## This issue 2 Museum grants 3 Poetry Olympics 4 Theology to celebrate

#### University of Auckland news for staff | Vol 42 | Issue 13 | 16 August



University of Auckland research "rockstars" were showcased at a Parliamentary function that included the Minister of Health Hon Tony Ryall and members of the Health and Education and Science select committees.

The event was jointly hosted with the University of Otago to launch the Health Research Roadshow, a joint initiative to introduce our health research to grassroots New Zealand.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Distinguished Professor Jane Harding is the driving force behind the roadshow.

"We are all concerned that New Zealanders know little about the stunning health research conducted here and the contribution some of their taxpayer dollars make to knowledge that ultimately delivers great benefits for them," Jane Harding says.

For the roadshow launch at Parliament the theme of cancer research was selected, with twelve researchers showcased. There were five from The University of Auckland, five from the University of Otago, and two Malaghan Institute researchers were also invited to take part. Welcoming the 100-plus guests to the event, Jane Harding described the researchers as people working at the cutting edge of cancer research, all of whom make major contributions to New Zealand.

"Their discoveries will ultimately improve the lives not only of New Zealanders but people around the world. They also train our future scientists, doctors, researchers and policy makers. They lead teams and provide the jobs that keep highly talented young New Zealanders at home while attracting funds from overseas to employ them.

"These researchers also start up new companies and attract venture capital while forging partnerships around the world."

Parliament's Grand Hall was lined with posters explaining the researchers' work, including that of University of Auckland's Professors Bill Denny, Peter Browett and Michael Findlay, Associate Professor Cristin Print and Dr Jo Perry.

Bill Denny and Peter Browett were joined by Otago Professors Parry Guilford and Tony Blakely and Associate Professor Ian Hermans of the Malaghan Institute, who each presented a five-minute snap-shot of their area of research.

2012

Despite the limitations of the five-by-five minute format, the speakers drew in the audience of politicians, senior officials and research-interested guests. For the audience the format was just right – audience members were genuinely interested in the research, its application and commercialisation processes, all detailed in just 25 minutes.

Minister Ryall applauded the roadshow initiative. "We have the smartest minds here today. It is great for New Zealanders to know how their tax dollars are spent and the clever, smart, rockstars in our health research world."

He added "it is great to get the roadshow out to New Zealand and into provincial hubs".

The Universities of Auckland and Otago will take a smaller version of the Health Research Roadshow to regional centres over the months ahead.

Next stops are Tauranga and Nelson.

Professor Catherine Day from the University of Otago chats with Professor Peter Browett (centre) and Minister of Health Hon Tony Ryall.



#### UNIVERSITY NEWS IS PUBLISHED BY

Communications and Marketing, Fisher Building,18 Waterloo Quadrant, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142. EMAIL uninews@auckland.ac.nz www.auckland.ac.nz/universitynews EDITOR Judy Wilford PHOTOGRAPHY Godfrey Boehnke, Warren Jones DESIGN AND PRODUCTION The University of Auckland

## **Museum grants for Arts students**



The Auckland War Memorial Museum has recently awarded \$20,000 worth of library research grants to seven Faculty of Arts students.

Designed to help attract more Faculty of Arts students and staff to its Research Library, the Museum's offer generated strong interest among students and staff, with 17 high-quality applications sent to the Museum and Cultural Heritage selection committee.

The seven successful applicants will present their research to an audience at the Auckland War Memorial Museum or, alternatively, within a thesis publication.

Research will primarily use the Museum Library's documentary heritage, manuscripts and archives, photographs, ephemera, maps, and publications, including early newspapers, and will focus on one or more of the following programmes: Auckland studies; origin, evolution and biogeography of the flora and fauna of New Zealand; history and development of cultures; significance and meaning of collections associated with human history; New Zealanders at war. The seven successful

students are: Alex Jespersen (European Languages and Literatures), who will investigate the

content and role of *The Pull-thro*', a periodical produced by the New Zealand Expeditionary Force soldiers stationed

in Samoa during the New Zealand military occupation of German Samoa during World War 1.

Charlotte Warner (Anthropology), who will conduct research into the manner in which archival and material records might be combined to produce an alternative reading of the past. Her research is into Ewelme Cottage, Auckland, and the Lush family who owned this cottage for more than 100 years. Records provide a context and on-going insight into the lives of family members and offer the potential for a unique view of Auckland's history.

Genevieve de Pont (History), who will centre her research on travel diaries written by New Zealanders who journeyed abroad between the end of the First World War and 1963. The project aims to shed light on the diversity of travel experiences in this period, the travel cultures these tourists participated in, and the creative ways they recorded and processed their experiences.

Georgie Craw (History), who will concentrate on some of the estimated 1,000 Māori travellers

who left New Zealand during the period 1769-1840. His thesis aims to examine not only the overseas experiences of Māori who left New Zealand as the companions of Europeans, but also of the Māori travellers who worked on ships and found themselves in all corners of the world. Such a study of Māori mobility and activity may suggest that they were more cosmopolitan than is popularly believed.

Jennifer Ashton (History), who will use a series of digitised ink drawings made by John Webster during a trip through the Pacific in the early 1850s as the basis of a study of Webster's Pacific voyage, particularly from the point of view of his evolving ethnological views of the Pacific peoples. She will look at how they differed from location to location and how Webster's views were shaped by his interaction with local populations.

Richard Wolfe (Art History), who intends to examine the process whereby the indigenous cultures of the Pacific region have been collected and exhibited in the museums of Europe, and subsequently, New Zealand. His study will cover such areas as early collection and exhibition policies, the transition in classification from ethnology to art, the implications of biculturalism, and the extent to which indigenous societies are able to determine developments within museums.

**Rigel Sorzano (Art History),** who will analyse archival material relating to the exhibition of New Zealand applied arts and design objects from 1840, nationally and internationally. This will form a part of wider research relating to critical frameworks for understanding and experiencing applied arts and design objects.

## **Māori education**

The most persistent and enduring problem of our educational times is that of equity, a feature of education that has received ongoing attention in New Zealand, says Elizabeth McKinley, a professor in Te Puna Wānanga (the School of Māori Education) and Director of the Starpath Project at the Faculty of Education.

During her inaugural lecture "Equity and excellence in Māori educational research" Elizabeth will debate whether New Zealand's education system is currently capable of meeting the complex challenges of transforming the educational outcomes for Māori.

The lecture will be held on Wednesday 22 August from 7-8pm in J1 Lecture Theatre, 74 Epsom Avenue, Epsom.

## **Visions and realities**

The 2012 Asia-Savvy: New Zealand Asia Conference is a student-led conference which aims to bring together Asia-savvy students from around New Zealand to discuss critical issues in NZ-Asia relations. It will feature expert panel discussions, breakout discussions and a workshop with the Department of Labour on employability. The keynote speaker is Neil Walter, current Chair of National Commission for UNESCO. The conference, with the theme of "Visions and realities of New Zealand and Asia", will take place at the Owen G Glenn Building, on 7-8 September. Late applications will be considered if spaces are available. For more information, see www.asia-savvy.com or "Asia Savvy on Facebook".

## **Highlighted events**

## **NICAI Dance Project**

Visitors to the Auckland Art Gallery will be treated to a live performance that presents works from the Gallery's collection interpreted through dance. The choreography has been created in response to specific sculptures and paintings. These include artist Peter Robinson's Universe, Colin McCahon's Six Days in Nelson and Canterbury and a duet in response to Sopolemalama Filipe Tohi's stone sculptures at the entrance to the Home AKL exhibition. The performance, part of an ongoing collaboration with the Gallery, features 22 students and staff from NICAI's Dance Studies Programme. 11am, Sunday 26 August, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki, Kitchener Street, Auckland.

## **Treating teddies**



There was a buzz of excitement and a lot of pleasurable work going on, as young children with their teddies (and their parents) consulted "Teddy Doctors" at the Otara Leisure Centre in South Auckland on 28 July and at Starship Children's Hospital on 4 August.

This was the second annual Teddy Bear Hospital, an event run by University of Auckland medical students for young children and their teddies. Professor Innes Asher, head of the Department of Paediatrics, said it went "brilliantly well", with attendance of 126 at the Starship Children's Hospital alone, and the medical students pronounced it "a huge success".

Children bought their "sick" teddies in for treatment and medical students used the experience to teach children and families about healthy living, and to help children feel comfortable in a medical environment. The students also had the chance to learn a lot themselves, through the contact with children and their families.

A range of activity stations offered x-rays of the teddy, anatomy, height and weight testing for teddies and children, and general first aid.

The children were given the chance to play with the doctor's equipment in order to demystify an experience that could otherwise be quite daunting. They got to use a stethoscope, blood pressure cuff and even an otoscope to look inside Teddy's ears. After performing the check-up, they visited the doctor to fix whatever it was they had diagnosed as wrong with their teddies. They were able to use soft bandages, plasters, nebulisers, injections (without the needle!) and even full body casts.

They also had a consultation with the "doctors" about a healthy diet for their teddies.

Students said some of the children showed a vivid imagination in speaking of the causes of their teddies' injuries, with one being "squashed" by a pile of falling Barbie dolls while he was out playing, and another suffering facial bruises after a fight with another teddy.

Zoe Dyer, Teddy Doctor and medical student, said: "Teddy Bear Hospitals can be an effective way of reducing the anxiety children can feel towards medical procedures and hospitalisation." She also said it gives a great opportunity for medical students to interact with children in a medical setting.

The first Teddy Bear Hospital was held in 2011 at the Well Child Clinic in Auckland's Greenlane Hospital. Pre-school children from kindergartens in the area were invited to attend.

After the success of the 2011 event, The University of Auckland's Department of Paediatrics and the students were delighted to expand the project in 2012 to hold two sessions and invite the wider community.

More than 120 medical students volunteered to take part as Teddy Doctors.

Photo: Kathryn Compson a third-year medical student

## **Artist in Residence**

Internationally renowned US artist Amie Siegel has been announced as the next Elam Artist in Residence.

Her practice spans photography, sound, video, film installations and feature films. While here, Siegel will present lectures and take workshops for Elam students as well as delivering a public lecture about her work at the Museum as part of the Easy Listening series. Siegel has been invited by curator Hou Hanru to exhibit in the 2013 Auckland Trienniale at the Auckland Art Gallery and will begin preparations for this work during her residency.

To find out more about Amie Siegel visit http://amiesiegel.net/

## From the Vice-Chancellor



The provision of high quality

accommodation for our students continues to be a strategic priority as we seek to attract very able students from outside central Auckland and from overseas. I am therefore delighted to advise that the University has entered into a long-term agreement to lease a new low-rise student accommodation facility from a private investor. The facility has been designed by architects Warren & Mahoney and is to be located on the former Carlaw Park site. Construction of the facility began this week and it will be ready for occupation by our students at the beginning of the 2014 academic year.

The Carlaw Park site is well suited to the provision of student accommodation, being a flat site close to the City and Grafton Campuses as well as the Auckland Domain, Parnell and the proposed Parnell Railway Station. The link lane from the proposed Parnell Railway Station, through the student housing development to Stanley Street, will help to establish a strong physical connection to the City Campus for student residents and others. The new facility will provide 434 beds in self-catered two, three and four bedroom apartmentstyle units. It will be particularly suited to postgraduate students (including those with families), though it could also accommodate first-year and returning undergraduates.

When completed, the new Carlaw Park facility will be a welcome addition to our recently completed and already very successful University Hall on the Elam site to the south of the City Campus. Together they will have added nearly 900 beds to what is, by the standards of most New Zealand universities, a rather modest supply of student accommodation. \My congratulations go to Campus Life Director Brendan Mosely, Property Services Director Peter Fehl, and their teams, for the excellent work that has gone into providing these innovative facilities to support our strategy of attracting students of high academic potential.



## I'm a story telling Pl...

## Dr Selina Tusitala-March is resplendent in a post-London Poetry Olympics glow.

"It was really interesting for me to put myself in a global context," she says of the week-long event, "and to compare and contrast how I perform my poetry to how others perform".

Sitting in her office at the Faculty of Arts, the Postgraduate Adviser and Senior Lecturer for the Department of English remembers how 100,000 copies of poems were dropped over Covent Garden to celebrate opening night: "Like a flock of poems fluttering down, filling the air at twilight".

The Poetry Parnassus (part of the Cultural Olympiad) is the brain child of Simon Armitage (Professor of Poetry, Sheffield University). The event saw poets, who represent each nation competing in the Olympic Games, attend seven days of non-competitive workshops, seminars and readings. Selina recalls the "mutual language of poetry" that unified the participants, who gathered at the cultural village in the South Bank Centre to eat and talk poetry between readings.

"A lot of poets were like, 'here's a chance for me to tell you about my nation and the issues and challenges it faces'."

Representing Tuvalu (her grandfather is Tuvaluan) at the Poetry Olympics brought into question the politics of representing that part of her ancestry/ethnicity. As a born and bred Aucklander brought up in a European-Samoan household, Selina asked her Tuvaluan family and friends,

"Can I represent this island nation?"; they said "Go, go". She even emailed the Tuvaluan Prime Minister to see what he thought.

"Because I'm part of the diaspora I asked if there was anyone else who might go in my place, and if not, what issues would he like me to present on the global stage?"

Suffice to say, Selina had no reply from the Prime Minister and headed off to the Poetry Olympics with a sequence of poems about global warming. Every conversation at the event began with "What is Tuvalu, where is Tuvalu?" and Selina, who doesn't separate the personal from the political, used the event as a platform to talk about the rising sea levels. "Scientists say Tuvalu won't be here in 35 years; there are piglets swimming in water," she says incredulously.

Her poems incorporate the connection between Tuvaluan and Samoan Mythology with the theme being, "the sky is the limit". The highlight of the Olympics for her was the Pasifika reading, which was so popular they had to turn people away: "I opened up and spoke into that space and I was in my element."

Tuvalu, ten thousand in this country Eight atolls standing in divine poetry From Samoa, Telematua voyaged freely Birthing bottlenose dolphin mythology –Arcing timeless blue skies in rising seas

Selina is proud of her time in London and acknowledges that the Olympics presented an opportunity to showcase her work internationally. World Poetry at New Broadcasting House saw her read her poem "Googling Tusitala" alongside poets from the World Service. Her attendance at the Poetry Parnassus enabled her poems to be published in the book *The World Record: International Voices from Poetry Parnassus* (Eds, Astley and Selby 2012). "Poetry is work too" she exclaims, highlighting the academic side of the trip. Not to mention the opportunity to network on the global stage.

Full of plans for a future bursting with the wisdom and beauty of words, Selina is hosting a Pasifika poetry reading at "Lounge" in Old Government House on 12 September. The event will also celebrate Albert Wendt's latest collection of poetry, published by Auckland University Press.

"I love it because we get to have the established poets mixing it up with emerging poets; it's an incredible honour to be able to do that in that particular venue." Selina reckons Pacific Islanders know and are in the world through performance: "It is language that connects us, and performing is a central part of connecting."

## New support for students



The University's Equity Policy has been amended to include students and staff from refugee backgrounds. This forms part of the University's commitment to supporting all who have the potential to succeed at a world-class university.

A consultation meeting was held to look at the issues students and staff from refugee backgrounds may face in working and studying at the University. Participants spoke of their feelings of isolation when they do not see anybody they know or who speaks their language. They spoke of their fear of rejection from others and the feeling that "everyone looks at you". One student said that you feel selfconscious, that if you ask a question everyone looks at you, which can mean avoiding getting the help that is needed to succeed academically. Many people are inhibited from disclosing that they come from refugee backgrounds, resulting in staff, classmates and colleagues being unaware of the challenges they are facing.

The University's Equity Office and the Refugee Background Advisory Group are aiming to provide support through a range of strategies. These will include providing meeting spaces on the City and Epsom Campuses beginning 10 August 2012, and developing an email network to provide information, news and events, as well as building a web page for communicating services and support that is available. There are over 30,000 people from refugee backgrounds in New Zealand. Most refugees are from Afghan, Assyrian, Burmese, Colombian, Eritrean, Burundi, Ethiopian, Iraqi, Oromo, Sierra Leone, Somali, Sri Lankan, Sudanese, Rwandan, Ugandan and Zimbabwean communities.

The City Campus meeting space for students and staff from refugee backgrounds is AUSA Meeting Room 1, 4 Alfred St, Fridays 1-2pm. For enquiries please contact Cathleen Fetokai, Manager Staff Equity on c.fetokai@auckland.ac.nz or ext 87844.

The Epsom Campus meeting place is the Sky Room K801, Tuesdays 11.30am-1pm. For enquiries please contact Ruth Williams, Associate Dean Students, Faculty of Education, ruth.williams@auckland.ac.nz or ext 48739.

For further information visit www.equity. auckland.ac.nz/ssrb or contact Prue Toft (Equity Office) ext 88316 or by email on p.toft@auckland.ac.nz

Jean-Paul Bizoza, originally from Burundi, studies in the Faculty of Education

## **Research news**

## Theology celebrates

#### A celebratory symposium will take place at the School of Theology next month to mark its 10-year anniversary.

Exploring beliefs and practices that have developed within Christianity from its beginnings until today, the School of Theology gives special attention to theology in the context of New Zealand, the Pacific and Asia.

To mark the decade since it was created, the school is holding a two-day symposium on 2-3 September themed "Theology in the city: A focus on Auckland".

Head of Theology, Professor Elaine Wainwright, says the event will be a celebratory two days, showcasing some of the theological opportunities and challenges in a city like Auckland, taking into account the religions of the many different cultures.

"We are very much looking forward to our 10-year anniversary – it will be an ideal opportunity for participants to celebrate how the school has progressed over the past decade but it will also be a wonderful chance for us to consider what lies ahead, bearing in mind the vast diversity that exists in a dynamic city like Auckland, "she says. "We have a great line up of guest speakers, including keynote speaker, Rod Oram, who will discuss 'City of God: dangerous delusion or urban imperative?' Mayor Len Brown will take part in a roundtable discussion titled "Doing theology in Auckland: Challenges and Possibilities", with panelists, Associate Professor Manuka Henare, Dr Nicholas Thompson, Reverend Feiloiga Taule 'ale' ausumai and Ms Jo Ayers."

Business journalist, Rod Oram, will speak on Sunday 2 September from 6.30-7.30pm and the roundtable will be held on Monday 3 September from 7.30-9pm.

Other topics on day two of the symposium include "The changing face of religion and theology in Auckland", "Celebrating Māori and Pacific theology", "Engaging sacred art in cities" and "Cityscape as/and Theology: a conversation".

The symposium will be held at the Fale Pasifika. The cost to attend the full symposium is \$20, while a single day's attendance is \$10. The registration cut-off date is Friday, 24 August.

To register, please contact Melissa Rodger at the University on 09 923 6676 or email m.rodger@auckland.ac.nz

## **Statistician picks the Super 15 winners**



University of Auckland statistician Associate Professor David Scott has showed some of the sharpest rugby union tipsters that statistics can trump intuition.

A member of the *New Zealand Herald* Super 15 tipster panel this year, David ended the season top equal with sports editor Dylan Cleaver - ahead of experts like journalist Wynne Dyer and former Wallaby Andrew Slack – by taking a purely statistical approach. "David's hit-rate has been very impressive," says Winston Aldworth, *Herald* deputy sports editor at the time David joined the five-member panel. "It's fair to say the other tipsters have come to fear 'the Professor'. Personally, I've taken great pleasure in seeing a tipster I brought into the competition outperform my colleagues ..."

But seriously, Winston adds, he has been fascinated by the success of the statistical approach in what has been an "unusual season", with fancied teams performing poorly and less consistent performers improving greatly.

David was invited to join the panel after a feature about his work on sports predictions appeared in the *Herald* in May 2011. The paper has a guest tipster each year – this was the first time a statistician had been invited.

David was keen to make the point that a statistical approach can be as effective as expert judgement.

His method ranks teams on performances and margins, taking particular account of most recent results. He subtracts the away-team ranking from the home team ranking, adds in a home-ground factor ... and that's it. "It's not rocket science," he says, "just statistics."

#### AGMARDT – Visiting Fellowships

These provide funding for visits to New Zealand by people who have recognised global expertise in selected areas of relevance to New Zealand's agricultural, horticultural and forestry sectors. Visitors are expected to become involved in activity in an aspect of research, communication or commercialisation of research, business development, policy or marketing in the NZ agribusiness chain. There is no deadline – this fund is always open for applications. Contact Jonathan Lane, MBIE/TEC Fund Specialist, j.lane@auckland.ac.nz, ext 84279. For more information see www.agmardt.org.nz

#### Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)

The International Science Relationships Fund provides for cooperative research projects with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

This is funding to leverage international research, science and technology relationships through increased participation by New Zealand in the global science arena. It supports cooperation in various fields of science such as social, natural, physical, health and medical sciences. Proposals must be aligned to one of the following areas: manufacturing and services, environment, energy and minerals, hazards and projects may range from basic to targeted research. Short-term projects lasting up to two years will be funded up to NZ\$30,000 per year. The opportunity will be highly competitive - there were only two projects funded across NZ in 2012. The University deadline is Wednesday 5 September 2012. Specialist, j.lane@auckland.ac.nz, ext 84279.

#### Neurological Foundation – Postdoctoral Fellowships

These give two years' funding for the support of outstanding recent PhD graduates who propose to conduct research in scientific fields of relevance to the Neurological Foundation. Research work can be undertaken at either New Zealand or overseas universities or hospitals. The aim of the fund is to assist researchers at the end of their fellowship to become established as independent researchers in New Zealand. The University deadline is Monday 24 September. Contact Lorraine Scott, Senior Research Administrator, lo.scott@auckland.ac.nz, ext 88652. For more information see www.neurological.org.nz

## From the collection



Elam-trained, but resident in London since 1972, Alexis Hunter remains as committed to New Zealand as she is to her feminist principles.

For over 40 years she has used her art to deliver a political message, from the time of her art school years in the late 1960s, when she painted realist images of men intended to critique the objectification of women by male artists.

By 1980, she had staged six solo exhibitions in Britain, including "Architecture of the Dispossessed" at the Architectural Association in London, "Feminist Perceptions" at the Women's Arts Alliance in London, and begun her photo-narrative series with "Approaches to Fear" at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London.

It was as a British rather than a New Zealand

artist that she was selected to exhibit at the 4th Sydney Biennale in 1982 and her images are a staple in many English and American feminist art anthologies, including Lucy Lippard's *Get the message? A Decade of Art for Social Change* in 1985, Hilary Robinson's Visibly Female, and Griselda Pollock and Rozsika Parker's *Framing Feminism: Art and the Women's Movement* 1970-1986. At the end of the 1980s, the Auckland Art Gallery accorded her a survey exhibition, *Fears/Dreams/ Desires* and she was chosen as one of six New Zealand women artists achieving

international success to be celebrated in the 1991 film *Pleasures and Dangers*, with its accompanying book.

As feminist art has sunk deeper into the realms of unfashionability in the last 20 years, Alexis Hunter's practice has suffered a concomitant eclipse, though perhaps not irretrievably so, since Carolyn Christov-Barkagiev has just recuperated Emily Carr and Margaret Preston from Canadian and Australian modernist obscurity to share a room at the heart of the Neuegalerie in Kassel for dOCUMENTA 13.

A Goddess of Justice continues the imagery of Alexis Hunter's painting in the eighties, where powerful female figures are depicted with phallic enhancements. In this case, the female figure is bracketed by a pair of spotted snakes which uncoil from a joint genital stem. Their sinuous

bodies are gripped half way along their length, and their gaping mouths reveal pink forked tongues. Hunter has borrowed the pose and the appendages from a faience snake goddess dating back to 1600 BCE which, was uncovered from a Minoan archaeological site in 1903. Her adaptations and amalgamations from fine art and popular culture indicate a freewheeling hybridism in the creation of an image of female power. Rather than being blind as the Roman Justice is usually depicted, Hunter envisions her goddess as Themis the ancient Greek Titaness by way of Medusa and Lynda Carter's Wonder Woman. Her Catwoman-like head sports an extra pair of eyes to assist with the rooting out of evil doers.

Cowering in the background, with his limp tail firmly between his legs, is a worried-looking creature who is no match for this late-twentieth century Goddess of Justice. His body is a sickly green and shapeless compared to her athletic physique, as if he is diminished merely by her presence. Perhaps he is the personification of inequality, a formerly powerful ogre that has been put in his place, and is shrinking into the background. Presiding over the proper relations between man and woman, Hunter's Goddess is poised to restore justice for all.

Alexis Hunter, A Goddess of Justice, 1996, tempera on paper, 548 x 703mm

## Books

#### A trilogy of books



Since independence, Malaysia's economic growth has been fuelled by its oil and gas reserves. As these resources deplete and their territorial ownership is contested, future economic growth is uncertain.

Dr Hugh Byrd, a senior lecturer in Sustainable Design at The University of Auckland, has



written three books over the last four years, putting forward a view of how this industrialised society may have to adapt in order to survive.

Hugh was previously a professor at the School of Housing Building and Planning at the University of Sains Malaysia. Now working in the School of Architecture and Planning at the



Towards a Sustainable Built Environment in Malaysia

University of Auckland, he continues research collaboration with Malaysian Universities.

Hugh's trilogy of books, and his research, were the subject of a seminar hosted by the New Zealand Asia Institite on 8 August, entitled "From Kampung to city and back again".

## What's on

#### THURSDAY 16 AUGUST

#### Jazz performance workshop

Dr Simon Barker, drums. Leading Australian jazz musician and educator, Dr Simon Barker, will present a concertstyle workshop on jazz performance. 11am-1pm Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre, 74 Shortland St. Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

#### Public lecture

Mike Rann, Former South Australia Premier, Visiting Senior Research Fellow: *Reinvigorating our cities.* 6pm Lecture Theatre B10.

#### FRIDAY 17 AUGUST

#### Spark \$100k Challenge Qualifiers Ceremony

5.45-8pm OGGB4, Owen G Glenn Building, 12 Grafton Rd. During the night the top 10-15 ventures will be announced, each receiving a mentoring and workshop development package valued at approximately \$5,000 and the opportunity to compete

for the grand prize pool valued at over \$35.000. Oueries to

challenges@spark-challenge.com

#### SATURDAY 18 AUGUST

#### Gallery talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Roger Horrocks, the founding head of the Department of Film, Television and Media Studies (FTVMS) at The University of Auckland, has known Vincent's work for more than 30 years. His talk will explore not only the exhibition but also the art of moving images in general. Visit

www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

#### SUNDAY 19 AUGUST

## The University of Auckland Strings concert

4-6pm Music Theatre, 6 Symonds St. Performances of works by Arcangelo Corelli, Alexander Borodin and Leoš Janáček. \$15/\$10. Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

#### **MONDAY 20 AUGUST**

#### **Public lecture**

Tracey Barnett, Auckland Refugee Council: *Ghost boats: NZ's wrong turn toward detention of asylum seekers.* 12-1pm Rm G07, Commerce A.

#### **TUESDAY 21 AUGUST**

#### 2012 Winter Lecture

Hazards, disasters, risks and responses: Auckland are you ready? Dr Ljubica Mamula-Seadon, Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management, and Laurie Johnson, of Laurie Johnson Consulting, San Francisco, US: Policy responses: What have we learned? 1-2pm Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St. Queries to 373 7599 ext 87698. **Bioengineering research seminar** Bryan Ruddy, PhD Graduand, Bioinstrumontation I ab. Masagabust

Bioinstrumentation Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology: *High force density linear permanent magnet motors: 'electromagnetic muscle actuators'*. 4-5pm Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

#### Theatre

*Currywurst Mit Pommes*, 7.30pm Musgrove Studio, Alfred St. Runs until 25 August. Phone bookings and enquiries (09) 308 2383.

#### WEDNESDAY 22 AUGUST

Dept of Computer Science seminar Assoc Prof Sebastian Link: Dependence, independence, logic. 12noon Rm 303S.561, City Campus.

#### Jazz performance workshop Jacam Manricks, saxophone; Des White, bass; Jochen Rueckert, drums. 1-3pm

Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre, 74 Shortland St. On tour from New York to promote the 2012 album release Cloud Nine

this highly acclaimed trio will perform an intimate concert and present a jazz performance workshop as part of their artist residency. Free. Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz **Centre for Biodiversity and** 

## Biosecurity seminar

Ross Wanless: Where have all the seabirds gone? A case study using the critically endangered Tristan albatross and Gough Island. 3.30pm Rm 234, Bldg 733, Tamaki Campus.

## Auckland Bioengineering Institute postgraduate recruitment evening

5.30-7.30pm Level 1, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St. Staff will be available to discuss the

Institute's many graduate research opportunities and provide advice on which course might best suit your career goals.

#### Inaugural lecture

By new professors at The University of Auckland.

Prof Elizabeth McKinley, Education: Equity and excellence in Māori educational research. 6pm drinks, 7pm lecture, J1 Lecture Theatre, Epsom Campus, Gate 3, 74 Epsom Ave, Epspm.

#### Fast Forward lecture

Harvey Perkins, Director, Transforming Cities and Professor of Planning, UoA: *Messiness, complexity and opportunity: recovery and rebuilding in Christchurch.* 6.30-7.30pm Engineering Lecture Theatre 439, Bldg 401, 20 Symonds St. Queries to n.guy@auckland.ac.nz

#### THURSDAY 23 AUGUST

SPSS core skills workshop 9.30am-4pm, Level 2, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant. Phone 923 7951 for more information or to enrol.

#### FRIDAY 24 AUGUST

Word tabs and tables workshop 10am-12noon Level 2, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant. Phone 923 7951 for more information or to enrol.

#### SATURDAY 25 AUGUST

#### **Courses and Careers Day**

9.30am-3.30pm City Campus. Come to our open day and find out how to make your mark on the world! Visit www.coursesandcareersday.ac.nz Gallery talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. A panel discussion on relationships between art and cinema, with Elam lecturers Alex Monteith and Gavin Hipkins, and writer Laurence Simmons (Assoc Prof, FTVMS). Visit www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

#### WEDNESDAY 29 AUGUST

#### An evening with Sir Andrew Motion, UK Poet Laureate

6.15-7.30pm School of Music Theatre. Sir Andrew Motion is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and was the UK Poet Laureate from 1999 until 2009 when he was knighted for his services to literature. In conversation with the University's Emily Perkins, Andrew will bring his work to life.

#### \$20 /\$15. To book phone 09 306 7048. Fast Forward lecture

Elizabeth Aitken-Rose, Chair of the Frank Sargeson Trust: *Why aren't the books enough? NZ's literary house museums.* 6.30-7.30pm Engineering Lecture Theatre 439, Bldg 401, 20 Symonds St. Queries to n.guy@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 David Feng (09) 303 0601 or Lauren Valcarcel (021) 103 4865 at City Sales or rentals@citysales. co.nz or log on to www.citysales.co.nz/ rentals

#### ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

**Bach on Kawau Island:** Older NZ couple visiting from 16 Dec-10 Jan seek basic reasonably-priced bach for few days to fulfill 'bucketlist' and revisit youth. Email

m.playfair@auckland.ac.nz Family of two adults, 12-year old daughter, small dog (Cavoodle, nonshedding coat) looking to housesit 18 August-28 Sept (flexibility with dates). Anything considered especially proximity to either Auckland Museum, St Mary's or UoA City Campus. References available. Please contact Andrea or Chris on (027) 672 2568 or (09) 845 2223, andrea\_chris@xtra.co.nz **Looking for a housesitter over** 

summer? Retired UK couple visiting their grandchildren in Auckland are looking for housesit/s over late November-January. Houseproud, reliable, honest and mature; contact mosels20@btinternet.com

#### MISCELLANEOUS

**City Legal Services.** Rainey Collins Wright is a small law firm centrally located at L1 Princes Court, 2 Princes Street. We are near the University, with good parking. We can assist with property transactions, trusts, wills, administration of estates, enduring powers of attorney and relationship property matters. Please phone our senior solicitor Nichola Christie on 379 5828 to discuss your needs, or email nchristie@rainey.co.nz Visit www.rainey.co.nz

#### Concert of organ and choral music

Musica Sacra presents John Scott, one of the world's greatest organists, ex- St Paul's Cathedral, London, in concert, Auckland Town Hall, Wednesday 22 August, 8pm. Programme shared with Musica Sacra Choir, APO brass and percussion. Conducted by Indra Hughes. Tickets available now from \$35, phone 357 3355. Email Margo,

m.knightbridge@auckland.ac.nz Hair salon at Grafton. Kookachoo Hair Salon in Park Rd. Hot winter warmers - cut, blow-wave and treatment only \$65. Colour (retouch tint), cut and blow-wave only \$120. 1/2 head foils, cut and blow-wave only \$165. All hot winter warmer offers not valid with any other offer or promotion. Kookachoo hair salon is at 65 Grafton Rd. Book online now at

www.kookachoo.co.nz or email groovyhair@kookachoo.co.nz or phone 09 379 4731.

#### Telling tales transcription services:

Transcribing your digital audio files into any format. Interviews, lectures, your stories, family history. Writing, typing, editing and proofreading services. \$30 per hour. Phone or text (021) 234 6309 or (09) 945 0700 or email julia@tellingtales.co.nz

**Travel.** I have 12 years experience in booking all aspects of personal travel for university staff and lecturers. I pride myself in ensuring that your travel plans are sourced at the lowest possible costs and are tailor-made to your requirements. Contact Karen on

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

# AN EXPLOSIVE MIX

## International trade and the natural environment are notoriously at odds with each other.

It does not always have to be that way, but - and this is a big "but" - both areas are guided by legal regimes dictated by neoliberal economics, the overarching paradigm of the last 30 years. This paradigm works in favour of trade and disadvantages the environment. The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA) is a "free trade" agreement currently under negotiation between New Zealand and ten other countries including the US. The US will be the big winner, because no other country plays the game better than the homeland of neoliberal economics (with apology to Margaret Thatcher and Roger Douglas).

Here is how it works.

The World Trade Organisation (WTO), the world's most powerful body, effectively runs current global governance. Its foundational "General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade" aims for "free" trade, but that counts for corporations only. The kind of freedom involved here is the freedom of free foxes in a free henhouse. For the weak members - local communities, the labour force, the natural environment - the WTO regime is in reality a "forced trade" regime. The strong members - multinational corporations determine what national rules and standards may be acceptable. Effective protection of the environment is impossible in this regime; in fact, neoliberal logic defines competiveness as keeping social and environmental costs as low as possible. The US with its big companies,

national subsidies and low protection standards had the advantage from day one of so-called free trade regimes.

The TPPA will only increase the international "race to the bottom". It has all the ingredients of existing free trade arrangements, but takes significant further steps to undermine the right of the State to regulate. Under the banner of foreign investor protection the TPPA's definition of "covered investments" extends far beyond traditional real property to include speculative financial instruments, government permits, intellectual property and market share, no matter how beneficial or detrimental to the domestic economy and environment they may be. Under the current text foreign companies could sue the New Zealand Government for any environmental regulations (eg, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, mine safety or banning of fracking) deemed to be detrimental to their investments.

Despite all assurances of the current Government to protect certain bottom lines, it is unclear how this could be achieved given the enormous pressures that its negotiators are under to secure New Zealand's share of the cake. It is inconceivable, for example, that the US would accept additional safeguards under the 1991 Resource Management Act (RMA) with its focus on sustainability. The RMA has not been administered very well and did little for more sustainable development in New Zealand, but the TPPA would prevent future governments from even trying. The fundamental conflict between foreign investments and domestic concerns for sustainability can barely be disguised, no matter how often the Government repeats platitudes like "maximising our opportunities while safeguarding the environment".

Think, for example, of the Canadian company TAG Oil and the Canadian-US Apache Corporation, both undertaking oil exploration (potentially involving fracking) in various parts of New Zealand. The Government freely grants exploration rights to foreign companies irrespective of legislation or public opinion. With Canada now joining the negotiations, the TPPA could make it impossible to stop exploration and fracking or to reverse the sale of 30,000 acres of farmland in Taranaki, given the considerable investments of Tag Oil and Apache Corp.

All this means that New Zealand is about to lock itself into supranational governance structures that we have no control over. The essence of sovereignty, ie, the ability to govern, is at stake now. What's more, the investment chapter – along with the secrets surrounding the text – goes to the heart of democracy and sustainability. Neoliberal economics erode democracy and sustainability remains an illusion when corporate interests take over as they do under the TPPA. Who actually is in charge in our country?

Professor Klaus Bosselmann (Law) is Director of the New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law, and chairs the Ethics Specialist Group of the IUCN (The World Conservation Union) Commission on Environmental Law.