



THEOLOGY CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

The School of Theology celebrated its tenth year at the University by holding a two-day symposium on 2-3 September exploring "Theology in the city: a focus on Auckland".

"The symposium, held at the Fale Pasifika, was an ideal opportunity for participants to celebrate how the school has progressed over the past decade, but it was also a wonderful chance for us to consider what lies ahead bearing in mind the vast diversity that exists in a dynamic city like Auckland," says the founding and present head of the school, Professor Elaine Wainwright (pictured).

Speakers and sessions over the two-day symposium, attended by as many as 150, included business journalist Rod Oram, who discussed "City of God: dangerous delusion or urban imperative?" and art historian Mary Kisler who looked at the history of religious art in Florence during her talk on "Engaging sacred art in cities". Mayor Len Brown took part in a roundtable discussion titled "Doing theology in Auckland: challenges and possibilities", with

panelists, Associate Professor Manuka Henare, Dr Nicholas Thompson, Reverend Feiloigo Taule "ale" ausumai and Ms Jo Ayers.

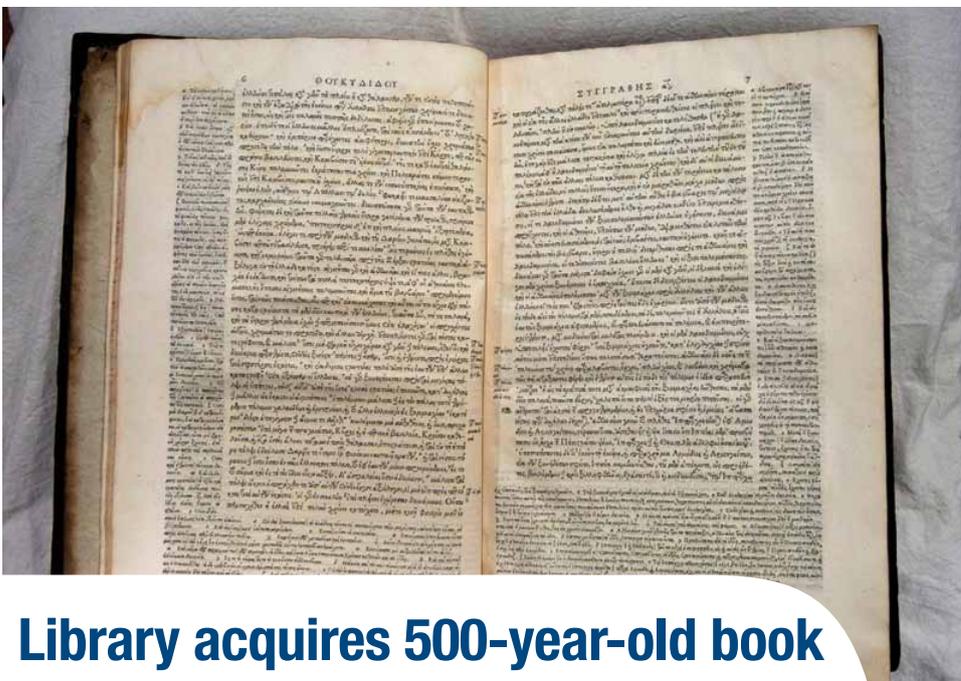
Other symposium topics included "The changing face of religion and theology in Auckland", "Celebrating Māori and Pacific theology", and "Cityscape as/and theology: a conversation".

"The study of theology in universities has a long history," says Elaine. "It has come to The University of Auckland late in the day. The past 10 years, however, have enabled us to establish the school within the structure of the University – first as a stand-alone school enabling it to get established, and then in 2010 as a school within the Faculty of Arts. The celebration of 10 years points us toward the challenges of the future from a firm base.

"The symposium also raised some questions we'd already started to think about. For example we do public theology now but the challenge is how to extend that in the face of the tension

between the received tradition and contemporary challenges. We need to weigh up how we weight those. We also need to look at what type of theology we do in a major multi-religious city like Auckland. I think we will continue these sorts of discussions over the next two years."

The School of Theology explores beliefs and practices that have developed within Christianity from its beginnings until today giving special attention to theology in the context of New Zealand, the Pacific and Asia. It is an active member of the Global Network of Public Theology, and works collaboratively with other international organisations.



Library acquires 500-year-old book

A rare and valuable book printed in 1564 by the renowned scholar-printer Henri Estienne (known as Stephanus) has been donated to the University General Library's Special Collections.

The volume is the 1564 edition of the eight books of the *Histories of the Peloponnesian War* by the Athenian Thucydides. It is among the oldest books in the Library and was donated by the Newhook family which has several alumni among its members, some of who belong to the Classical Association which fosters interest in Ancient Greece and Rome in the local community.

"It's not every day we get a book like this at the Library," says Stephen Innes, Manager of

Special Collections. "We have about 15 books dating back to the 16th century and one earlier which is remarkable considering printing only began in 1450."

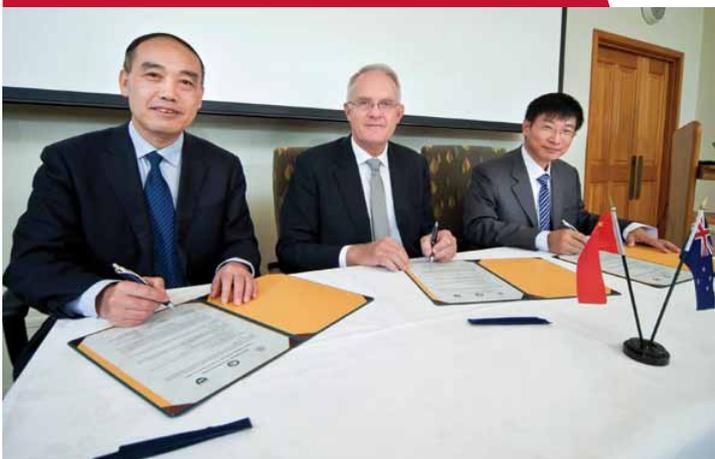
The ancient tome's journey to the University began when alumna Marjory Newhook (née Anderson BA 1941, MA 1942) was in London in the post-war years. On the day before she left London in November 1948, she went looking for the translation of *Pliny's Letter* by the Reverend Melmoth, which she found in a small, downstairs bookshop in Whitehall, near Westminster. She was offered the *Thucydides* by the shop owner as an extra, and bought it for two guineas. The book was not in pristine condition after four hundred years, but it was brought to New

Zealand, where it has since been lovingly restored by the Newhook family.

Markings on the title page shed some light on two possible previous owners of the book. Initial research by Special Collections suggests the monogram stamp and "1695" date can be attributed to Narcissus Luttrell (1657-1732), a Member of the House of Commons, parliamentary diarist and book collector. More research is required, however, into the inscription at the foot of the page, which reads "Godefridus Montens [or Monteus] B".

The French Calvinist Henri Estienne (1528-98) was one of the most distinguished scholar-printers in the history of printing. There is a description of the contents of his 1564 edition of Thucydides, and the later edition of 1588, in *Catalogus translationum et commentariorum: Mediaeval and Renaissance Latin translations and commentaries*, Volume 8 (2003) pp. 144-52, which is available online in the General Library. The contents begin with his dedication to the German scholar Joachim Camerarius (1500-1574) and his address to the readers, both in Latin (Stephanus emphasises the amount of sweat that has gone into the work: *maximis meis sudoribus*). This is followed by the ancient testimonia on Thucydides and his Greek text, with the comments of the ancient scholiasts in the margins. The final item is Stephanus's corrected version of the significant earlier Latin translation of Thucydides by the Italian humanist Lorenzo Valla (1407-1457). Stephanus proves his advances in a discussion of Thucydides 8.96.5, where he compares Valla's interpretation with the French version by Claude de Seyssel, then gives his own in Latin.

Partnership reaffirmed



Three brothers were reunited at the University on 9 August, with the visit of a delegation of senior staff from Tsinghua and Qinghai Universities in China.

The central purpose of this visit was to renew the Three Brothers partnership agreement between The University of Auckland and the two

Chinese universities for a further five years.

The trilateral agreement, originally formalised in 2007, forms a highly-valued part of the University's engagement with China, and has attracted significant attention and funding from the New Zealand and Chinese governments.

Though the focal event of the visit was the signing of the agreement by Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon, Professor Yuan Si, Vice President of Tsinghua University (pictured left) and Professor Liang Xidong, President of Qinghai University (far right), a series of fruitful meetings were also held with programmes for both visiting institutions.

These included discussions on best practice in University administration and opportunities for collaborations in teaching and research.

"All were delighted with the visit, and the enthusiasm of the members of both visiting delegations was obvious," says Dr Matthew O'Meagher, Senior Adviser, International Relations in the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Engagement).

"The trilateral relationship is in great shape as it enters its new phase. It remains a distinguishing feature of the University's strategic engagement with China and its wider international relations."

The Vice-Chancellor will visit Beijing in October, where he will further strengthen the relationship with Tsinghua University.

Making the national grid smarter



The Faculty of Engineering's Power Systems Group is part of a national research team that is tasked with making the national grid smarter.

The research project, which is being led by the University of Canterbury and also involves Otago University's Centre for Sustainability, will deal with issues fundamental to the future of New Zealand's electricity supply.

The government has given the research team a grant of \$6.3 million over six years for the project. Contributing to the research will be companies such as Transpower, Orion, Unison, Vector, Mercury Energy and Mighty River Power, the Electricity Authority, the Electricity Engineers Association, and Fisher & Paykel Appliances.

Dr Nirmal Nair (pictured), from the Department of Electrical and Computer

Engineering, says the research project will use modelling of future trends in renewable electricity generation and household demand, together with indepth knowledge of electricity networks and power management, to ensure New Zealanders have access to reliable, safe, and affordable renewable energy.

"New Zealand's electricity network is fundamental to our daily activities and to our income generation. The reliability and quality of power supply, the safety of the electricity network, and the cost of power (as driven by peak demand) all need to be managed in balance with the different types and requirements of electricity generation and demand."

The University's Power Systems Group will look at which economic and technical models can be used to evaluate the potential impact of renewable energy feeding into the distribution of New Zealand's electricity networks. The group will also consider if there are opportunities for new pricing structures, Demand Side Integration products and new services for transmission operators and what mechanisms can be used to investigate the performance of low voltage networks.

Dr Nair says the project will also investigate solar renewable generation and the highly technical aspects of feeding it into the distribution network, where it may completely change the direction that power flows.

New Zealand is targeting 90 percent of electricity generation to be from renewable sources by 2025, providing this can ensure a secure supply of electricity.

From the Vice-Chancellor



The "Building Innovation" report released recently by Minister Steven Joyce, signals the Government's intention to "Strengthen the governance of universities to ensure a stronger economic contribution to New Zealand".

It states that "Changes to governance settings are being considered in order to help universities to become more agile institutions able to respond better to economic fluctuations, population shifts, changes in demand and performance, students' and employers' needs in different regions, and unexpected crises, such as the recent economic downturn and the Canterbury earthquakes". This announcement reflects the Minister's view, expressed in a number of settings, that the New Zealand universities are performing at a level below expectation, and that this can be attributed (at least in part) to failure of governance – in particular, councils that are too large.

In fact, New Zealand universities are performing very strongly, with the highest rankings relative to income of any system in the world. We have responded with a high degree of agility to changes in demand – so much so that we have accommodated near exponential growth in student numbers over just three decades. For example, it took our University 100 years to reach 13,000 students but just another 20 years to accommodate three times that number! New Zealand universities already have the fifth highest proportion of international students in the OECD. And, as a study by the University Commercialisation Offices of NZ shows, our ratio of contract research/total research income is higher than that of any US university, and our patent productivity (patents per dollar spent on research) third only to that of MIT and Stanford.

Finally, there is little evidence that Council size is negatively correlated with institutional performance. Most of the leading universities around the world have governing bodies at least as large as or larger than ours (Harvard Board of Overseers, 32; Stanford Board of Trustees, 30; Cambridge Council, 20; Australian National University Council, 15).

The autonomy of universities is a critical feature of democratic societies and of highly ranked university systems. We must all be careful to preserve and enhance that autonomy as indeed we – and the Minister – are required to do by the Education Act.

Understanding NCEA



Since it was introduced in 2002, the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) has become New Zealand's main qualification system for secondary school students. But for many people – students, parents, whanau and teachers alike – understanding the

complexities of NCEA remains a major challenge.

So, what can we do to understand NCEA and, most importantly, to help our children benefit from this qualification system?

Professor Liz McKinley, Starpath Project Director, (pictured centre with two former pupils from Massey High School) will discuss what parents can do to

better understand NCEA and how NCEA can work best for our children.

Thursday 20th September

Decima Glenn Room 310

Owen G Glenn building 1-3pm.

RSVP to eo.admin@auckland.ac.nz



Obituary

Bill Williams

20 July 1947 - 26 August 2012

The University lost one of its staunchest supporters and most loyal staff members with the death of Bill Williams on 26 August 2012. Unfortunately he died too early to enjoy his planned retirement.

A proud descendant of the first Williams missionaries in New Zealand, Bill grew up on a farm at Takapau, in Central Hawkes Bay, attended Hereworth School in Havelock North followed by Christ's College in Christchurch. The family tradition of farming was not to be Bill's calling. After leaving school, and with strong family support, he studied Law at Victoria University and on graduating returned to Christchurch to complete a Graduate Diploma in Journalism at the University of Canterbury.

Bill's journalism career spanned the *Auckland Star*, the *Johannesburg Star* in South Africa, and the *South Wales Echo* in Wales. This experience as a journalist was to stand him in good stead when he joined the University. Not only did he have a number of journalist friends who were to prove handy when needed, he also knew how the mind of a journalist worked and more importantly how the media worked.

Prior to joining the University as the Information Officer and Public Affairs Officer in November 1987, Bill was the Assistant Secretary and Publication Editor of the Auckland District Law Society and as a member of the legal fraternity commented to me, the Society's loss was the University's gain. The unique qualifications of law, journalism, together with working experience in the media and Law Society were to prove invaluable.

In his nearly 25 years at the University, Bill sat through innumerable Senate and Council

meetings, he would arrive with his agenda and reporter's note book and proceed to record the important items in shorthand so the University community could be informed of the decisions through the *University News*. In his early years when reporters regularly attended Council and were much more interested generally in University affairs, Bill was the direct liaison person who answered their queries and at times successfully put them off the scent. If, however, he thought the University needed to front he was persuasive in ensuring that the University point of view was made known, often in the clear and precise prose that was his trademark. The many hundreds of press releases he scripted and released are a tribute to his skills.

Often after a late Council meeting, I would drive Bill home to Balmain Road in Birkenhead. On the way we would, for a short time, dissect the meeting but more interestingly I became aware of Bill's great love of rugby and cricket. His knowledge was immense and his perception of what was right and wrong with both codes made for a lively discussion, sometimes the discussion continued in his or my office the next day.

Bill was always there, whether it be at public lectures, Graduation, official occasions and visits, winter lectures, Robb lectures, open days or Courses and Careers days. In ensuring that such events gained as much publicity as possible Bill always looked for an angle that would entice the press to give positive coverage. In Bill's world he was successful if the front page of the *NZ Herald* carried positive news about the University.

The *University News* and other University publications frequently included articles from Bill's pen, often accompanied by a photograph from his erstwhile University photographer colleague, Godfrey Boehnke. The pair made a

formidable and "dangerous team".

As Registrar and Bill's manager for many years, I was in almost daily contact with him. I valued his editing skills, his concern for the University, his perceptual ability to question the reasoning behind some governance or management decisions so that he could truly present the facts without ever breaching confidentiality. He did not always agree with decisions made within the University, (who does?), but he always represented the University position. I had the fortune to be able to totally rely on his integrity.

His musings on University happenings and on University staff would have made for interesting reading. Unfortunately or fortunately, he did not have time to write such a script.

The changes in the University structures over the past 14 years meant changes of job descriptions and titles for Bill. It brought him for a period a new manager, his former school master at Christ's College John Taylor, by then the Director of External Relations and Development. More recently in addition to his other duties he became the Communications Adviser to the Law School where I am sure his plain English writing style was welcomed.

Words to describe Bill are not hard to find, they include: humble, intelligent, warm, reliable, witty, thoughtful, collegial, loyal, an encyclopedia, caring and diplomatic.

Above all he was a man where common sense was top of the list of his attributes.

It was an absolute pleasure to work with Bill; he would often comment to me that his job at the University was the best job he had ever had.

He was immensely proud of his family, and was delighted to have recently become a grandfather, an event that lifted his spirits. To Jill, his wife, children: Frances, Clare and Ben, son-in-law Brent, and grandson Tyler, we remember Bill with great affection and share with you a great loss.

Warwick Nicoll, University of Auckland
Registrar 1980 – April 2004

Caption: Bill (far right) on the job at Canterbury University's Auckland-based Graduation last year. Far left: Grant Wills, University Executive Officer and centre: Jeff Field, Registrar at Canterbury.

Awards

Professional Staff Development Awards

Applications and nominations for the biannual Professional Staff Development Awards will open on Friday 14 September and close on Friday 12 October at 5pm.

These awards provide an avenue for professional staff (either individuals or teams) to make an identifiable contribution to the University in the fields of administration, management, technical or professional services by furthering their professional development.

Awards are available for professional development activities such as attending or presenting at conferences, visits to other higher education institutions, staff exchanges, specialised training, coaching, mentoring, shadowing and further study.

An information session will be held on Tuesday 18 September, 3-4pm in Room 102, Level 1, Alfred Nathan House, 24 Princes St. Please register via PeopleSoft HR (course number HRPSDA).

Professional Staff Excellence Awards

Applications for the Professional Staff Excellence Awards open on Monday 10 September.

Up to ten Excellence Awards are made available to Professional Staff each year. These are awarded for overall excellence in innovation, leadership or teamwork. Other categories include specific Excellence in contribution toward one of seven listed strategic objectives. Each award carries a citation and a monetary prize.

Applications for the Professional Staff Excellence Awards close on Wednesday 31 October at 5pm.

Applications and Nominations

All applications/nominations for awards must be submitted on the official application forms. To access these forms or to find out further information visit the Staff and Organisational Development Unit (SODU) website at www.auckland.ac.nz/sodu and click on the "Awards and Fellowships" link. For general enquiries, please contact Rose Graham on r.graham@auckland.ac.nz or ext 85070.



Pictured from left to right are: Tim Conder (finalist); James Ruddell (finalist); Frances Everard; Jack Oliver-Hood (winner); Madeline Everard; Hon Justice Helen Winkelmann (presiding Judge); David Campbell (partner - Kensington Swan); Peter Bevan (finalist); Andrew Stockeley (Dean - Auckland University Faculty of Law)"

Mooting

The 10th Greg Everard Memorial Mooting Competition has been won by talented fifth year law student, Jack Oliver-Hood.

Held at the Auckland High Court on the evening of the 22 August, the moot was fittingly presided over by Chief High Court Judge, Justice Helen Winkelmann, who previously worked for

the late Greg Everard early in her legal career.

The contestants were faced with a problem concerning the liability of the vendor of an IT company for breach of the Fair Trading Act by failing to disclose a report relating to the viability of its business.

Library guardian

Professor of History Raewyn Dalziel has been reappointed as one of three Guardians Kaitiaki of the Alexander Turnbull Library.

The Guardians, appointed by Internal Affairs Minister Chris Tremain, are a statutory body appointed to provide assurance to 'the people of New Zealand' that the collections of the Turnbull are held in perpetuity, that they are appropriately housed, preserved, protected and developed and that the services of the Library are maintained as required for a research library.

"We advise the Minister on all matters to do with the Library," says Raewyn.

"We are required by the National Library of New Zealand Act to meet four times a year but it has been more often in the last three years because of the work associated with the refurbishment of the National Library, of which the Alexander Turnbull Library is a part, and the merger of the National Library and the Archives New Zealand with the Department of Internal Affairs."

Genesis Oncology Trust – Fellowships and Scholarships. Murray Jackson Clinical Fellowship (Medical) - awarded to a medical graduate committed to a clinical career with a major involvement in cancer medicine. Clinical Fellowship for Cancer Nurses - awarded to a nurse who is committed to a clinical career with a major involvement in cancer treatment or care of those affected by cancer. John Gavin Postdoctoral Fellowship - for the support of outstanding graduates who have recently completed a degree at doctoral level and who propose to conduct research in scientific fields of relevance to cancer control. Personal support for two years of research, usually to widen a recipient's experience in a different institution. Postgraduate Scholarships - personal support for graduate students whose proposed programme of advanced study or research for a higher degree (for example PhD or MD) is in a field related to cancer. Information and application forms can be found at www.genesisoncology.org.nz. Research Office deadline 28 September 2012, contact Julia Zhu julia.zhu@auckland.ac.nz, ext 83986.

Oakley Mental Health Research Foundation – Project Grants (Round 2). Funding for research and investigation into social and scientific trends in psychiatry; to study existing and planned mental health delivery programmes; to subsidise publication and dissemination of findings, and to attend professional meetings. Part funding and co-sponsorship of projects with other funding bodies will be viewed favourably. Information and application forms can be found at www.oakleymentalhealth.co.nz. Research Office deadline 3 October 2012, contact Julia Zhu julia.zhu@auckland.ac.nz, ext 83986.

Auckland Medical Research Foundation – Travel Grants (Round 3). Support for medical researchers to present research at a meeting or conference. Funding may also provide support for a training course on research methods and/or for visiting a laboratory to learn a new research technique. For travel after 1 December 2012. Information and application forms can be found at www.medicalresearch.co.nz. Research Office deadline 10 October 2012, contact Jing Liu jing.liu@auckland.ac.nz ext 89860.



Challenged by Art Collection curator Michael Dunn to make his best work for the Engineering atrium in 2002, Elam-graduate Paul Hartigan surpassed his earlier, multi-coloured forays into neon. Named the best public sculpture in Auckland in 2006, *Colony* has its origin in the artist's memory of drifting in a long boat beneath the vaulted ceiling of glowworm lights on a childhood visit to Waitomo Caves. Despite the quotidian nature of the commission, Paul's sculpture still impresses with its energy and impact, the hectic squiggles of persimmon-coloured light miraculously produced by bent glass tubes mired in cement.

Sitting well below footpath level, the bald concrete hatbox of the lecture theatre wall was an unpromising canvas. Rather than decorate it with an image, Paul thought he could sculpt with light to offset the monumentalism. Interacting with the architecture, his coloured lines suggest a symbiotic relationship with a host, and appear to be growing on the trunk of the hall like lichen on the bark of a tree.

Like any artist, Paul took into account the different heights and speeds with which the work

would be viewed. From outside the building the neon had to shout out its appeal to pedestrians, motorists and bus riders who sped by, glimpsing it through the greenish glass façade onto Symonds Street. At more intimate distances, it had to murmur quietly to those who milled around it for classes and functions, while also looking down benignly on those assembled for speeches like an altarpiece in a church.

Neon signs have been grabbing attention ever since French engineer Georges Claude lit his first lamp in Paris in 1910. Named after the Greek neos ("new gas"), the noble gas neon is naturally red, but by introducing other elements from the periodic table such as mercury (to produce blue) or helium (gold), it can be tinted to produce up to 150 colours. Shaping a neon requires bending hollow glass tubes with a blow torch and then shaping them into pieces while still hot. Once pressure-filled with neon and attached to a starter, the tubes can be made to fluoresce by an electrical discharge which ionizes the gas in the tube. Fully organic, neon is also a very social and urban material – a neon motel sign hailing motorists in the countryside is anachronistic, and often described as being lonely.

Paul uses neon here to address location. He wanted to create a fluid work befitting a place of transition – people would always be moving through, inside and out – but also use shapes that suggest transgression. Fascinated by the tussle between anonymity and fame that is incumbent in the aerosol and marker pen tags of street graffiti, Paul wanted to invoke the way tagging's abstract lines hover on the periphery of recognition, mute but still communicating.

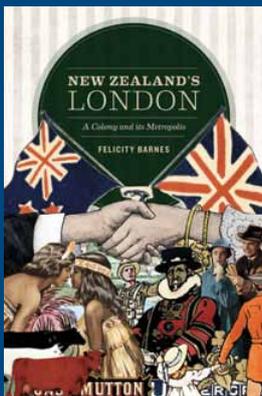
To develop his language of light, Paul took the architect's elevation and redrew it on his computer. In desperation when he couldn't get started, he shut his eyes, and proceeded to draw blind. From the left hand side, three fifths over and three fifths down, there is an entry point to the work where there is a close cluster. This inspired the title of the work: like-minded members occupying the same territory – a colony, like New Zealand once was. From this start or punctum (it acts like an impact point, a bullet hole through glass) squiggles move out and appear to reposition themselves on the architectural form. Those involved with creative practice will tell you that drawing involves close hand to eye coordination. Shutting his eyes broke with this control, allowing the lines to float away. After coming up with his graphic design, Paul opted to reproduce it in pure neon for its stability and longevity. Glowing persimmon red, *Colony* serves to lively up the grey wall and complements the green glazing of the atrium.

Claude's first neon signs were dubbed "liquid fire" as they caused passersby to stop and stare mesmerically as if watching flames. A century later Hartigan shows how neon can still be used to set a wall alight, and create a head-turning art work.

Linda Tyler

Paul Hartigan, Colony 2004, neon sculpture

Books



Antipodean soldiers and writers, meat carcasses and moa, British films and Kiwi tourists: over the last 150 years, people, objects and ideas have gone back and forth between New Zealand and London, defining and redefining the relationship between this country and the colonial centre that many New Zealanders called "Home".

In *New Zealand's London*, historian Dr Felicity Barnes explores the relationship between a colony and its metropolis from Wakefield to the Wombles. How did New Zealanders define

themselves in relation to the centre of British culture? How did they view London when they walked through King's Cross or saw the city in movies? And how did they sell New Zealand to London in butcher's shops and tourist offices? By focusing on particular themes – from agricultural marketing to expatriate writers – Felicity develops a larger story about the construction of colonial and national identities.

New Zealand's London is already being hailed as a landmark work of historical writing on the development of New Zealand culture.

What's on

THURSDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

Film, Television and Media Studies seminar

Jo Smith: *Covering parade: Translating things Māori*. 4.15pm Pat Hanon Rm 501, Arts 2.

Theatre

The Gift. 8pm, Maidment Theatre. By Joanna Murray-Smith. Presented by Auckland Theatre Company. Runs until 6 October. Directed by Colin McColl. Phone 308 2383.

FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

WebQuests for inquiry-based learning workshop

10am-12noon 2nd Floor, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant. Visit www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops and click on IT training.

School of Music lunchtime concert

By piano, brass and woodwind students. 1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St.

A series of concerts showcasing School of Music students in both individual and ensemble settings. Free.

Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Dr Alys Longley, lecturer in Dance Studies, discusses her research into experimental documentation and writing in relation to performance. Visit www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

School of Music piano class

Debussy extravaganza. 1-4.30pm Music Theatre, 6 Symonds St.

School of Music students will present a selection of works by Claude Debussy to celebrate his anniversary year. Audience are welcome to attend at any stage during the event. Free.

Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER

Future research leaders programme

Research strategy and planning module - all morning. Short St, entrance level. Registration to frlp@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

Bioengineering PhD exit seminar

David Russell, ABl: *Measuring from the inside: chronic in vivo monitoring of physiological signals*. 4-5pm Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

FTVMS/Asian Studies seminar

Assoc Prof Laurence Simmons: *Nodes or noodles: Cross-cultural misunderstanding in Zhang Yimou's remake of Blood Simple*. 4-6pm Pat Hanan Rm 501, Arts 2.

Inaugural lecture

By new professors at The University of Auckland. Professor James Bade, European Languages and Literatures: *'The Magic Lake': Fontane's last novel The Stechlin*

(1899) and its message for the twentieth century and beyond. 6pm Lecture Theatre B10, General Library.

WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

Plantation Day: Discover your roots

The Auckland University Pacific Island Association will be sharing their flair with the rest of the University.

Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/adventure

Word styles and thesis formatting workshop

9am-12noon 2nd Floor, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant Visit www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops and click on IT training.

Applied Language Studies and Linguistics seminar

Rod Ellis, UoA: *Theoretical pluralism in SLA: Is there a way forward?* 12noon DALS Meeting Rm, Arts 1.

Jazz performance workshop

1-3pm Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre, 74 Shortland St. Jamie Oehlers, Jazz Studies, Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA). School of Music staff members and notable NZ jazz musicians, Kevin Field, Olivier Holland and Ron Samsom, will join Oehlers to present a concert and workshop.

Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

Piano master class

Prof Craig Sheppard, Professor of Piano, University of Washington. 7.30-9pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free.

Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

School of European Languages and Literatures seminar

Prof Jean-Jacques Courtine: *The ghosts of Abu Ghraib: A European perspective on an American scandal*. 6pm Lecture Theatre B10, General Library.

Songwriter of the Year Grand Finale

7pm for a 7.30pm start, Raye Freedom Arts Centre, Silver Road, Epsom. Tickets \$5-\$15. Book at www.iticket.co.nz

Six talented artists will go head to head in a bid to win the title. The contenders are Stevii Hill, Emily Rice, Sam Allen, Sam Springett, Doug Robertson and Callum Lee - all students from the Popular Music Programme at the School of Music.

FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

School of Music lunchtime concert

By voice students. 1.05-1.55pm Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. A series of concerts showcasing School of Music students in both individual and ensemble settings. Free.

Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Critic Raewyn Whyte and Dance Studies lecturer Carol Brown discuss aspects of contemporary dance. Visit www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz

Through the Wonder Glass Ball

7pm Vector Arena. \$65 from AUSA House. Includes open bar, dinner and dessert.

Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/adventure

SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

School of Music flute class

Magic flutes NZ: Dragon Court. 5-7pm Music Theatre, 6 Symonds St. The versatility of the flute will be showcased by flute students in a programme of ensemble and solo performances including works by Antonio Vivaldi, Franz Joseph Haydn, Joachim Andersen and Katherine Hoover.

Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

Film, Television and Media Studies seminar

Prof Katherine Sender: *On reflection: How to live with media*. 6pm Lecture Theatre B10, General Library.

TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

Bioengineering research seminar

Dr David Krofcheck, Dept of Physics: *A Higgs in a haystack and why we should care*. 4-5pm Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST

Exhibition opening

Linearita. 5.30pm George Fraser Gallery, 25a Princes St. Runs until 29 Sept. Linearita will demonstrate how the etching process can engage with a contemporary audience in its traditional format.

Queries to l.williams@auckland.ac.nz

Visit www.georgefraser.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 CitySales.com or rentals@citysales.co.nz or log on to www.citysales.co.nz/rentals

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Couple available for housesitting or sublet. Two UoA PhD students are available to look after your home in central Auckland or surrounding suburbs from late Sept onwards. Can care for pets and plants. Reliable, n/s with references. Please contact Emma on (021) 957 923 or e.blomkamp@auckland.ac.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

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Waiheke cottage for Christmas holiday

Lovely Kereru Cottage, 10 minute walk to Palm Beach, two bdrms (twin and queen), sleeps four, very private, fully furnished, TV, Broadband, books, CD's, DVD's. Surrounded by lovely bush and view of the sea. Just made available on weekly basis from 17 Dec to 2 Feb. Priced from \$1,200 (pre-Christmas) to \$1,500 per week (Christmas-thru Jan). For photos and full description contact t.agee@auckland.ac.nz or phone ext 85832 or (027) 714 1485.

FOR SALE

Handmade diamond engagement rings and jewellery

personally designed for you by Julian Bartram. Winner of "The People's Choice Award" NZ Jewellery Competition 2011. We are continuously striving to provide a service that is superior; fine gemstones and workmanship in gold, silver, platinum, offered at affordable prices. Phone 525 3935, email workshop@julianbartram.com or visit www.julianbartram.com

Notice of tender: Elam School of Fine Arts has a 10" (250mm) sliding panel saw for tender. Made in China by SMI, model No MJ2325F, table size 650mm x 800mm, max speed 3000rpm single phase 3hp, 50hz totally enclosed fan cooled. For a pdf of the saw or further information contact Ross Collinson r.collinson@auckland.ac.nz or ext 84817. Tenders to Kim Ellis by hand in a sealed envelope at the Elam reception (building 431 level 4) or to k.ellis@auckland.ac.nz by Friday 21 September marked Tender - Panel Saw, and your name. Please note - a reserve has been set by the school for this item.

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

Law graduate or near graduate, good at company law and equity to assist on a High Court case with a barrister. Contact Roy on 0274 938990 or RKz@xtra.co.nz

Orlando Singers and Friends present their Ruby Jubilee Concert - celebrating 40 years of song! Saturday 22nd September, 2012, 7.30pm, St Lukes Church, 130 Remuera Rd. Featuring Chase Douglas, tenor soloist. Admission at door: \$30. Pre-bookings: \$25 by phoning 846 6982. For information phone 846 6982.

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.



CLOUD INTELLIGENCE HAS ARRIVED

Earlier this year, around the centenary of Alan Turing's birth, the media was full of a quirky story about a Google computer that liked watching cats on YouTube.

As ever, a catchy headline masked greater complexity. The Google computer turned out to be 16,000 computers, or processors, that had looked at ten million YouTube clips!

Yes, the Google system could recognise if a cat was in the image, but it has also learnt to recognise 20,000 other common items in the images. It did not "love cats" as some of the wilder reports speculated.

Google's system is a massive neural network which has taught itself to recognise patterns in images; so it may see a similar pattern in a set of images which, when we look at the set, we recognise as cats. Whilst not a great breakthrough on its own, this research is heralding a new era for artificial intelligence (AI).

When Alan Turing first asked in 1950 if a machine could be said to be intelligent, all the computer processing power in the world combined was less than that of a single smartphone. Now via the cloud we can access not only data but also processing power – this is revolutionising AI. Turing was the first person to write about using a computer to play chess, but it wasn't until 1997 that IBM built a computer powerful enough to defeat a Grandmaster. IBM's Deep Blue computer was specifically designed to defeat Gary Kasparov and was massively powerful, for its day. However, although it defeated Kasparov, it didn't lead to any breakthroughs in the application of AI to other problems – the hardware was just too expensive.

Last year IBM set itself another challenge: to play the best competitors of the general knowledge game show Jeopardy, and win. Jeopardy is a tricky game because the questions are often framed as riddles. So for example if the question category was "Birds," a question might be "Which kiwi claimed the tallest peak?" We might quickly know the answer is: Sir Edmund Hillary. But to come to that conclusion we have to know that a kiwi is both a bird and a New Zealander, and that Everest is the highest mountain (ie, the tallest peak) and Sir Ed was the (joint) first to climb it, and hence he might "claim" it. This sort of reasoning is very hard for computers to do. Try putting that question into Google search and you'll see you don't get any correct answers. Now try "who climbed Everest first" and you'll see Hillary and Tenzing come up. Computers can handle well-formed questions but riddles confuse them.

IBM's Jeopardy computer, named Watson after its famous former CEO, is one of the current top 50 supercomputers on the planet. It comfortably beat the two best human Jeopardy players, but unlike Deep Blue it's not destined to gather dust. Watson is now being trialled to help medical professionals manage the deluge of information they must bring to bear on their diagnoses and treatment plans.

Doctors will not buy a Watson supercomputer for their practice, instead they'll subscribe to a web-service. For a fee they'll be able to access a knowledge intensive search engine that has every single medical journal publication, every drug description and all government and health board advisory notes built in and always up to date.

Watson, perhaps rebranded as Dr Watson, will be like having an all-knowing research assistant capable of finding relationships between even the most arcane pieces of information.

Google's image processing system, IBM's Watson and other systems herald the start of almost infinite processing power being available in the cloud. This is a major breakthrough for AI, which has been hamstrung by a critical shortage of processing power for decades. Consider the GPS navigation system in your car or smartphone. Its functionality is dependent on its ability to plan a route from your current location to your destination. This task is performed by an algorithm, a computer program, called A* (pronounced "A star"), which was invented in 1968! It was only recently that manufacturers could put enough processing power in an inexpensive device to enable A* to plan your route in a reasonable time.

AI researchers have dozens of such algorithms that can now be put to use thanks to unlimited processing power in the cloud. The era of cloud intelligence has arrived and the future is near.

Associate Professor Ian Watson (Computer Science) is author of *The Universal Machine: from the dawn of computing to digital consciousness*, a popular science book about the history and future of computing.

Photo: Ian Watson with Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak. Wozniak gave a \$1000 a ticket talk at the Viaduct Events Centre in May. Ian couldn't afford a ticket but wanted to meet him so he arranged a Segway tour in Devonport for him. Woz accepted the invite and the pair went on a two hour tour in Devonport. Woz is the one on the Segway - he's a very keen rider and the Segway polo world cup is called the Woz Cup, donated by him.