“Every leader has stories of careers in which doors have opened and closed; opportunities have been taken, and made, given and let go,” said Dr Airini (Faculty of Education), in welcoming Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, to a special meeting of the University’s Women in Leadership Programme (WIP).

“Our esteemed speaker...” continued Airini, “once had her own door and office here at The University of Auckland - 16 Symonds Street, ground floor, second door on the right from the entrance. Then her values and aspirations led her to close that door and instead of lecturing about politics, she committed herself to agency as a politician.”

In a speech that won a warm response from the capacity audience of invited guests at the Maidment Theatre on 15 November, Helen Clark, University alumna and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, echoed the note of agency rather than theory by saying she had never read a book about leadership and neither did she read biographies but had “learned by doing” and through the example of outstanding mentors.

These included her parents who were “role models for leadership” ("my leadership journey began at home") and some of her teachers and colleagues from the Department of Political Studies - including the late Professor Robert Chapman and Associate Professor Ruth Butterworth – during her time at “this wonderful University” which “opened up my first real opportunities”.

Her frank, relaxed and lively account of successes – and setbacks – in her chosen career covered her early convictions and activism (on such issues as apartheid and French nuclear testing), her entry to the Labour Party and her first electoral campaign as candidate for a National Party stronghold, her rise through the ranks of the Labour Party and her experiences as Prime Minister.

“The issue of trust is crucial in leadership,” she said. As a political leader, she “developed a fetish” of saying to her team: We must never make promises we don’t keep. We must build on a reputation for honesty and predictability.

One striking point she made and illustrated from events that marked her career was that what seemed like setbacks could often look more like strokes of good fortune when seen a few years later from a wider perspective.

She spoke of the long hours a Prime Minister must work, the high expectations from colleagues and the wider society, the need for a sound set of beliefs and values, including a strong belief in yourself, and the great advantages of having good networks and of building a strong and loyal team. A memorable metaphor she mentioned with a smile was Michael Cullen’s statement: “I was the snow on which Helen’s skis glided.”

She also spoke of the differences between the leadership practices required of a Prime Minister and those demanded by her present role in development, which requires a lot of patience, the continuing accommodation of unforeseen changes, awareness of the limitation of resources and acceptance of the need for people to find the solutions that suit them.

After the lecture came a networking session and the chance for Helen to meet some of the guests, who comprised past and present participants – and friends - of the Women in Leadership Programme (WIL) and members of the Senior Women’s Leadership Network, along with women representatives from the Student Leaders’ Programme, The University of Auckland Society and Stratus, a group of early career researchers at the University.

continued on page 3
**Book explores unknown world**

John Lavas was 12 years old when he first encountered — and was intrigued by — Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s *The Lost World*. This has led John (the Subject Librarian for Biological and Marine Sciences in the University Library) to a lifelong fascination with zoology and palaeontology — and to the publication of several books. The latest is a beautiful and elegantly-presented limited edition of the novel, with an informative introduction compiled by John, and analytical chapters by four other authors who give perspectives on the history of the novel, the geology of the imaginary world it creates and the place of *The Lost World* in popular culture. As well as being editor and publisher of the volume, John created many of its strikingly-evocative illustrations. (Others are by the celebrated Czech artist Zdenek Burian.)

The novel, the *Learn World*. In 2002, he produced a book for the 90th anniversary of the publication of the novel. However, there are many changes in the far larger edition, including the "expedition report" style, and new analytical chapters with broader coverage.

This book is a collector’s item, in a limited edition of only 300 copies, priced at $140. For further information or to obtain a copy of the book please email John (j.lavas@auckland.ac.nz)

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**Inviting creative input**

Two members of the University’s research community are part of the Government’s public campaign seeking input into decisions on the topics for 10 or so National Science Challenges.

The challenges will be a set of over-arching projects that will focus New Zealand’s scientific effort on some of the major issues and opportunities facing the country. They are of interest to University researchers as they are likely to guide much government science and research funding for years to come.

Dr Siouxsie Wiles, a Health Research Council Hercules Fellow in the Department of Molecular Medicine and Pathology, and PhD student Ming Gan of the Centre for Advanced Composite Materials star in videos at www.greatnzscienceproject.co.nz to help create public interest in the challenges.

Siouxie shows bacteria that glow in the dark to a young helper, while Ming explains how advance composite materials can help sports people win gold medals.

There are eight videos in total highlighting different disciplines. “They’re all very different and that surprised me,” says Siouxie.

As well as engaging the general public, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is also engaging the research community directly through a dedicated researcher submission portal which allows researchers and research users to go into more detail about their recommended challenges than the general public website or portal does. The portal can be found at www.tinyurl.com/sciencechallenges and will be open until 5pm Monday December 10.

The University of Auckland is also making an institutional submission.

“Everybody has a stake in this,” says Siouxie. “When you’re given an opportunity to speak you have to take it, and I really hope everybody does.”

Siouxie emphasises that the challenges suggested on the public website are examples only, and that people are encouraged to be creative and come up with their own challenges from scratch.

More information about the National Science Challenges can be found in the "Major Projects" section of the MBIE website.

Note: Siouxie Wiles has just received the Science Communicators Award for 2012 from the New Zealand Association of Scientists.
Rat research a PM Prize-winner

The Prime Minister’s Science Prizes are New Zealand’s most valuable science awards, introduced to raise the profile and prestige of science.

Three of the five winners for this year have connections with the University.

Dr James Russell from the School of Biological Sciences and the Department of Statistics, who is internationally recognised for his research on conservation, has been presented with the 2012 Prime Minister’s MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist Prize. The Prime Minister’s Science Teacher Prize has been awarded to Peter Stewart, an alumnus of the University, and the Prime Minister’s Future Scientist’s Prize has been presented to Hannah Ng, a Year 13 student at St Cuthbert’s College who won a scholarship in the Liggins Institute science mentorship programme and carried out an innovative study of myopia at the University’s Myopia Laboratory.

James Russell uses a combination of ecology, statistics and genetics to prevent rats and other mammalian pests invading predator-free islands, thus helping to keep endangered species safe.

His Prime Minister’s prize, worth $200,000, rewards him for his unique DNA fingerprinting of rats, sophisticated statistical modelling and application of scientific tools to solve conservation problems.

Rats have invaded more than 80 percent of the world’s island groups and are blamed – along with other mammalian predators – for killing 26 million native birds in New Zealand forests every year. James says rats are difficult to catch because they are intelligent creatures that learn to avoid poison and traps.

While working on his PhD, he discovered the extent that rats could swim or hitchhike to pest-free islands. Using genetic tracing, he determined if they were eradication survivors or new invaders, and then tracked their movements on pest-free islands. This resulted in greater understanding of invasions and new island conservation pest management techniques.

James has now implemented a range of scientific tools, involving ecology, statistics, genetics, geography and computer science, and is currently focusing on the complex interactions of climate change, native and invasive species and ecosystem linkages to help conserve native species.

“Removing pests from islands is the single most cost effective way to solve a conservation problem. I am now working to extend this approach to onshore sanctuaries and larger, predator-free areas across New Zealand,” says James.

“We worry that academic and research returns can take many decades before they become implemented but in this case, during the three or four years of my doctorate, we were able to use the knowledge I generated to keep islands consistently rat-free.”

The Prime Minister’s prizes are designed to celebrate scientific achievement, to highlight the impact science has on New Zealanders’ lives and aim to attract more young people into science careers.

continued on from page 1

Dr Kathy Smits, the first female Head of the Department of Pacific Studies, who completed Women in Leadership in 2005 and has been a mentor for the programme, thanked Helen Clark on behalf of those who attended.

Chief organiser of the event was Mary Ann Crick from the Staff and Organisational Development Unit, who manages WIL. Mary Crick mentioned to guests that in a recent piece of research women had identified “good networks” as one of the most important factors that assisted them in their leadership or career journeys.

When Helen Clark left, one of the special gifts she took away was one presented by Airini, with these words: “May I present a humble gift that gives a nod to times past inspiring future possibilities as leaders – a photo of the door to the office at 16 Symonds Street. Ground floor, second door on the right from the entrance.”
A path into New Zealand’s writing

“The Eagle from the Rock” is a poem, written by Janet Frame in 1961, which is included in the anthology. It is a vivid and evocative piece of writing, and it highlights the importance of literature in New Zealand’s history. The poem is about the experiences of a young girl growing up in New Zealand, and it captures the beauty and wonder of the country.

A hat trick

The University is proud of its outstanding researchers who received seven medals from the Royal Society of New Zealand at the Science Honours Dinner on 21 November, including the top award. (See the Vice-Chancellor’s column on page 3.)

Distinguished Professor Margaret Brimble (Chemical Sciences, Maurice Wilkins Centre), who received not only the Rutherford Medal (the highest national honour in science) but also the Hector Medal and the MacDiarmid Medal, is an expert in medicinal and natural products chemistry, synthesising chemical compounds from nature that show promise for medical applications and for agricultural use.

The MacDiarmid Medal specifically recognised her work pioneering the design, synthesis and clinical development of a small molecule drug candidate that shows promise for significantly reducing the impact of traumatic brain injury.

Professor David Williams (Chemical Sciences, MacDiarmid Institute and Maurice Wilkins Centre) received the Pickering Medal for his contribution to developing biomedical and gas sensors which have been commercialised. David is an expert in electrochemistry and chemical sensors. His work has been commercialised through spin-out companies, most recently Auckland-based Aeroqual Ltd.

Professor Russell Gray (Psychology) received the Mason Durie Medal, presented for the first time this year, for his pioneering social science research on fundamental relationships between human language, cognition and biology. Russell has made significant contributions to linguistic and cultural evolution, animal cognition and the nature/nurture debate, and pioneered the application of techniques from evolutionary biology to study linguistic prehistory.

Professor John Fraser (Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences and Deputy Director of the Maurice Wilkins Centre), who received the Sir Charles Hercus Medal, has carried out pioneering studies on bacterial superantigens that have major implications for understanding and treating a range of human infectious diseases. John is an expert in immunology and infectious diseases, particularly superantigens produced by the body in response to infection, and virulence factors that help infectious agents thrive and overcome immune defences.
Winner paved the way

Dr Margaret Taurere, Pou Arahi, Senior Māori Adviser, has received a significant new award for the excellence of her work in the recruitment of Māori students.

The award, for excellence in the category of student learning and participation, was presented to Margaret by the Tertiary Education Union (TEU).

“This is the first time the TEU has made these awards,” says Margaret. “It’s an honour to be one of the first recipients”.

“I am happy to feel I am representing general staff in accepting this acknowledgement. Academic staff have other avenues for recognition – such as the publication of papers, success in gaining funding, or research results that bring media attention. Professional staff do not have these other types of recognition and therefore they greatly appreciate the affirmation that comes from a special award.

I am happy to accept this as part of an acknowledgement of the value of the work of professional staff.”

Margaret has made significant contributions to Māori student learning and participation in the transition from secondary to tertiary education, for example through establishing programmes such as STEAM (recently renamed BEAMS) and STEAM AHEAD, which provide information and promote the pathways into degree programmes for Māori and Pacific secondary students. Over many years she has initiated and participated in collaborative projects and events involving Māori liaison officers across tertiary institutions. She presently chairs the National Association for Māori Liaison Officers.

Margaret’s colleagues are delighted she has received this award. Said one: “Marg has been a groundbreaker in many of the initiatives that we have at the University. At an earlier stage she was at times the sole advocate for Māori recruitment and outreach - and with limited funding. She has paved the way for others to build on the foundation that she has created and continues to create.”

Artist for the Prince

New Zealand watercolour artist, Sue Wild, whose name was incorrectly recorded as Jill in the last issue of Uninews, (apologies, Sue, from the editor) was on holiday in Rieti in Italy when she had one of the most surprising phone calls of her life.

It was from one of the assistants of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, asking her if she would accompany him as the official artist for the royal tour of New Zealand (which included a visit to The University of Auckland, as reported in Uninews, Volume 42, Issue 20).

“I have to say it seemed unbelievable,” said Sue. “Like an email that tells you you’ve won a million dollars. I said afterwards to the people around me: ‘I have to sit down.’”

Sue’s task was to create a memorable record of events, comprising a substantial body of work – around 20 paintings. In the words of Prince Charles, in a later conversation she had with him: “I’d like you to paint me some happy memories”.

The week of the tour, Sue said, was an “absolute buzz, like stepping out of normal life into a spaceship, surrounded by wonderful welcoming people: the Prince of Wales, the Duchess of Cornwall and their staff and assistants”.

Sue was impressed by how much the royal couple managed to fit into each day. “The thrust of my task was to work fast because that’s what the Prince and the Duchess do. It was impressive to see how keen they were to interact with people.”

Examples of Sue’s watercolours can be seen on her website: www.wildconcepts.co.nz

Research news

The Royal Society of New Zealand - The Marsden Fund

The Marsden Fund is for investigator-initiated “blue skies” research. Funding is for excellent fundamental research that generates new knowledge and provides researchers with the opportunity to investigate novel ideas for three years. The fund is structured across a broad discipline-based framework, supporting both emerging and established researchers, and encourages New Zealand’s leading researchers to explore new ideas.

Two categories of grants are available:

- Fast-Start grants for emerging researchers - PhD conferred within the last seven years. Funding is set at $100,000 per year for three years.
- Standard grants are open to established researchers as well as emerging researchers. Funding is generally up to $300,000 per year for three years.

The Research Office deadline for preliminary proposals is 20 February 2013. If invited to submit, full proposals are due in June.

Information can be found at www.royalsociety.org.nz/programmes/funds/marsden/. To register, and for more information contact Jing Liu jing.liu@auckland.ac.nz or Chris Tews c.tews@auckland.ac.nz at the Research Office, or contact your Faculty Research Manager.

The European Union

The EU is seeking international collaborations between researchers from the EU, New Zealand and other countries in high quality research in fundamental molecular plant science. New Zealand partners can also apply to the New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment for support for travel, holding seminars and meetings, and limited research expenses. The Research Office deadline is 8 February 2013. Contact David Saunders (d.saunders@auckland.ac.nz, ext 84886) for advice on the EU call, and Jonathan Lane (j.lane@auckland.ac.nz, ext 84279) for advice on MBIE funding process.

Guidelines for acceptable expenditure on externally funded research projects

These have been reviewed and amended. The amended guidelines have been accepted by the University of Auckland Research Committee (UARC) and can be found in the Policy Register at https://policies.auckland.ac.nz/staff-research.aspx. The changes reflect feedback received from researchers and finance administrators over the two years that the guidelines have been in place and also deal with issues raised in recent audits.
From the collection

Square, triangular and rectangular units in sections of wood and chipboard are nailed and butted together in this relief sculpture, forming an integrated collection of diverse components.

The artist Paratene Te Moko Puorongo Matchitt was raised in Tokomaru Bay and is of Whanau-a-Apanui, Ngati Porou and Whakatohea descent. At Edgecumbe, near Whakatane, he was taught to carve by his father and grandfather. After leaving the east coast, he attended Auckland Teachers’ College in the years 1955 and 1956 and then spent a year at the Training College in Dunedin where he became one of Gordon Tovey’s art advisors. Tovey was the charismatic National Supervisor of Arts and Crafts from 1 February 1946 until 1974, the size of his work limited by the size of the garage at that house. Initially he made figurative paintings on board which revisited Cézanne’s famous proto-Cubist Cardplayers image using Māori sitters. Playing cards remain a recurring feature of his work with the symbols found on the four suits, red diamonds and hearts, black spades and clubs, used as mnemonics for a Māori heritage when Western card signs were appropriated for Māori purposes. Māori prophets like Te Kooti and Rua Kenana in the nineteenth and early twentieth century made extensive use of the card emblem in their art for flags and meeting houses. The diamond painted on the wooden exterior of Kenana’s Hiona temple at Maungapohatu was key to his prophecy. It would be discovered on the stone mountain itself, and usher in a new Māori millennium, being the precious stone symbolised the sufferings of Māori people since colonisation.

Asked by the Principal of Hawkes Bay Community College, Peter Smith, to help design, build and administer an arts centre on the Otatara Hill at the Stables near Taradale, Para Matchitt moved to Napier in 1975. In 1993 he was commissioned by Robert Ellis, Professor of the Elam School of Fine Arts, to make a new artwork in cedar for the Tāmaki Campus. Entitled Rehua, this sculpture was linked to the artwork in cedar for the Tāmaki Campus.

Noche y Niebla

In describing how the global phenomenon of neoliberalism was first introduced in Chile through its violent military coup in 1973, David Harvey explains: “This was not the first time that a brutal experiment carried out in the periphery became a model for the formulation of politics in the centre.”

If September 11, 1973, set the stage for the introduction and spread of neoliberalism from the margin to the heart of global capitalism, the “other” September 11, in 2001, represents the erosion from the very centre of a system in crisis from as early as the 1930s, which finally collapsed in 2008 with the financial crisis on Wall Street.

This book, Noche y Niebla: Neoliberalismo, memoria y trauma en el Chile postautoritario (Trans. Night and Fog: Neoliberalism, Memory, and Trauma in Post-authoritarian Chile by Walsesca Pino-Ojeda, New Zealand Centre for Latin American Studies (Spanish-SELL) considers the ways in which Chile’s current socio-political reality is a confluence of diverse trends in international relations. This study reviews how 17 years of dictatorship in Chile represent an undeniably dark and confusing moment in the country’s social history, yet the following period of democracy, far from harbouring the coming light of day, has been dominated by a dense fog in which fear and disorientation have persisted.

In spite of this, since May 2011, Chile is beginning to overcome the fear that has dominated it for almost 40 years: “They’re afraid of us because we don’t fear them!” is one of the slogans of the current protest movement spearheaded by students.

This book was published in Santiago, Chile in 2011 by Editorial Cuarto Propio.
Five outstanding academics have been awarded Seelye Fellowships and will be hosted in Auckland to work with colleagues and students in the University and to present lectures and seminars. The following nominations were successful. Associate Professor Rampal Etienne (nominated by Associate Professor Alexei Drummond, Department of Computer Science, Faculty of Science) is a world-leader in community ecology, evolutionary biology and mathematical and computational biology, he has published prolifically on theoretical developments in ecological and evolutionary theory. Professor Pam Grossman was nominated by Dr Ngaire Hoben, Department of Learning, Development and Professional Practice, Faculty of Education. Based at Stanford University School of Education, she is a leading international authority on teacher education whose research interests also include professional education, teacher knowledge and the teaching of English in secondary schools. Professor Raymond Price was nominated by Professor Jane Gaffney, Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy, Faculty of Education. Professor Price is Professor and Sevens Chair for Human Behaviour in the College of Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has a long career in Management and Organisation Development and Human Resources. He brings an interdisciplinary perspective to the preparation and professional development of teachers. Professor Mark Rees was nominated by Professor Richard Fault from the Department of Anatomy and Radiology and Centre for Brain Research (CBR), Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. Professor Rees is from the Institute of Life Science, College of Medicine, Swansea University, UK, and is a world-leading authority on the genetics of epilepsy. He will use the unique tissue collection within the brain bank at CBR to further his research.

Paul Wessel was nominated by Associate Professor Bruce McDonald, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering. Paul Wessel, from the US, is a technologies for Health theme leader and has considerable experience in commercialising healthcare technologies (e.g. diabetes control in children), as well as advising on innovation and commercialisation strategies for healthcare technologies. The Ralph and Eve Seelye Charitable Trust Fund was established in 2006 in recognition of the benefits to be gained by many through the visits of a few. The trust has strong emphasis on education and in addition to fellowships funds postgraduate scholarships at the University.

What’s on

THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER

Inaugural lecture
By new professors at the University. Prof Rod Dunbar, School of Biological Sciences and Maurice Wilkins Centre: Adventures with human cells. 4pm, Lecture Theatre 102-G36, OGH. Refreshments to follow in the Thomas Bldg Common Rm 3a Symonds St. Liggins Institute seminar: Assoc Prof Jaap A. Joles: Perinatal treatment of down-hooded hypertensive rats. 4-5pm Seminar Rm S005-003, Bldg 505, 85 Park Rd, Grafton. Queries to dx.liu@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER

Bioengineering research seminar
Dr Prof Nielsen; James Cook Research Fellow, Auckland Bioengineering Institute: Fieldwork with James Cook. 4-5pm Floor Ground Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

SATURDAY 15 DECEMBER

Themed walk
1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Call into Gus Fisher Gallery for a Christmas minie pie, then follow the red balloons for seasonally themed walk with David Hill of Auckland Walks, as he points out the Romanesque and Gothic features of downtown Auckland. $30 per person. Book online at www.aucklandwalks.co.nz or phone 0800 300 100.

MONDAY 10 DECEMBER

Inaugural Peter Gluckman Medal and distinguished lecture
Prof John Windsor, Dept of Surgery: Streams in the desert. 12noon-1.30pm, Lecture Theatre 505-007, Bldg 505, 85 Park Rd, Grafton.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Bach on Waiheke. 1930s refurbished family bach at Omapu, brilliant views and close to beach, with mooring. Two double beds inside, and a renovated sleep-out. $500 per night for minimum 6 nights. BYO linen and towels, no pets. Phone 376 0456 for more information.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

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

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Housesitter: Are you looking for a mature, reliable couple (n/s) to care for your home while you are away? Academic recently moved to Auckland. Current house sit finishes January 2013. Term negotiable 4-12 months. Areas within 45 mins of Epsom Campus preferred. Email Karen at jokajo100@yahoo.com

MISCELLANEOUS

City Legal Services. Rainey Collins Wright is a small law firm centrally located at 1. 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 5838 to discuss your needs, or email nchristie@rainey.co.nz

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Travel. I have 12 years experience in looking at 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.ambleton@monotra.co.nz or 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.

University bookshop special offer: 20% staff discount at University Bookshop for 1 week only! Offer valid from the 10th-14th December, 2012. Current University of Auckland staff ID card must be presented to claim discount. Discount does not apply to textbooks (groups 70, 71 & 75), magazines, greeting cards, wrapping materials, lab coats, postage stamps, book vouchers and nett priced items. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer.

For a full list of The University of Auckland events see www.auckland.ac.nz/events Please email classified ads to uninewsadvertising@auckland.ac.nz nine days before publication. Cost $20 (incl GST).

The University of Auckland News 7
A VIBRANT COMMUNITY

On a recent sunny morning, one of our chapel students dropped by unannounced, summer-clad in beach shorts, jandals, t-shirt and a big smile.

He came around to wish me a good Christmas break and to say he had “aced” the exams. I imagined the papers had yet to reach the marker’s desk. But still, I took his word for it.

“We talked about the exams; we recalled the passing year and laughed about the ups and downs of having little money, flatmates who can’t cook to save themselves, hassles of family, girlfriends and so on; we talked too about the year ahead. He and all were “sweet”. A few minutes later he was gone. With “see you next year chaplain”, he headed off, waving to the chapel secretary and a shout of “good luck guys” to the not-so-lucky students still studying in the chapel hall.

Over the years there have been many such moments - precious, spontaneous, raw, brief, cheerful, honest, unencumbered, and sometimes cheeky but endlessly hopeful moments. I see these as treasures of the chaplaincy ministry. They are fleeting moments in a student’s life, of course, but they last forever. They remember these moments because they are heart-to-heart encounters, given in confidence and trust.

I have learned in ministry every pastoral situation is unique and the response to each requires a high degree of sensitivity and care.

The University environment, however, is another level of complexity. It is an exacting professional environment. In every situation there is a need to connect across the cultural diversity, multiple faith traditions or none, and young people. As well as these, it is important to recognise the reputation and standing of the institution and the tremendous emotional attachment of families, alumni and the wider community to it.

As chaplain to the University community, I do value the immense personal and spiritual satisfaction one gains from the liveliness and challenge of this place. On any given day when concerns expressed to me can range from anything on the personal to political or relational to spiritual, it is no exaggeration to say there is never a dull moment.

Here, my experiences are greatly enriched and understandings broadened by the opportunities to work, learn and play alongside different people from all walks of life. And the chaplaincy ministry to The University of Auckland puts me right at the heart of a rich and dynamic international community. I can now certainly understand, and justifiably lay claim to, what John Wesley once said: “the world is my parish.”

Of course, this world with all its excitement and challenges, pain and laughter, high times and low time can unexpectedly impose itself. And the ministry of the chaplaincy possesses no more the abilities or special powers nor great knowledge to fully respond than those not already evident in the university.

What I do know, however, is that it’s a great privilege to share in the special moments of its community’s life – a great sense of fun, real vulnerability and deep joy.

Rev Uesifili Unasa
Chaplain, Maclaurin Chapel

Season’s Greetings
From Judy Wilford, Tess Redgrave and the team at Uninews.
This is the last issue of Uninews for 2012.
First deadline for 2013 is 4 February.