Eser: *Human rights guarantees in criminal law and procedure from a European perspective.* 6pm Stone Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Law, 9 Eden Cres. Drinks from 5.15pm, Law School Staff Lounge, Level 4, Bldg 801, 9 Eden Cres.

RSVP to 373 7599 ext 85971 or [lawreception@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:lawreception@auckland.ac.nz)

#### 2011 Alice Griffin Shakespeare Fellow lecture

Prof John Kerrigan, University of Cambridge: *Oaths, threats and war crimes: Shakespeare's Henry V.* 6.30pm Lecture Theatre B10, Library Bldg, Alfred St.

### THURSDAY 10 MARCH

#### Dept of Political Studies seminar

Dr C. Raja Mohan, 2011 Visiting Kippenberger Chair of Strategic Studies, Victoria University of Wellington: *A new great power balance in the Asia Pacific? Perspectives from India.* 12-1pm Meeting Rm, 16 Symonds St.

#### Dreamweaver introduction workshop

12.30-4pm CAD, 4th Floor, 76 Symonds St. Visit [www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops](http://www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops) (IT Literacy). Intermediate to follow on 17 March.

### WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH

#### Faculty of Medical and Health Science seminar

Prof Ashley Adamson, Professor of Public Health Nutrition, Institute of Health and Society and Human Nutrition Research Centre, Newcastle University, England: *Dietary assessment (to include novel tools for children and assessment at end of life's spectrum).* 5.30-7pm Cafe 85, School of Medicine, 85 Park Ave, Grafton. Queries to Dr Clare Wall, phone 373 7599 ext 89875.

Visit [www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz)

#### Department of Anthropology/James Henare Centre seminar

Prof Jon Altman, ANU: *Alternate*

*development for difference: Refiguring Aboriginal/state relations on the indigenous estate in Australia.* 6.30pm Lecture Theatre B10, Library Bldg, Alfred St.

#### Centre for Brain Research/Auckland Museum Institute public lecture

Prof Ian Kirk: *Being human: The science of memory, personality and consciousness: Do Westies have different brains from the rest of us?* 7pm Auckland Museum, Domain Drive, Parnell. Free. Bookings required. Phone 302 6249. Queries to [awebll@aucklandmuseum.com](mailto:awebll@aucklandmuseum.com) Visit [www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/cbr/brainweek/brainweek2011/westie\\_mind.aspx](http://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/faculty/cbr/brainweek/brainweek2011/westie_mind.aspx)

### THURSDAY 17 MARCH

#### First Sir Douglas Robb Lectures 2011 Empire and its futures

Tariq Ali: *Islam and its discontents.* 7pm Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Free admission and all welcome. No booking required. For further information phone 373 7599 ext 87467. Visit [www.auckland.ac.nz/robb](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/robb)

## Classifieds

### ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

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# WILL THE NEW AUCKLAND COUNCIL DELIVER?

Having embarked on our collective journey with the new Auckland Council, I confess to a strong sense of nostalgia and loss. Having given a large part of my professional career to the service of both North Shore City Council and Auckland City Council, I wonder if my sense of loss is what the council staff felt back in 1989 when the last major amalgamation process was undertaken.

It is always difficult and stressful going through a change management process, regardless of what area it affects, and I am sure we will be debating the merits and demerits of this latest amalgamation for years to come, just as the people of Toronto have done over the last 12 years following their amalgamation of local government.

From the point of view of urban planning, I have some serious concerns about Auckland's new institutional arrangements, including both the Council's structure and its relationship with its Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs).

What will be their collective ability to improve the quality of urban planning practice and the lives of residents in the city?

In New Zealand we seem to have a belief that the amalgamation of local government will deliver increased efficiency gains, reduced costs, improved core service delivery and improved customer service. But where is the in-depth evidence to support these beliefs? What makes us think that amalgamation will improve the quality of our built environment?

A major part of the reform agenda has seen increased separation between policy formulation and implementation. In the case of urban planning, this has meant breaking the public policy cycle that urban planning is based upon, avoiding the capture of policy advice, without any real understanding of how this will affect planning practice. I argue there will be critical disconnections, effectively a knowledge gap, between the plan makers and the plan implementers. The new Council structure seems

to have adopted these same neo-liberal philosophical premises. It has further fragmented the urban planning functions not only between different spatial locations (within the city) but within and between the Council and its CCOs.

In my view, the biggest problem facing urban planning today is not a need to create even more plans but our inability to implement the existing plans. We need to urgently address this implementation gap issue and ensure that the community-agreed urban planning approaches are actually delivered in practice. If not, we could see a loss of public confidence in the urban planning process. Consequently, in my view, one of the biggest challenges facing the new Council is to address this implementation gap. However, I wonder if the new Council's structure has the right institutional relationships in place to achieve these goals?

**Lea Beattie**  
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