



## ROYAL WELCOME

November 12 was an exciting day for those in the University community who had the opportunity to welcome the royal visitors: His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall.

Both the royal visitors – in separate venues – were given special glimpses of some of the University's most exciting research. Presenters said they were charmed by the warmth of manner of the royal visitors and their engagement with the research.

The Prince of Wales was welcomed at the Owen G Glen Building by Chancellor Roger France, Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon and Dr Peter Lee, CEO of Auckland UniServices Ltd. He was then escorted to a series of display stations, where he spent nearly an hour watching demonstrations and talking to leading University researchers.

The first was a presentation by Dr Mark Sagar from the Auckland Bioengineering Institute, whose team of researchers aims to create "living" technology through interactive computational models of the face and brain – including a "live" computer-generated baby that can laugh, cry and interact with those around it.

Researchers from the University's Biomimetic

Laboratory showed his Royal Highness new technology called "Artificial Muscles" – stretchy pieces of rubber that can be made into sensors, power generators and muscle-like actuators.

At the third research station Dr John Rugis from the Institute of Earth Sciences and Engineering demonstrated 3D visualisations which are enabling geologists to show in a dynamic visual form the timing, intensity and distribution of seismic activity beneath the earth. The presentation included a visualisation of the activity for seven months after the first Christchurch earthquake in 2010.

The final display featured the University's world-leading development of Inductive Power Transfer (IPT). In 1986 University researchers successfully made power jump across air from one object to another by intersecting two magnetic fields. Today this technology is at the forefront of the wireless charging of electric cars.

At the Langham Hotel in Auckland researchers from the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences' Bone and Joint Group presented to the Duchess of Cornwall on research that was of particular interest to her as patron of the National Osteoporosis Society of the UK.

Distinguished Professor Ian Reid from the Department of Medicine described two recent

studies: an ongoing investigation of the possibility of preventing bone fractures in people of medium risk by treating them every five years with a form of bisphosphonate; and a study based on a worldwide analysis of trials of calcium supplements, which has shown an increased risk of heart disease associated with their use.



Top: His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales with University Chancellor Roger France

Above: The Duchess of Cornwall (left) with Professors John Fraser and Jill Cornish

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Photos of the Prince of Wales, by Lydia Arnold.  
Photos of the Duchess of Cornwall by TigerTiger Photography.

**Top photos, left to right**

The Duchess of Cornwall greets Professor Ian Reid from the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences (FMHS) at the Langham Hotel as the Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon looks on. In the background is Professor Jill Cornish, also from FMHS.

The Prince of Wales greets members of the University community.

**Centre row**

The Prince of Wales shows a strong interest in the presentation by Dr John Rugis (left) from the Institute of Earth Sciences and Engineering, which featured innovative interactive three-

dimensional models of seismic activity. These draw on data gained from newly-enhanced methods of seismic measurement and give scientists powerful insights into the forces that cause the earth to move.

His Royal Highness meets Dr Mark Sagar, Director of the Laboratory for Animate Technologies at the Auckland Bioengineering Institute and a double Academy Award winner for his work at Weta Workshop on such films as Avatar and King Kong. Mark's work is defining a new frontier for computer animation.

**Third row**

The Prince of Wales speaks with Professor John Boys, Distinguished Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and a pioneer in the development of Induction Power

Technology (IPT), which transmits electrical power without using wires.

The Prince of Wales in conversation with Associate Professor Iain Anderson, founder and group leader of the University's Biomimetics Laboratory, which is harvesting the latent energy of human motion into power for other uses.

Jill Wild, the royal artist for the tour, showing one of her water colours. Jill is a New Zealand watercolourist, who was surprised and delighted to be contacted in Italy by one of the Prince of Wales' staff who invited her to accompany HRH on the tour of New Zealand to record "happy memories" on his behalf. This was a particular honour for Jill, since the Prince of Wales usually chooses to invite a UK artist to accompany him on overseas visits.

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Professor Jill Cornish presented on two studies: an investigation of why Pacific and Māori people have stronger bones than non-Polynesian New Zealanders, and study which is receiving funding from the European Union, on the possibility of

creating artificial bone and tendon substitutes.

Ian Reid said that the Duchess of Cornwall was already aware of the research and had shown a strong interest in its progress.



## Tuākana Prizegiving

**“Your decision to use your voice as a vehicle of empowerment, and your refusal to accept the status quo, has led you here today.”**

These were the words spoken by Dr Selina Tusitala Marsh in her kōrero to the 75 students and staff who gathered at the University’s Waipapa Marae for this year’s Tuākana prizegiving.

The University’s Tuākana Learning Community connects second and third-year students with first-year students in a mentoring and tutoring relationship.

As a senior lecturer in the Department of English, Selina is hailed internationally for her poetry and has been dubbed the “fast talking Pacific Islander” after her acclaimed debut poetry collection, *Fast talking PI*. As the guest speaker at the ceremony, Selina enchanted her audience as she recited her soon-to-be-published poem, “New Zealand – the lucky country”.

The poem, filled with metaphors that no doubt resonated strongly with her audience, reflected the Tuākana mentors’ sustained commitment to helping new Māori and Pacific University students reach their potential through a combination of academic and pastoral mentoring, tutoring and wānanga.

Tuākana Equity Adviser Jeremy Hema thanked the mentors for their expertise and acknowledged the hours they dedicate, on top of the pressures of University life, to the Tuākana Learning Community.

Each mentor was gifted a pounamu (greenstone), which Jeremy described as an appropriate way of recognising their commitment to Tuākana.

For more information about the University’s Tuākana Learning Community visit [www.auckland.ac.nz/tuakana](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/tuakana)

Natalie McGrinder

## Wanted: Comments and ideas

Next year we are planning to make some changes in *Uninews* and on the news section of the Staff Intranet. We would like to make sure that both *Uninews* and the Staff Intranet serve the needs of readers as well as possible, and that they complement each other in the most effective way.

Next year we intend to conduct a survey but in the meantime we would be very pleased to hear your ideas or comments on any aspect of the publications, and we would be delighted if you would send ideas or suggestions on stories,

profiles, photographs or new regular features. What do you like to read in *Uninews*? What do you enjoy seeing on the intranet? Have you any colleagues that you think should be profiled?

We would also like to build up a list of good writers who might be happy to contribute stories; so please let us know if you come into that category or if you know any other members of staff who might like to contribute stories.

**Please email**

Judy Wilford on [j.wilford@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:j.wilford@auckland.ac.nz) or Tess Redgrave on [t.redgrave@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:t.redgrave@auckland.ac.nz)

## From the Vice-Chancellor



As our recent (22-28 October) delegation to China illustrated, the University continues to build a strong and positive presence in China. Our alumni have a great affection for the University and New Zealand, and it is important that we maintain regular contact with them.

China is a vast country that offers many opportunities for engagement by New Zealand institutions, but a long term view of partnerships is critical. Some ten years ago, the University embarked on a programme to develop relationships with leading Chinese universities. Our approach, which we have continued to pursue, was one of creating key partnerships with a small number of leading institutions, rather than having Memorandums of Understanding of limited value with vast numbers of “partners”. As a consequence, we have very active projects with the best universities in China: a New Zealand Centre at Peking University (in collaboration with several other New Zealand institutions); a joint effort with Tsinghua University to develop Qinghai University in the west of China; the award-winning Confucius Institute in Auckland, in partnership with Fudan University; and multilateral projects with universities such as Zhejiang, Nanjing, Shanghai Jiao Tong, University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) through the three international university networks in which we share membership.

The benefits of this long term engagement are now being seen in other opportunities. Thus Peking University has expressed an interest in broadening our relationship from New Zealand studies to Pacific Studies, perhaps in collaboration with one of the leading Australian universities with which we also have partnerships. Tsinghua University is interested in expanding the Qinghai collaboration – part of which, led by Professor Gary Brierley, is concerned with land and water remediation – to look at biological markers of water quality. And HKUST has offered to partner with us in taking the University’s capability in food safety into inland China. These are all projects that build on our existing capability and, while working in China is not without its challenges, they offer great opportunities for staff and students who want to engage with that country.

## Learning from others



This year's cohort of Doctoral Academic Career Module (DACM) participants celebrated their completion of the module on 31 October after a year of learning from and engaging with academics from different faculties across the University.

The module, which is in its second year, consisted of an orientation day, 12 fortnightly seminars, a full-day presentation skills workshop,

and an opportunity to "shadow" an academic from a different discipline.

The cohort of doctoral researchers aspiring to academic careers developed networks within the module and were provided with the tools and knowledge that would assist them on their journey to becoming an academic.

Participants were awarded and celebrated in the presence of Dr Ian Brailsford and Dr Frances

Kelly, module convenors from the Centre for Academic Development (CAD), Tessa Sillifant, module administrator from CAD, Professor Lorraine Stefani, Director of CAD, Associate Professor Caroline Daley (Dean, Graduate Studies), Associate Professor Graeme Aitken (Dean, Faculty of Education) and several of the participants' supervisors and shadowees. The support and assistance from the 38 University staff members who contributed to the enhancement of the module in 2012 was also recognised.

Applications for 2013 close at 5pm on 30 November. For more details and an application form please go to [http://www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/index.php?p=doctoral\\_academic\\_career\\_module](http://www.cad.auckland.ac.nz/index.php?p=doctoral_academic_career_module)

*From left to right: David Zeitner, Robert Myles, Sandy Lin, Amita Bansal, Frauke Meyer, Michael Chu, Lina Gonzalez, Brendan Harvey, Mariela Carvajal Gallardo, Amelia Van Slooten, Karen McLellan, Rob Tedesco, Joanne Lin, Jennifer Tatebe, Heather Free, Genevieve de Pont and Stuart Deerness.*

In absentia: Sylvia Leão and Miguel Roncoroni.

## Insights from Anthropology and Law



Marama Muru-Lanning, Rt Hon Winston Peters and Cris Shore

Every day we pick up the newspaper and find references to "the Crown". The notion underpins New Zealand's political and constitutional order, yet it's curiously difficult to define exactly what it is.

Who and what is "the Crown", and what is its relationship to New Zealand society?

Thanks to successful funding from the Thematic Research Initiative, Te Whare Kura, Professor Cris Shore (Anthropology) is tackling this question through a pilot research project: "The Crown in New Zealand: Legal and symbolic perspectives on contested concept".

As anthropologists, Cris and his team are interested in symbols, their meanings, how they

work and how they are deployed. He sees the Crown as a master political symbol in New Zealand. Alongside this he recognises the need for legal experts to contribute to its meaning, and hence his invitation to Professor David Williams (Law) to join their research team. This is the first research project involving academics from Anthropology alongside legal scholars from Law.

Researchers comprised two pairs of interviewers: Cris Shore and Margaret Kawharu alongside Dr Marama Muru-Lanning and David Williams.

"We were interested in tracking how the meaning of "the Crown" shifts according to different contexts, and how it is used strategically in different arenas. For example, in speaking of current policy on the privatisation of state owned enterprises, is this a project of "the Crown", the State, or the national-led government?" says Cris.

Twenty-eight in-depth interviews were held with experts who regularly engage with "the Crown": constitutional lawyers, politicians, academics, senior legal advisors, government ministers,

opposition MPs; and, since the Crown has particular saliency in Treaty of Waitangi issues, Office of Treaty Settlement officers, negotiators, and Māori leaders. Interviewees include Morris Love, Chris Finlayson, Margaret Wilson, Hon Dr Pita Sharples, Sir Douglas Graham, Kennedy Graham, Sir Tipene O'Reagan, Nanaia Mahuta, Metiria Turei and most recently Joe Williams and the Rt Hon Winston Peters.

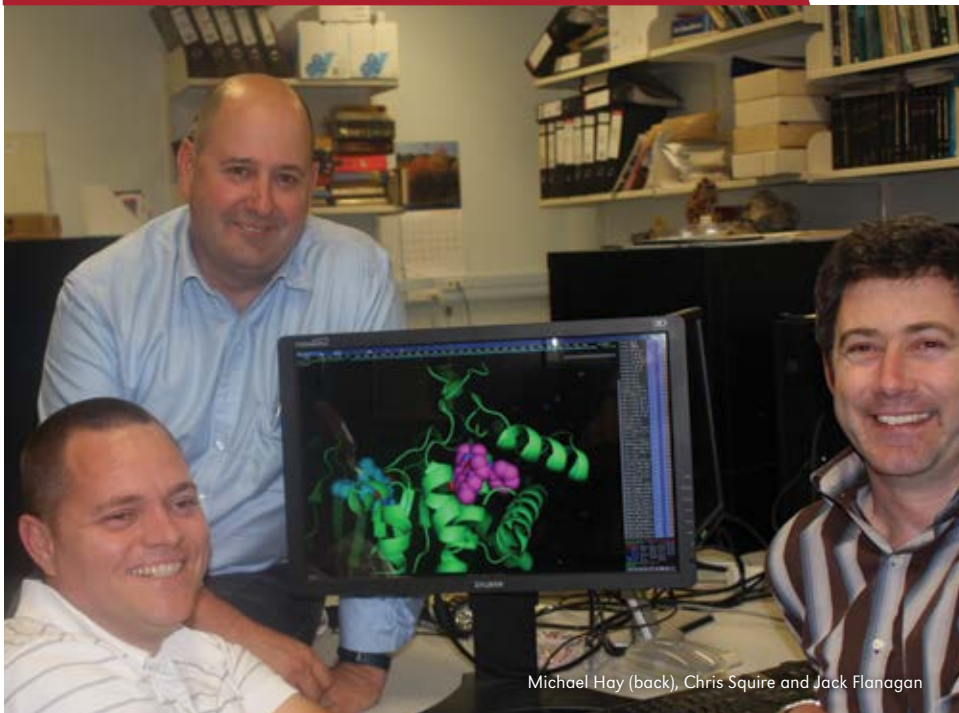
The project is proving highly successful, and highlights the need for more research that connects different disciplines and enables sharing for wider perspectives.

"It has been great to draw on David's legal and historical perspectives. He was able to engage us in a much higher level of legal debate with constitutional experts, bringing together different perspectives that are not often shared," says Cris.

Through this research Cris asks whether the continuing emphasis on "the Crown" as a keyword in public policy is a hindrance to constitutional reform. "It represents one partner in the Crown/Maori relationship, but what about the rest of New Zealand: pasifika, Asia, new migrants - where do they fit within this relationship? Are we stuck with an anachronistic set of concepts that stop us thinking creatively about a different type of constitutional order?"

For further details on this project visit The Department of Anthropology website.

## Biopharma right on track



Michael Hay (back), Chris Squire and Jack Flanagan

**Working in a team is much more powerful than working alone, and the power of the Biopharma initiative is in bringing those teams together.**

That's the message of three researchers working on Biopharma-funded projects: Associate Professor Michael Hay and Dr Jack Flanagan from the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre (ACSRC) and Dr Chris Squire from the School of Biological Sciences.

When the University announced the launch of three Thematic Research Initiatives (TRIs) in May 2010, the intention was to coordinate the efforts of researchers working across different disciplines to enhance the quality of the University's research and to tackle questions of major importance to the society and the economy. The specific aim of the Biopharma TRI was to advance research into therapeutic agents, medical devices and diagnostics.

Right in tune with all these aims are Michael, Jack and Chris. Michael is a medicinal chemist with particular expertise in designing molecules that target the micro-environment of tumours. Chris is a structural biologist who determines the molecular structure of proteins, identifying and examining active sites where the protein might have a function. Jack is a biochemist who specialises in molecular modeling and virtual screening for discovery of inhibitors.

Together Michael, Chris and Jack have a set of complementary skills to carry out highly effective discovery research. They have been able to apply their "triangle of interactions" at a scientific level to questions raised by individual researchers or groups who have recognised their protein targets and need to develop molecular tools that interact with them. These may then form the basis from which potential therapeutics can be designed and built.

"One major achievement of Biopharma," says Michael, "has been to enable us to link with people who have an idea, have identified a protein target and want to know what to do about it. We can then work with them in identifying small molecules to use as tools to probe the function of the protein, and to assist them by carrying out a 'virtual screening' for possible therapies."

Jack strongly agrees: "One of the key contributions of the TRI has been the creation of interfaculty and interdisciplinary collaborations. In encouraging intensive communication – for example, between biologists, chemists and pharmacologists – it has produced the mechanism to move from a good idea to the creation of new projects and the building of multi-disciplinary teams."

Biopharma's other major role is in providing seed funding to link people together and sustain their collaborations to a point where the research can attract external research funding. Many innovative ideas wither for lack of seed funding to access a key technology or to run a pilot experiment, and Biopharma bridges this initial "valley of death".

In this Michael points to a record of success: "The TRI has already provided a springboard for external grant funding. We have had grants from the Auckland Medical Research Funding and Lotteries Health, as well as from internal University sources. This funding has enabled us to develop pilot data to a degree that we are now applying for larger grants, including full Health Research Council applications. One patent application has already been lodged.

"When you are working in a team, you have a much more powerful contribution to make."

### Julius von Haast Fellowships

Two University of Auckland applications have been awarded Julius von Haast Fellowships by the Royal Society of New Zealand: Professor Peter Xu (Mechanical Engineering) and Dr Maurice Curtis (Anatomy with Radiology). This award enables internationally-recognised German researchers to spend time working with their New Zealand colleagues over a three-year period. Usually one award is made each year, so this is an exceptional achievement.

### Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) 2012

Nine international research collaboration proposals were submitted to WUN's Research Development Fund 2012 Round in November. Researchers from six faculties, one Large Scale Research Institute and two Thematic Research Initiative are leading or partnering on these collaborations.

The University submitted three Auckland-led applications: "The Pregnancy Exposome and Fetal Growth Restriction", led by Professor Philip Baker (Liggins); "Ocean eddies in a changing climate: Understanding the impact on coastal climates and worldwide fisheries production", led by Associate Professor Andrew Jeffs (Marine Science); and "Comparative analysis of international refugee resettlement international law obligations and policy", led by Chris Mahony (Law). Twenty leading international research institutions are engaged across the three proposals.

### Health Research Council

In the HRC Career Development round Dr Fiona McBryde was awarded a Hercus Fellowship (investigating whether decreased blood flow in the brain is a key factor in development of abnormally high blood pressure) and Dr Yvonne Anderson, Dr Lisa Brown, Dr James Hosking, Dr Jevon Puckett, and Dr Ryash Vather have received Clinical Research Training Fellowships. University researchers were also awarded one Māori Career Development Award (Maraea Nathan); three Māori Health Research summer scholarships, one Pacific Health Research PhD Scholarship (John Sluyter); one Pacific Health Research Postdoctoral Fellowship (Helen Tanielu); and eight Pacific Health Research Summer Studentships. The University was very successful in HRC Expression of Interest Applications (Eols). Of 116 assessed, 48 (41.4 percent) were invited to full submission. Nationwide, just over 30 percent were invited to proceed.

### Auckland Medical Research Foundation

Kate Faasse (Psychological Medicine) has been awarded a two-year AMRF Postdoctoral Fellowship, the only one this year. All three AMRF Doctoral Scholarships were also from the University.



Selected from invited submissions for a new sculpture to adorn the garden at the back of the Kenneth Myers Centre in 2001, Richard Shortland Cooper's design was installed in March 2002.

It required a crane with a long enough reach to carry the sculpture over the four-storey building from Shortland Street.

The street takes its name from Commander Willoughby Shortland (1804-1869) who was New Zealand's first Colonial Secretary from 1841 until he was dismissed by Governor FitzRoy in 1843. His younger brother Edward Shortland, a medical doctor and linguist as well as colonial administrator, wrote books on Māori language and customs.

Richard Shortland Cooper acknowledges his Māori, Aitutaki (Cook Island) and European ancestry, and drew on his cultural heritage as the inspiration for this work. In titling it *Mātauranga*, the Māori word for knowledge, he was making a reference to the siting of the work next to what was the School of Creative and Performing Arts at The University of Auckland.

Originally designed as an abstraction on a single arched fish, the sculpture evolved into four large discs of steel which were aligned in perfect formation. For Richard Shortland Cooper, this works well as a pun on the idea of a school, since fish swimming together in groups are said to be schooling. It was his

hope that the wind might cause the plates to vibrate and flex like a fish moving through water.

Having used the chevron forms and geometric patterns familiar from customary Māori carving to create the design for his dynamic twenty-first century fish, he had the shapes cut out with a laser from plates of corten steel. The finish he interprets as also fulfilling a metaphoric function: "it's also got a rusty-looking finish to it which represents the stage that you are at when you start school - you're rusty and you are there to be polished."

Studying for his Doctorate in Fine Arts while he made this work, Cooper had come to tertiary education as an older student, having worked in security and as a prison officer and logger in the

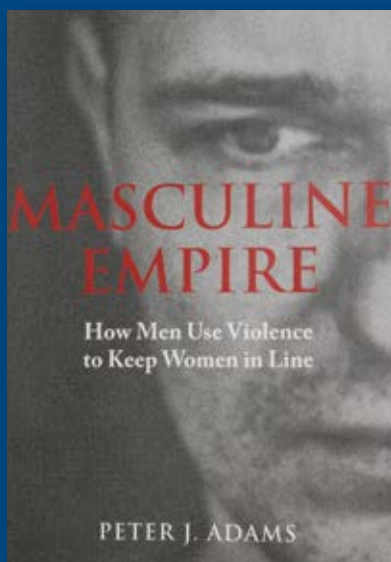
middle North Island before he began studying at Elam in 1995. A devout Mormon, he is devoted to his family and community. When selected to make the Millennium work for the corner of Wiri Station and Great South Roads, he created Auckland's largest public sculpture with a height of eleven metres. Titled *He Taonga Hiranga Whakanui Whanau* (A Gift to Portray the Importance of Family) 2000, this reinforced cement work features five upright forms based on designs created by students from nearby schools, standing clustered closely together in a group. The surface is textured by hand prints of several generations of his own whanau.

Head of the Art Department at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa's Manukau campus until he was made redundant in May 2006, Cooper retrained as a diabetes self management facilitator. In that capacity, while working for Counties Manukau District Health Board, he had the Millennium sculpture that he had made lit up with blue light to draw attention to the risks associated with diabetes. Contesting the Manurewa seat in the 2011 by-election as the Mana Party candidate, he still finds time to make his sculpture with Whanau Ora appearing in Sculpture on Shore in 2008. He remains committed to art practice as a way of making manifest his understanding of everything visible or invisible that exists across the universe.

Linda Tyler

*Richard Shortland Cooper, Mātauranga 2001, corten steel, 4000mm diameter*

## Books



### Masculine Empires

This book by Associate Professor Peter Adams (Social and Community Health), published by Dunmore Publishing, provides a unique insight into the sense of superiority, the "Masculine empire" that underpins men's sense of entitlement to being in charge in their homes.

It explores ways in which men approach intimate relationships, their allegiance to their like-minded mates, and the role of male friendships in maintaining positions of power and capturing women in oppressive situations. It flips explanations of violence from what is happening in the minds of individual "bad" men to a broader exploration of the social world of men.

The reader eavesdrops on the conversations of five men who meet regularly in a bar to talk

about their lives and discuss their relationships. It steps through the embedded assumptions men make about women, the influence of the history of men being in charge, and the various control strategies men pass on to each other to perpetuate their dominance in the home.

The book illustrates what can happen to both men and women when male oppression goes too far. It also looks at options men might take for turning away from their controlling and violent behaviour.

Peter Adams has worked as a clinical psychologist, a group facilitator and a researcher on situations involving violence against women. He has published two sole-authored books previously, one on gambling, the other on addiction.

# Auckland Museum partners with The University of Auckland



A milestone memorandum of understanding will be signed by Roy Clare, the Director of the Auckland War Memorial Museum and the Vice Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon at a public lecture hosted by the Auckland Museum Institute in the Auditorium on 27 November at 7pm.

The occasion is a talk funded by the University which has brought a distinguished historian of science to New Zealand. Jim Endersby (pictured above) will also present a keynote lecture at the

Otago Museum on Thursday 29 November 2012 as part of a symposium convened by NICAI's Linda Tyler in celebration of John Buchanan 1819-1898, artist, botanist and explorer.

Jim Endersby is an expert on the father and son who established the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew near London Joseph Hooker, the son, published the first handbook of New Zealand flora, but he was reliant on supplies of plants from New Zealand to make his descriptions.

The talk at Auckland Museum is provocatively titled *Imperial science: "The invention of New Zealand's plants"* and in it Jim Endersby will argue that although Joseph Dalton Hooker was one of nineteenth-century Britain's most powerful naturalists and internationally acknowledged as an explorer and botanist, he built his reputation with the help of a network of enthusiastic collectors in New Zealand, who were unpaid (and sometimes unacknowledged).

Who those New Zealand collectors were, and how and why they worked so hard to help their distant correspondent with his work, is the subject of Jim Endersby's recent book *Imperial*

*Nature: Joseph Hooker and the Practices of Victorian Science* (University of Chicago Press, 2008).

The relationship between the New Zealanders - several of whom lived in Auckland - and Hooker was characterised by complex and often delicate negotiations over who knew most about New Zealand's flora. These negotiations reveal how Hooker gradually asserted his authority over the local experts, and in the process defined what plants did - and did not - grow in New Zealand.

Jim Endersby is a senior lecturer in the History Department at the University of Sussex, and as a consultant to BBC television, created the popular programme *The Story of Science: the Power, Proof and Passion* which screened in 2010.

Enquiries regarding the Buchanan symposium in Dunedin to take place on 29 and 30 November to [l.tyler@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:l.tyler@auckland.ac.nz)

Jim Endersby's lecture is in the Auditorium, at Auckland Museum at 7pm on 27 November and at the Hutton Theatre, Otago Museum, Dunedin at 5.30pm on 29 November.

## What's on

### THURSDAY 22 NOVEMBER

#### Politics seminar

Martin Wilkinson, John McCall, Monique Jonas, Stephen Winter: *Ethics and the acquisition of organs - a roundtable on Martin Wilkinson's book*. 2-4pm Rm 209, Arts 1.

### FRIDAY 23 NOVEMBER

#### Inaugural lecture

By new professors at the University. Prof Ian Kirk, School of Psychology: *Cognitive neurogenetics: Personality, politics, and the persistence of memory*. 5pm, Lecture Theatre, OGH.

### SATURDAY 24 NOVEMBER

#### Elam Graduate Show

10am-5pm, 20 Whitaker Place, 5 Symonds Street (Elam B) and 25a Princes Street (George Fraser Gallery). Runs until 25 November.

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

#### Exhibition talk

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Andrew Clifford, writer for the *Total Internal Reflection* catalogue, presents his reading of Eddie Clemens work as a floortalk in the exhibition. Visit [www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz)

### WEDNESDAY 28 NOVEMBER

#### Department of Computer Science seminar

Prof Reinhard von Hanxleden, Kiel University: *Pragmatics-aware modeling*. 12noon-1pm Room 303S.561, City Campus. Queries to [mbar098@cs.auckland.ac.nz](mailto:mbar098@cs.auckland.ac.nz)

### SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER

#### Film screening

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Come and enjoy a screening of the domino-effect classic *The Way Things Go*, by Swiss artists Peter Fischli and David Weiss (1987, 30 minutes). This legendary artists' film comes from Zürich where Peter Fischli still lives and works, and its inclusion in the programme here commemorates the death of David Weiss on 27 April 2012. Visit [www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.gusfishergallery.auckland.ac.nz)

### TUESDAY 4 DECEMBER

#### Bioengineering research seminar

Assoc Prof Jaap Joles, DVM, PhD, Dept of Nephrology and Hypertension, University Medical Centre, Utrecht, The Netherlands: *iNEPHRON+: The wearable (initially portable) artificial kidney*. 4-5pm Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

## Classifieds

### ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

**Accommodation suitable for visiting academic and family:** Furnished four-bedroom, two bathroom home in Northcote, on direct bus route to city and University. Bush setting, two living areas, study, decks, double garage. Available early April to late September 2013. Rent negotiable. Toyota Corolla available if desired. Phone Kerr on 480 2271 or email [k.inkson@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:k.inkson@auckland.ac.nz)

**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](mailto:rentals@citysales.co.nz) or log on to

[www.citysales.co.nz/rentals](http://www.citysales.co.nz/rentals)

**Looking for professional couple / family to rent long term.** Partly furnished house, with 3 bedrooms 2.5 bathrooms, two storeyed in a safe and lovely neighbourhood, close to all amenities. Rent per week \$650 negotiable with the right tenants. Email [Christine.sumanasena@hotmail.com](mailto:Christine.sumanasena@hotmail.com) for all other details like availability and viewing.

### HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

**Bach on Waiheke.** 1930s refurbished family bach at Orapiu; brilliant views and close to beach, with mooring. Two double bedrooms inside, and a renovated sleep-out. Please ring 624 5422 evenings or (021) 688 558 or email [jaldeng@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jaldeng@xtra.co.nz) Reasonable rates. A deposit of \$50 is required to secure a booking.

### ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

**USA mathematician couple** with 13-year-old daughter seek a moderately priced furnished house or apartment (two+ bedrooms) for sabbatical at the UoA. At least 28 January - 20 April 2013. Responsible, experienced homeowners. Willing to do yard and house-plant care. Near University and/or secondary school a plus. Contact Bruce at [bpeckham@d.umn.edu](mailto:bpeckham@d.umn.edu)

### FOR SALE

**Handmade diamond engagement rings and jewellery** - personally designed for you 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

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### 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](mailto:nchristie@rainey.co.nz) Visit [www.rainey.co.nz](http://www.rainey.co.nz)

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# POWER OF TRUTH

Nicky Hager, author of five books including *The Hollow Men and Other People's Wars*, spoke on "Investigative journalism in the age of media meltdown" at the annual Bruce Jensen lecture at the University's Maidment Theatre on 31 October. This is an extract from the lecture.

Controlling information, completely hiding information and long-term media management are prime tools used by powerful interests to gain political advantage. When information is the currency, it makes sense why investigative journalism, alongside good quality normal journalism, are so important for making democratic politics possible.

All points of view in political issues should be reported. But rather than pretending we are reporting two equal "sides", the profession of journalism should be clear that it is on the public's side. It is about redressing the obvious inequality of power and creating the possibility of democratic decision making. In effect, it is the PR companies, industry lobbyists, spin doctors and the rest on one side, and the news media and sometimes community groups on the other. Investigative journalism is an important component of giving the public interest side a chance.

This is why every decent definition of investigative journalism emphasises its role of monitoring the powerful and holding them to account for their actions.

It is inherently a democratic activity, a public service. It can be satisfying and rewarding since a relatively small number of people doing investigative journalism can potentially make a huge difference to the issues they write about.

But there is a lot to do. Most major issues need much more scrutiny: what are the vested interests, who is having influence and is the public being told the truth? Many major companies and certainly all involved in controversial issues will be surrounded with unseen politics. Who is digging deep into the

post-disaster politics of Christchurch? In fact, local government throughout the country is an example of what happens when people in positions of authority realise they face little media interest and scrutiny. The finance sector, comfortably grey and invisible except when things go wrong, likewise deserves far more scrutiny. They and many other subjects are blank areas on the map of public consciousness. Being invisible is exactly what most powerful interests prefer, exercising their influence privately.

In a small country like New Zealand, it can seem like investigative journalism is a very rare activity: endangered, if not heading for extinction. But it is a mistake to see it that way. If we picture investigative journalism as being Woodward and Bernstein working for the Washington Post in the 1970s Watergate investigation, then we have probably just defined it out of existence for New Zealand. But as soon as we see it more realistically, there is much more potential.

First of all, it is a mistake to see daily journalism and investigative journalism as separate occupations. It is actually a continuum. Take the current controversy over illegal intelligence monitoring of Kim Dotcom in New Zealand. Many journalists are only given time to report the latest news and reactions and, if no new news appears, they and the rest of the cavalry gallops off to the next subject. But obviously many questions were left unanswered and some people don't seem to be telling the truth. Each of those journalists who have kept digging, driven by wanting to find out the truth, are doing investigative journalism. The tools of good journalism — persistence, working out the right question, asking the right question and searching for solid evidence — are the same as the tools of good investigative journalism.

Also, there can be unnecessary vanity about who and what constitutes a "real" investigative journalist. Much of the best investigative journalism around the world is done by people

who wouldn't think to describe themselves with that label. For example, I am part of a community of people who research intelligence issues. It is a very small group and some call themselves journalists, others call themselves academics, and others still are researchers on their own or in public interest organisations; but we are all doing more or less exactly the same work.

I believe that the best way to have more investigative journalism in New Zealand and other countries is to broaden the idea of who can do it. The main people who do good investigative journalism already, without using the term, are documentary makers and authors. I look forward to the day when they are better linked, sharing skills, support and a sense of mission. What about academics? Or accountants, the perfect investigators for many subjects? And scientists, the perfect investigators for other sorts of subjects? What about the environment group researchers who do better research on fisheries or forest logging than the news media, and the human rights researchers who have done the best work uncovering and documenting human rights abuses? Part time, occasional, in retirement or when the kids have gone to bed: society needs investigative journalism and we need an inclusive enough definition so that there are enough people to do it.

As the economics of journalism change, media of the future need to be receptive to high quality investigative work by people who don't happen to have done a journalism degree. The employment conditions of all academics and scientists, and even public servants of the future should include encouragement to produce socially important writing aimed at mass media.

In other words, investigative journalism should be defined by what it is and how it is done, not by who does it.

Nicky Hager