



TEACHING EXCELLENCE

What a year it has been for Professor Alison Jones (Education), who received one of eight 2012 University of Auckland Teaching Excellence Awards (for Excellence in Postgraduate Research Supervision).

The wonderful book she co-authored with Kuni Jenkins - Words Between Us: First Māori-Pākehā conversations on paper - has won prizes in the Massey University 2012 Māori Book Awards, the PANZ Book Design Award and the Pearson Award for Best Educational Book for 2012. And she was a finalist in Next magazine's Woman of the Year in Education.

Alison Jones, an internationally acclaimed professor in Te Puna Wānanga, the School of Māori Education, confesses that supervising masters and doctoral research keeps her on her intellectual toes.

"Supervising postgraduate research keeps me energised and in contact with new and emerging researchers," she says. "I get leverage off my tendency to be rather forthright. I scare some students and stimulate others, and I work well

with the stimulated ones. So I have to give the credit [for the Teaching Excellence Award] to my courageous students."

One of Alison's many doctoral candidates, Marek Tesar, is on the cusp of completing his three-year research project investigating the construction of childhoods through children's literature and has recently been awarded a prestigious scholarship from the Philosophy of Education Society of Australasia. He credits his success to Alison's unrelenting and responsive supervision.

"With Alison as my supervisor, my doctoral studies are never boring," he says. "They are always full of fun and adventures, always full of surprises. Alison's advice, care and rigour are complemented by her honest, sincere, tough but very caring and responsive supervision. Without Alison, I would not have trusted myself to think that the story of my thesis was valuable to read and write, nor would I be planning to submit my thesis in the next few months, on time."

Alison particularly enjoys working with Māori research students and colleagues who, she says,

lead the way with creative and intelligent thinking about possible educational futures for New Zealand. She provides regular workshops at universities and wānanga throughout New Zealand to support postgraduate students and academics, and estimates she has provided academic support and guidance for more than 250 Māori doctoral and masters students.

As a self-confessed intellectual grasshopper, Alison is internationally acclaimed for her initiation and leadership of pioneering areas of educational research.

As the first education researcher to be awarded two prestigious Marsden grants, Alison has opened new and important areas of inquiry. Her research on anxiety about children's bodies contributed to changes in policy on touching children in New Zealand schools and her latest research focuses on good Māori and Pākehā educational relationships.

Kate Backler

Photo: Alison Jones (left) with masters student Rewa Paewai.

Architecture Awards

University buildings win awards

Three recent University of Auckland building projects were honoured by the NZ Architects Institute (NZAI) on 10 October, each earning a Local Architecture Awards, designed to recognise quality architecture at a community level.



Architectural open heart surgery

The new Boyle Building, the atrium (see below) and the newly refurbished building at Grafton Campus, designed by Jasmx Ltd (and receiving an award in the category of "Education", was described by the judges as "the architectural equivalent of open-heart surgery [with] vertical and silo-stacked teaching spaces ... unclogged to provide horizontal and transparent modern educational learning environments. A new atrium, in which a green snake of a staircase serves as a unifying physical and visual thread, creates an organisational axis for the Medical [and Health Sciences] campus. The new architecture has been successfully integrated with 1970s Brutalist buildings to revivify an important academic institution. The architects' thoroughgoing commitment to sustainable design is evident in the building's planning ..."

Campus by the sea

Designed by Cheshire Architects Ltd and also winning its award in the category of "Education", the Leigh Marine Centre (centre left) was described by the judges as "a research facility ideally suited to its place and purpose.

"Three buildings of robust, simple materials

provide study spaces and accommodation screened against the maritime climate. The architecture encourages collegiality and provides marine biologists with an inspiring working and learning environment. Surely it will also provide happy memories of days spent studying in this campus by the sea."

Light-filled haven

The School of Music building (top left) designed by Hill Manning Mitchell Architects, which won its award in the category of "Enduring Architecture", was described by the judges as a "courtyard building which, in lieu of a local tradition of cloistered typologies, looks to and reinterprets the Oxbridge quadrangle, remains a secure and light-filled haven for students and their teachers.

"In it, the caged birds still sing: the building has been largely untouched since the day it was completed, and continues to provide a simulating learning environment. A fascinating sequence of spaces leads users and visitors to the building's tailored study and performance rooms, and to carefully designed communal spaces that offer opportunities for informal encounters. The building has been much loved by generations of music students."



Fireworks



The Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra and The University of Auckland's Dance Studies Programme have collaborated to create an evening of dance and music, to be presented at 7pm on 31 October at the TelstraClear Pacific Events Centre in Manukau.

The performance features the APO, University Dance Studies students, and approximately 100 students from Wiri Central School, Pakuranga Intermediate School, and Tangaroa College. Together they perform a new

contemporary work set to Handel's *Music for the Royal Fireworks*, created by renowned New Zealand choreographer and Atamira Dance Company Artistic Director, Moss Patterson.

Fireworks also features performances by Dance Studies students of works created during the year. Highlights includes works premiered at the 2012 International Youth Dance Festival, Singapore, and the 2012 International Festival of Academies, Taipei.

For more information and bookings see www.apo.co.nz or www.pacific.org.nz, phone 9 623 1052.

Students from Dance Studies and Tangaroa College rehearse.

Image: Rimoni Photography



Friends lead the way

Every spring at Graduation Week, the great marquee rises over the long lawn beside Old Government House.

This October, illuminated with hundreds of tiny blue and white lights, it also became the venue for a special dinner for 300 guests hosted by the Chancellor Roger France.

The annual Chancellor's Dinner is held to recognise and thank those donors who have given substantial gifts to the University over the previous 12 months. This year, however, there was an additional reason to celebrate: the final total of the "Leading the Way" campaign - \$202.9 million gifted to the University and foundations that support it by 3000 donors. This sum, more than twice the original target of \$100 million set in 2006, makes it one of the most ambitious and successful philanthropic campaigns undertaken in New Zealand. In thanking all donors, Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon underlined the significance of the achievement.

"You have changed the face of philanthropy in New Zealand. You have told the community that you believe this institution is something special, something worthy of your investment. But most of all, you have made it possible for our extraordinary people to do extraordinary things; and there is no greater gift that you can give a University like ours."

Chancellor Roger France spoke of the importance of having a university that is internationally competitive and of the desire to contribute nationally, which was at the heart of the "Leading the Way" campaign.

"A continuously well-educated and well-trained population is essential for our social and economic well-being. Education plays a key role in providing individuals with the knowledge, skills and competences needed to participate effectively in society and in the economy. It also contributes to the expansion of scientific and cultural knowledge. This was the background against which the University's campaign was set."

Each year the Chancellor also inducts new members into one of three societies in the Chancellor's Circle, in recognition of their sustained support of the University. The new

members of the Sir Maurice O'Rorke Society, with total contributions of more than \$5 million, were Cure Kids, which has funded more than 40 child health-focused research projects at the University and the Cure Kids Chair in Child Research; and the Freemasons, who established the Freemasons Chair in Geriatric Medicine in 1986 and continue to partner with the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences to address the health concerns of the elderly.

Five new members were inducted into the Sir George Fowlds Society - Buckley Systems, the Glavish Family Trust, Fisher & Paykel Appliances, The Kelliher Charitable Trust and the New Zealand Leadership Institute. They have made total contributions of between \$1 million and \$5 million.

The 12 inductees to the Sir Douglas Robb Society have contributed between \$100,000 and \$1 million to the University: Auckland Heart Group Charitable Trust, Baxter Healthcare, The CatWalk Spinal Cord Injury Trust, Conservation International, The Japan Foundation, The John Drake Memorial Scholarship Trust, John Templeton Foundation, The Kate Edger Educational Charitable Trust, Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand, Minter Ellison Rudd Watts, PwC and Tonkin & Taylor.

Photo: Sir John Graham, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, Jenny Gibbs (campaign patron), Geoff Ricketts (campaign committee chairman), John Taylor (Director of External Relations and Development) and Roger France (Chancellor)

New Royal Fellow

Professor Reinhard Klette (Computer Science) has been announced as one of 11 new fellows in the Royal Society of New Zealand. The Society described Reinhard as "a world leader in computer vision who, with his students, has improved the performance of computer vision algorithms by newly-designed ways of data pre-processing." The Royal Society of New Zealand now has 382 Fellows and 58 honorary fellows.



At the Chancellor's Dinner, held on 5 October, we marked the conclusion of our Leading the Way philanthropic campaign and were able to thank our many donors. Campaign Chair Geoff Ricketts concluded a wonderful event by announcing that, since 2006 when the campaign began, we had raised a total of \$201.5 million, more than double our original target. This is an extraordinary achievement on the part of our advancement teams, the Campaign Leadership Committee, the foundations that support us and of course our donors - all the more so as the campaign launch was followed shortly thereafter by the Global Financial Crisis. I vividly recall sitting in the office of a potential donor in New York on 18 September 2008, as the world's financial markets crashed around us, wondering how on earth we were now going to meet our then \$100 million target. But even in the midst of the GFC our supporters came through for us.

Of the funds raised, about \$40 million is in the form of endowments (funds that will be invested and only the interest used) and the balance "current use" (to be expended during the life of the project). The gifts are concentrated in the Faculties of Medical & Health Sciences and Business, but there have also been significant gifts to activities in most of the other faculties and large scale research institutes. Our aim was to attract support for people - scholarships, fellowships and funded staff positions - and for research, rather than for buildings, and that is precisely the activities that have been supported.

I want to express my appreciation on behalf of the University to the many people who have contributed to this outstandingly successful campaign. Geoff Ricketts, as Campaign Chair and Chair of the University of Auckland Foundation, has been a key figure. So too have the campaign patrons and Leadership Committee, John Taylor and his advancement team, and the deans and other senior academics who have been very actively involved in the process. And, of course, it is the 3,000 donors who have seen fit to invest in this University whose gifts will make such a difference to our future.



Winning wines

Not so long ago, sugar and water were the main ingredients in New Zealand wines, unfermented grape juice had its own category in local wine shows and fortified wines routinely won the awards.

Malcolm Reeves, keynote speaker at the Upper North Island Wine Challenge (UNIWC) awards dinner at Old Government House on Saturday 13 October, reflected on 40 years in the industry.

He said that wine quality had improved considerably during his tenure – a development he attributed to wine science – and predicted that the improvement would continue and would be research-based.

The UNIWC, organised by the University's Wine Science Programme, was established to meet the need for greater recognition of the region, and its unique and historical contribution

to the New Zealand wine industry.

This year, the third the show has run, the trophies for Top Red Table Wine and Kauri New Zealand & Tonellerie Saury Best Wine Of The Show went to Expatrius Blend of 8, 2010, from First Growth Ltd's Waiheke Island vineyard.

"Expatrius Vineyards are very proud to have received the recognition and awards ... especially given that these were our first release of wines having planted our vineyards in 2006 with the clear objective of creating ultra-premium wines from our selected sites," said Expatrius winemaker Luc Desbonnets. "[They] have given me and my team a great boost."

Wines from Northland, Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty are eligible for the challenge and 93 were entered into competition. Gold medals were awarded to five wines, and silver and

bronze medals went to 14 and 38 wines, respectively.

"[The] wines that won medals have all got that X-factor that we look for," said Chair of Judges, Simon Nunns. Reds dominated the show, making up two-thirds of entries and winning all the gold medals and trophies.

"One of the main focus points of the [Upper North Island] regions is the reds," said Chief Steward and wine science tutor Gerard Logan. "We have our own style and there are some absolutely fantastic wines in the region."

While run like other competitions, a significant point of difference is how the show works with winemakers. The wineries "get feedback on every wine they've entered, both good and bad, and that's a great innovation," said Simon. The constructive criticism was very valuable, especially for the many smaller winemakers in the region.

The challenge was also an excellent vehicle for the Wine Science Programme, for students to be exposed to judging and stewarding, and for the region, said Simon. "It's hard for smaller regions to have a voice ... so [the challenge is] a wonderful pedestal for Upper North Island wineries to stand on and say 'we're making great wines'."

The University collects data on all of the wines in competition for detailed analysis. Long term the goal is for its researchers to learn about regional and sub-regional differences between wines and the consequent challenges for winegrowers and winemakers, so that this information can be fed back to the industry. Already the feedback is being used as the basis for University workshops with winemakers.

Redevelopment at the Rec Centre



The University of Auckland's Recreation Centre will soon undergo some redevelopment work to improve its facilities.

Built in 1978, the Rec Centre has had redevelopment done before but the impending

work, due to start at the end of the month, is the most significant for some time.

"We've had strong growth in memberships and in the number of people using our facilities in recent years, which made the upgrade a necessity if we are to keep encouraging our students and staff to have an active and healthy lifestyle," says Louis Rattray, Director for Sport and Recreation at the University.

"Part of the long-term strategy is to make larger improvements to the centre. This redevelopment work is part of that longer term strategy to improve our facilities."

Redevelopment work is scheduled for all four levels of the Rec Centre, with work being done to not only provide more space but also to make sure the centre is a more comfortable place to use.

Sean Smith, Recreation Facilities Manager, says those who use the centre will notice the improvement when work is completed, before the start of the first semester next year.

"We'll have a designated stretch studio and a new spin studio for one of our more popular

group fitness classes. We're also making improvements to the recreational area on level four, so that it's more accessible for those who use the space.

"One of the more important changes is the work in the changing rooms, where we're adding new showers, and in the work we're doing to improve our ventilation systems."

The redevelopment work was timed to take place where disruption will be kept to a minimum and it is expected that members and users of the centre will be able to continue almost as usual.

"We're hoping to keep disruption to a minimum but we'll be keeping our website up-to-date and will be in touch with members and users of the centre to make sure they're kept informed, should access to facilities be affected," says Sean.

The work is scheduled to start on 29 October. For more information about the redevelopment, please visit www.universitysport.auckland.ac.nz/redev

Long-serving academic retires



Emeritus Professor George Ferguson's 43 years of service to the University as one of the founding academic members of the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering was honoured at a retirement dinner recently.

Some 70 guests attended, including George's wife Claire, his two daughters Stephanie and Lisa and son Jonathan, their partners and several grandchildren, as well as current and former members of the department and the Faculty of Engineering, and two former deans, Emeritus Professor Ray Meyer and Professor Roy Sharp. Together they celebrated George's outstanding contributions to the University during his long academic career, with an evening of dining together and the sharing of many hilarious stories, both ancient and modern.

George joined the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering as a young lecturer at its year of inception, 1968, after completing postdoctoral studies at both Berkeley and Oxford. His pivotal contributions to the establishing and development of the department's dual-track chemical and materials degree programme, and as Head of Department from 2004-2008, have

been enormous. Tributes were heaped on George for his service at all levels of the University: the wisdom, insights and perceptive comments that he brought to so many committees, discussions and conversations of both an academic and administrative nature will not be forgotten.

George's great research "love" was fracture mechanics, an area of materials behaviour of huge practical importance. It is a discipline that has had far-reaching engineering ramifications especially with respect to the design of steel reinforced structures in earthquake-prone New Zealand. Of particular engineering significance has been George's work on the deep cycle fatigue failure of welded steel joints and the development of new standards that specify critical levels of ductility in reinforcing steel required to meet earthquake standards. These achievements reflect George's unique set of intellectual qualities – his fundamental physical and mathematical rigour, his core training in mechanical analysis, and his insightful understanding of the science of materials behaviour. These have enabled him to make a quite remarkable contribution, both nationally and internationally, across the disciplines of civil, mechanical and materials engineering.

As a fitting, though slightly quirky, recognition of George's research involvement in reinforced steel and his administrative abilities, a member of the department's technical staff Raymond Hoffmann fashioned a steel reinforcing bar to be an enlarged model of George's classic signature. All in the department familiar with the manner in which his classic signature "W G Ferguson" was added to every document that passed his careful scrutiny will relate fondly to this quite magnificent piece of engineered artwork.

As a department we are truly grateful for all that George has given us over these 43 plus years. We all wish Emeritus Professor George a warm and fulfilling retirement, and one to be enjoyed with his life-friend and wife Claire.

Staff of Chemicals and Materials Engineering

Call for applications

Are you a mid-phase doctoral student considering an academic career? Are you keen to connect with like-minded people across the University? Would you value the opportunity to learn from and engage with experienced academics? If you answered yes, we may have what you've been looking for.

Applications for the 2013 Doctoral Academic Career Module will be open throughout

November. The module prepares participants for a life in academia and covers topics such as leadership, teaching, research and professionalism, via fortnightly seminars throughout semesters 1 and 2. Places are limited to 20 so entry is competitive. For more information visit www.cad.auckland.ac.nz for more information. Applications close 5pm, 30 November.

Marsden Fund 21023 - road shows

Interested in applying to the Marsden Fund in 2013? Funder road shows will be held in November at various University of Auckland locations. Meet Royal Society representatives and hear the latest advice and guidance for applying to this prestigious fund.

Details available 1 November from the Research Office. Contact Chris Tews (c.tews@auckland.ac.nz) or Jing Liu (j.luo@auckland.ac.nz) Expressions of Interest are to be completed by February 2013.

Open innovation seminar – Nat Torkington

As part of the Research Essentials Programme, Nat Torkington will be speaking about Open Innovation and what it means for universities. Nat co-wrote the bestselling *Perl Cookbook - Tips and Tricks for Perl Programmers* and chaired the O'Reilly Open Source Convention – the largest conference for open source developers in America. His annual conference, Kiwi Foo Camp, brings together interested New Zealanders from science, business, technology, arts, media, and politics to promote cross-discipline conversations and collaboration. Monday 12 November, 12Noon-1pm, OGGG case room 3 (260-055). Contact Angela McMahon (a.mcmahon@auckland.ac.nz, ext 87227) for registration. Spaces are limited.

Final closing dates for ethics applications

Researchers are reminded that the final closing dates for ethics applications for 2012 are as follows: Human Ethics applications close on 20 November for the final meeting of UAHPEC on 12 December; Animal Ethics applications close on Monday 12 November for the final meeting of AEC on November 30. Both committees then go into recess until the end of February, 2013. Please check the Research integrity, ethics and biosafety website for further information about making ethics applications. University home » Staff Intranet » Research » Research integrity, ethics and biosafety

Future Research Leaders Programme (FRLP)

FRLP is a development programme designed to build research leadership capacity in University environments. This is a unique training opportunity for academics that aspire to take on a research leadership role (project and/or people leadership and management). FRLP has eight independent modules. You can choose to only attend one or more. The coming module is: **Project Closeout** – 27 November, all morning. Register through frlp@auckland.ac.nz More information, including the 2013 schedule, is available from the staff intranet University home » Staff Intranet » Research » Strategic development » Future Research Leaders Program



Eldest of 21 children, Paki Harrison grew up in Ruatoria on the East Coast and as a teenager was sent to board at the prestigious Anglican Māori boys' school, Te Aute College, just out of Hastings.

There, the 1920s meeting house, Te Whare o Rangi, is recognised as a masterpiece by Tohunga Whakairo, Pineamine Taiapa (1901-1972) whose iwi was also Ngāti Porou. Taiapa's mentorship and writings on "The art of adzing" published in *Tē Ao Hou* in 1960 and 1961

encouraged Harrison to devote himself to a life of carving.

As an Auckland teacher, he was sent by the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council to demonstrate carving in France in the late 1960s. In 1972, at the age of 45 years, he completed the carving of Te Wai Ariki, at Whaioira Marae in Otara. Another ten whareniui were carved under his supervision, including Tane-nui-o-Rangi, The University of Auckland's meeting house, which opened in 1998.

For his outstanding leadership in Māori carving, the University had conferred an Honorary Doctorate of Literature on Paki Harrison in 1991. With his wife, the weaver Hinemoa Harrison, he received the 1997 Te Waka Toi award for lifetime achievement and a Queens Service Order followed in 2000. The Arts Foundation designated him an Icon in 2005, and his work and life were the subject of an award-winning biography by Ranginui Walker in 2008.

Harrison published knowledgeably about carving traditions, noting that: "The art of carving in wood is one of the means

by which the "aho" or strands of valued knowledge was preserved by the tribal carvers. With the adze and chisel they devised a system of symbols and mnemonics through which they found a uniquely artistic expression. The adze therefore is the instrument of communication which linked the past with the present."

The title of this carving, which was commissioned by the History Department 20 years ago in 1992, is *Te Ara o Haere*, the Pathway of History. Equivalent names for Haere

are, Kahukura, Uenuku and Mua. These deities are keepers of various tribal wānanga whose collective symbol is the rainbow which is represented by the tiwhata (curved lines) on the forehead. Harrison notes in the accompanying text that the word "haere" (proceeding) was adopted by the ancients to personify their history: "Tahaereroa (to carve a long pathway) haere wae wae (trodden pathway) haere mai tua (pathway from beyond) haere ma whano (come and proceed onwards) are some of the series used to define aspects of the past, present and the future."

This carving portrays Haere holding the adze in his left hand, which is the side of Tu, the atua or god of humankind and war, personifying the struggle for existence.

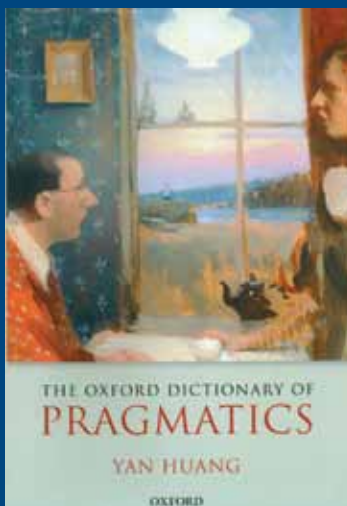
Haere is said to stand with one foot on the land and one on the ocean. The spatulate left foot, together with the fish-scale pattern, enhances this symbolism. The right leg is firmly planted in the past and present, while the uncertainty of the future is more apparent with the smaller and more tentative uplifted left foot.

Harrison concludes his description of the significance of the symbolism in this carving by stating: "The enigmatic and mystical Maui (the word means past and future simultaneously) aptly describes the state of perpetuity which is a characteristic invested in ultra-beings or deities, and perhaps in historians."

Linda Tyler

Pakariki Harrison (1928-2008), Ngāti Porou, Te Ara Haere (The Pathway of History), 1992, carved wood.

Books



The Oxford Dictionary of Pragmatics

This dictionary, by Professor Yan Huang (Applied Language Studies and Linguistics), published by Oxford University Press, provides a full and authoritative guide to the meanings of the terms, concepts, and theories employed in pragmatics, the study of language in use.

Pragmatics is a central subject in linguistics and philosophy and an increasingly important topic in fields such as cognitive science, informatics, artificial intelligence, neuroscience, and pathology. Its rapid development has produced new theories, methods, approaches, and schools of thought. These in turn have resulted in a vast vocabulary of new terms and in modified meanings for existing terms. In this dictionary, Yan Huang defines and explains them

all, from the most traditional to the most recent.

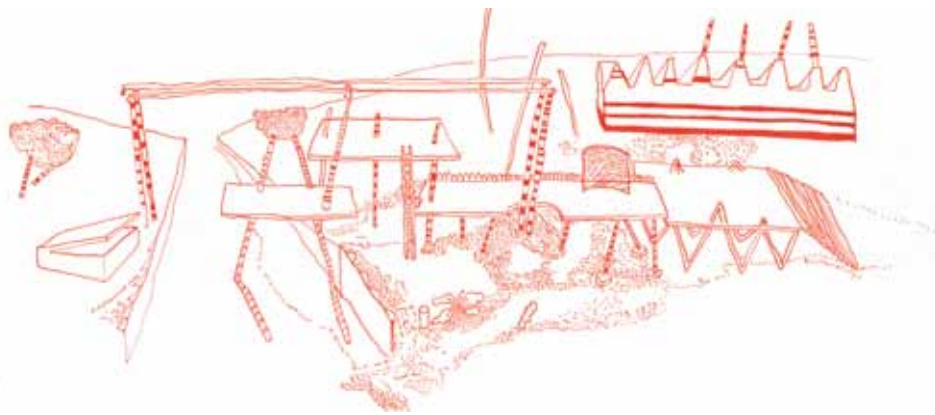
Written by one of the leading experts in the field and covering every branch of research and all theoretical approaches, Yan Huang's dictionary, the first of its kind ever published, will be a much valued resource for students and researchers in every aspect of the field.

Other books by Yan Huang include *The Syntax and Pragmatics of Anaphora* (Cambridge University Press 1994, re-issued in 2007), *Anaphora: A Cross-Linguistic Study* (Oxford University Press 2000) and *Pragmatics* (Oxford University Press 2007). He is editor of *The Oxford Handbook of Pragmatics*, planned for publication in 2014.

The Exit Show

Master of Architecture (Professional) degree students present fresh ideas and approaches to architecture including coastal landscapes, urban design, China's burgeoning cities and the reconstruction of Christchurch. The exhibition at 2 Marston St, Parnell, will be open to the public on 27 and 28 October, from 10am to 3pm.

Frances Cooper, *Constructing Wynyard Island in the Waitemata Harbour.*



What's on

THURSDAY 25 OCTOBER

Australasian ICSEI Interactive Symposium

Waipuna Lodge. Runs until 27 October. The Faculty of Education invites you to join them to tackle the challenges of schooling improvement and transforming education in a 21st century learning environment. Queries to Natasha at ICSEISymposium@auckland.ac.nz

Inaugural lecture

By new professors at The University of Auckland.

Prof Basil Sharp, Business School: *The frontiers of energy: Economics, environment and policy.* 4-5.30pm Decima Glenn Rm, Level 3, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. RSVP to <https://secure.business.auckland.ac.nz/BasilSharpInauguralLecture>

STRATUS emerging researchers panel discussion

Strategies for success: Open access publishing. 4-5pm FGW's Suite, First Floor, OGH.

RSVP to secretary@stratus.ac.nz
Visit www.stratus.co.nz

SATURDAY 27 OCTOBER

The Exit Show

10am-3pm, 2 Marston St, Parnell. Runs until 28 October.

Master of Architecture (Professional) degree students present fresh approaches to architecture including coastal landscapes, urban design, China's burgeoning cities and the reconstruction of Christchurch. All welcome.

MONDAY 29 OCTOBER

Department of Philosophy seminar

Grant Taviner, Lincoln University: *Videogames and art.* 3-5pm Pat Hanan Room 501, Arts 2.

Compass lecture

Prof John Lynch, University of Adelaide: *Complex policy and practice questions require complex evidence integration: The case of early child health and development in Australia.* 4pm Room 104, Ground Floor, Fale Pasifika Administration Block, Bldg 273.

Dance Studies speaking performance series

Susanne Thomas, Artistic Director, The seven sisters group. 6-7.30pm, ALR1/421W-201, 26 Symonds St.

TUESDAY 30 OCTOBER

Future Proof lecture

Hugh Byrd: *Compact cities: Shaping the city with emerging technologies.* 12noon-1pm, Design Theatre, Building 423, 22 Symonds St. Free. Queries to n.guy@auckland.ac.nz
Visit www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/future-proof

Bioengineering research seminar

Mark Finch, Research Engineer, ABI: *"My new theory of inertia doesn't seem to be gaining momentum..."* 4-5pm Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

WEDNESDAY 31 OCTOBER

2012 Bruce Jesson Lecture

Nicky Hager: *Investigative journalism in the age of media meltdown?* 6.30pm Maidment Theatre, Alfred St.

Fireworks

The Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra and The University of Auckland's Dance Studies Programme collaborate to create an evening of dance and music. 7pm, TelstraClear Pacific Events Centre, Manukau.
Bookings www.apo.co.nz or 623 1052.
Visit www.pacific.org.nz

THURSDAY 1 NOVEMBER

Word fundamentals

1-4pm, 2nd Floor, Fisher Bldg, 18 Waterloo Quadrant.
Visit www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/workshops and click on IT Training.

FRIDAY 2 NOVEMBER

PowerPoint intermediate

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

TUESDAY 6 NOVEMBER

Bioengineering research seminar

Prof Jillian Cornish, Dept of Cell and Molecular Biology and Dr Justin Fernandez: *Integrating computational*

testing with clinical indices to evaluate the influence of fluoride on bone quality. 4-5pm Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

A refreshing haven for a month (14 Nov-15 Dec 2012), convenient, central location (Glendowie, St Heliers Bay). Offering three bdrms, office, family room, SKY, Internet connection, superb outdoor entertaining area, swimming pool, lovely sea views. A bargain at \$700 pw. Phone (09) 575 5738 or email riddellbones@hotmail.com

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

Kohimarama house for rent. Enjoy the stunning eastern beaches this summer while living in a 1930s' character house 1 km from Kohi beach. Sunny with spectacular views, four bdrms, three bthrs, designer kitchen, warm timber floors. \$950 pw. Available 30 November - mid March. Contact Maree, mareesimpson@hotmail.com or (09) 522-1412.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Housesitter available. I am a reliable, tidy woman looking to housesit for a few months (or more, I'm flexible). I am working for the University, non-smoker and a well-educated person who knows how to take care of a house. Contact (021) 0810 9964 or b.shin@auckland.ac.nz

FOR SALE

Handmade diamond engagement rings and jewellery - personally designed for by Julian Bartrom. 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@julianbartrom.com or visit www.julianbartrom.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

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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 RK2@xtra.co.nz

Paper Tiger is starting a biweekly writers group in central Auckland.

Bring something you've written to share - could be short prose fiction, poetry or a short work for stage or screen. We'll be doing writing exercises, so bring pen and paper. Please visit our facebook events page to confirm your attendance or email david@papertiger.net.nz Date and time: 21 October at 1pm, Alleluya Bar & Cafe, 183 Karangahape Rd (Shop 20, St Kevins Arcade), Newton.
Visit www.papertiger.net.nz

Spring concert: Mezzo Magic. The Three Mezzos Vocal Trio in recital. Highwic, 40 Gillies Ave, Epsom.

5pm, Sunday 4 November. All lovers of fine singing welcome! For further information phone 846-6982 or (0274) 712 720

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.

DECISION SHORT-SIGHTED

In August the Justice Minister, Judith Collins, announced that the provision of six sessions of counselling for couples facing separations will no longer receive funding on the grounds it is “not financially sustainable”.

Based on my experience working with couples in crisis, this short-sighted cost-cutting measure will have long-term impacts on mental health and the wellbeing of family life in New Zealand.

I practised as a psychologist in West Auckland in the early 1980s at a time when sprawling suburbs like Massey and Te Atatu had created ideal breeding grounds for a range of serious mental health issues. It was a time when young families, struggling to keep afloat, encountered an unfriendly environment of isolated cul-de-sacs, poor systems of transport, poor access to shops and undeveloped community supports.

The early period of caring for children is very stressful – no matter what the context – but add, on top of this, isolation from family, poor urban design and inadequate community resources, and one has a recipe for personal and family adversity. Our team had difficulty coping with the flood of people struggling with major mental health issues, conflict-ridden separations, violence and, of course, the consequent negative impacts on children.

With this experience in mind, I could not help being impressed by the foresight of Government when through the 1980s they gradually established the Family Court system with an emphasis on both judicial functions and therapeutic goals, the latter built around the provision of couple counselling.

I was even more impressed later in that

decade when I began receiving referrals for such counselling. Over and over again I witnessed the value of meeting together and talking issues through, and how that enabled people at a most difficult period of their lives to identify pathways forward.

In this system couples were referred to counselling by two main routes: one route (Section 9) provided counselling to those who were contemplating separation but had not as yet done so; the second route (Section 10 (1)) provided those who had already recently separated with opportunities to talk through sensitive issues such as custody, access and initial living arrangements.

Counselling for couples already separating provided a means to talk through the high emotions of the early period and helped many avoid the long drawn-out and expensive conflicts that emerge once lawyers and the courts are required. However, it was in counselling with those still at the stage of contemplating separation that I saw the strongest benefits.

In hindsight, many of the Section 9 couples I counselled were similar to those who I saw earlier in West Auckland – young, overwhelmed by children and struggling with finances and work – but the difference was that they were receiving help months before problems had escalated and before mutual respect had disintegrated. The storm had not fully burst so they were still at a point to look at things differently and explore alternative ways of responding. It was a very positive way of preventing much larger problems.

No system is perfect and the quality of counselling no doubt varies considerably, but it is

a system that has enabled people at a critical moment to address issues before they spiral into more damaging situations; the counselling occurs before positions became entrenched, before labels are applied and before damaging words and deeds propel matters to a new level.

It now seems strange, if not perverse, to hear that Government has decided to invest more into mediation – when positions have become more entrenched – and less into systems that offer the prospect of diffusing unnecessary and damaging conflict. Mediation provides an important opportunity for resolving disputes, but it is an ambulance at the bottom of the cliff; it comes too late in enabling couples to work out their own pathways.

The pressures on families have not diminished, particularly those associated with lack of finance and support. Ironically, those that most benefited from counselling are those who are least likely to have available the \$900 for what it will cost in the future. Without intervention options many will find themselves trapped on that roller-coaster ride that leads on to the wellbeing challenges familiar in the past.

In my opinion the Minister of Justice is leading us in a giant step backwards to a time when we only tackled problems once they were too large to do anything about. The down-stream costs in terms of mental health and family wellbeing surely outweigh any short-term advantages.

Associate Professor Peter Adams
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