“All comments about ‘being a good teacher’ must sound trite, because teaching always happens in the practice of it, not in the telling of it.”

This comment comes from Professor Alison Jones (Education), one of three University academics who won national Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards (in the General category) earlier this month for “practising” good teaching. The other recipients were Associate Professor Cather Simpson, (Science) and Associate Professor Bryony James (Engineering).

“A key focus of the awards is to identify and reward teaching practices that are student-focused and promote effective learning,” says Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon. “The University extends its congratulations to all three winners for their outstanding efforts.”

Alison Jones began teaching at the University in 1986, and joined Te Puna Wānanga, School of Māori Education, in 2004. She has had great success supervising postgraduate students, especially Māori and Pacific Island students and, in turn, says her students have provided the impetus for her own research. Alison identifies three keys to her teaching: forming a supportive and inspiring relationship that will get the best work from the student; the importance of collective learning to the development of researchers; and the idea that researchers are writers, and that academic writing should be engaging and interesting.

“Perhaps because I don’t like unnecessary intellectual obfuscation, and poor argument depresses me, I enjoy unpacking ideas and making sense of them with others,” Alison told UniNews on email from England where she is currently on a research trip. “And I particularly love reading good writing – so that is what I expect from my students.”

Cather Simpson was appointed jointly to the School of Chemical Sciences and Department of Physics in 2007, and also contributes to an English course. Cather’s teaching philosophy is to help students learn what they need to succeed in their own lives, and she fosters an ethos of independence and self-motivation in students. Active and co-operative learning are central to Cather’s classes, encouraged through activities such as “convince your neighbour” sessions, group problem solving and “problem of the day” exercises.

Robb Lectures

Professor Kwame Anthony Appiah, Princeton University’s Laurance S. Rockefeller University Professor of Philosophy, is the 2013 Sir Douglas Robb lecturer.

He will deliver three lectures on “Identity, honour and politics” on 19, 21 and 23 August at the Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium (260-115), Owen G Glenn Building.

The first lecture will explore a philosophical account of the nature of social identities, focusing on the ways in which they are constituted through social interactions that involve both collaboration and conflict. Kwame will talk about the ways in which our social identities shape both our private, professional and public lives.

Continued on page 2

Continued on page 3
“Outstanding teachers” continued from page 1

After the awards Cather told the News she would use the $20,000 prize money to help accelerate a new “stretch” outreach project. “We will develop a web-portal, where school students can upload ideas about microfluidic flow - our initial topic. We’ll then convert these ideas to paper widgets with our lasers, and send them back through the post, so students can test their hypotheses, draw conclusions and then report findings back on the website.”

In 2012, Cather trialled the idea in physics teacher workshops with great success and she says she is now delighted to have funds to pay a University student to develop the interactive web-portal.

Associate Professor Bryony James joined the University’s Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering in 1998 and was soon winning accolades for her outstanding teaching. Students describe Bryony’s enthusiasm as “infectious”, and appreciate her humour and approachability. Bryony is noted for her ability to explain concepts clearly. She carefully monitors understanding of potentially difficult core concepts; employs multiple techniques to cater for different learning styles; and uses memorable demonstrations and examples that resonate with students and provide context for their learning.

“I really love my subject so it’s hard not to enjoy teaching it,” says Bryony “and our students are the greatest source of energy anyone could wish for, it’s like being plugged into the mains! “It is also great to see that all three Auckland awardees are also accomplished researchers, which I think reflects the right balance for the country’s top University.”

The child penalty

Parenthood, employment and the “child penalty” is a title of a Combing Parent and Career seminar on Monday 1 August 1-2pm, at the Conference Centre Lecture Theatre, Building 423-342 (22 Symonds Street). Sociology Professor Maureen Baker presents research findings on the employment consequences of childbearing for men and women and discusses how, compared to men, women tend to make more employment-related concessions for children, especially if they pursue high-level careers or parent without a partner. Throughout her 40-year career Maureen has taught sociology and social policy in Canada, Australia and New Zealand and has also worked as a policy adviser and researcher for the Canadian Parliament. Register by 30 July to: n.mcgrinder@auckland.ac.nz

Full steam ahead

"It’s awesome to see a tidal wave of brownness at The University of Auckland.”

With those words, the Business School’s Pacific Success Coordinator, Leaupupe Ralph Elika, welcomed 500 Māori and Pacific Year 12 and 13 students to the University’s annual STEAM Ahead event.

Organised by the Equity Office – Te Ara Tautika, STEAM Ahead gives senior Māori and Pacific secondary students an in-depth look at degree programmes, as well as the chance to attend lectures and to hear from current students about University life.

This year school students from around New Zealand attended the day-long programme, coming from Christchurch, Hawkes Bay, Taranaki, Central North Island, Northland, and across Auckland.

Ten students from Napier’s St Joseph’s Māori Girls’ College rose early to catch their flight and take advantage of the chance to familiarise themselves with the University, to learn the qualifications needed to enrol, and to hear about scholarships that may be available. Year 13 student Shayne August Tai, who is interested in pursuing medicine and science, commended the programme.

“STEAM Ahead helped me make a decision on what to study by breaking down the courses I wanted to do to an understandable format. It was also interesting to hear about other student’s stories - some even related to my own life! They made the University feel welcoming and more like a home, which helps take away the fear of going to university.”

St Joseph’s Careers Adviser, June Stapley, praised STEAM Ahead as one of the “premier” events for her senior students. “STEAM Ahead is a great opportunity to see what the real world of university is like.”

Margaret Taurere, the Equity Office’s Pou Arahi Māori, said she was very pleased with this year’s event, which brought 64 schools to the University — up from 51 last year.

Fast Forward

Recent and current work of leading national and international architects, planners and urban designers is the subject of the annual lecture series, Fast Forward, hosted by the School of Architecture and Planning. This year’s series of six lectures (of which one has already taken place) includes presentations by two internationally renowned architects, as well as sessions focusing on the Auckland Supercity. The lectures will take place weekly through July and August (31 July, 7, 14, 21 and 24 August) at the Engineering Lecture Theatre 1.439, 20 Symonds Street, from 6.30-7.30pm, and will culminate in a Mayoral Debate at the Fisher and Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Building, at 6pm on 4 September.

Addiction research

An international expert on alcohol and drug policy will speak at the official launch of the University’s new Centre for Addiction Research at 12 noon on 9 August at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, Grafton Campus. The recently established centre brings together researchers from across the University who are exploring the effects of dangerous consumption of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, and of gambling, on individuals, their families, communities, and society. ASB Visiting Professor Thomas Babor from the University of Connecticut School of Medicine will speak at the launch and will also give a public health lecture at 5.30pm for a 5.45pm start on 15 August in Building 505, Lecture Theatre 2 at FMHS.

Highlighted Events
market validation.

half of which had failed because he hadn’t used

students he had started nine businesses, about
time and money on business ideas. He told

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Duncan Ledwith stressed the importance of

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Speakers included Duncan Ledwith from The

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Entrepreneurs soak up industry tips

A recent Spark Ideas 2 Business (I2B) intensive

day-one workshop was held at the Business

School for 300 staff and student entrepreneurs

in preparation for the Spark $100k Challenge,

with entries closing in early August.

“It was fantastic to feel the buzz in the room as

we kicked off with a full house,” said Spark CEO

William Lockie. “The diversity of the crowd made

for great networking and attendees took full

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who have been inconvenienced by the closure,”
said Margo. One highlight of the opening event

was a short performance by the Auckland Theatre

Company of a segment from The Heretic by

Richard Bean, which is now on show at the

Maidment. The performance. Margo said, was

“particularly apt because The Heretic is a play

that deals with academia, and the short piece

consisted of a highly amusing discussion between
two academics, played by Jennifer Ward-Lealand

and Stelios Yiakmis”.

Maidment Theatre opens

The Maidment Theatre is officially open after a

celebratory launch on 11 July which included a

Karakia led by Geremy Hema, Iwi Liaison

Officer at the University, and the Vice-

Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon

cutting a symbolic construction tape on stage.

Margo Athy, Programme and Business

Manager for the Maidment, is “absolutely thrilled

to see the theatre open, extensively refurbished and all ready for its first

performances, after a fire closed its doors in April.

“It was great to celebrate with the team and all

that made it happen, as well as the clients

who have been inconvenienced by the closure,”
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“Rabb Lectures” continued from page 1

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The second lecture will look at the ways in

which honour, both individual and national,

connects with democratic life. Kwame will argue

that there is reason to rely on a number of

relatively well understood social psychological

processes to create a culture of citizen honour

that can help sustain the political life of a
democratic society.
In his final lecture Kwame discusses ways in

which national honour, the honour in which we

participate as citizens of our country, can be

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central questions of morality and human rights.
For further details: www.auckland.ac.nz/robb

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From the Vice-Chancellor

Recent analyses of our financial future illustrate

some of the challenges we face and why we

need to be nimble in responding to them.

These challenges arise on both the revenue and
cost sides. Our biggest single source of revenue,
that from domestic students, is both price- and
volume-controlled by government. International
student numbers are increasing, and with them
revenues, but we are only now returning to the
numbers we had in the early 2000s before the
high-profile failure of several private providers
damaged the “New Zealand Inc” brand. Growing
our research revenues is also challenging because
the pool of funds for which our staff may compete
has declined markedly and many research grants
and contracts do not meet the full costs of
undertaking the research project. Meanwhile the
costs associated with our much-needed
programme of campus renewal and with
attracting and retaining top staff in a very
competitive market continue to rise.
The net effect of these pressures is that if we do
not respond, our operating surplus (excess of
revenue over expenditure) will by 2016 fall from
the target 3.75% of revenue to just 1.8%, a
shortfall of over $20 million per annum. This is
unacceptable, both because that lower surplus
does not give the University an adequate buffer
against revenue risks and because institutions
that consistently fail to make a surplus of at least
3% may be subject to government intervention.
A number of developments are underway to
ensure we do not find ourselves in this dangerous
situation. We are actively seeking to increase
international student fee revenues, particularly
through new taught masters programmes being
developed by the Business School. We will also be
taking a more targeted approach to research
funding, seeking to provide enhanced support for
groups whose research capability best meets the
requirements of funding agencies. At the same
time we will be aiming to reduce costs through
more effective procurement (e.g. of utilities, travel
and consumables), by reducing costs of
administration and perhaps by – for the first time
– having to reduce or remove services, not
because they have no value but because we can
no longer afford to deliver them. This will be a
difficult process for us all, but we are now at the
point where we have no choice.
New Director on board

Mark Bentley in his new role as Director of Alumni Relations and Development, which he says “feels a little like coming home”.

Mark worked at the University previously as Director of Advancement and Marketing, and subsequently General Manager, of the NZ Leadership Institute, in the Business School.

“In the intervening years, whilst I have been away establishing the Auckland Communities Foundation as inaugural Chief Executive, I have watched the University’s great progress in fundraising and friend-raising with interest from the sidelines. I am delighted to have the opportunity to assist in crafting a vision and operation that can take the University even further in the years to come.”

Second Winter Lecture

Can alternative medicines help you quit smoking?

Come along to the second of the Winter lectures Tuesday 30 July 1-2pm for some perspectives from a leading expert in the field. Dr Natalie Walker is Programme Leader from the Addiction Research programme at the National Institute for Health Innovation (NIHI) at the University. Her lecture will discuss the various complementary/alternative medicines used by New Zealand smokers trying to quit, and summarise the evidence for these methods focusing on safety and efficacy. Methods include acupuncture, the Allen Carr’s Easyway programme, hypnosis, Nicobrevin, St John’s wort, bioresonance therapy and cytisine.

Overwhelming support for Dean’s reappointment

Business School Dean Professor Greg Whittred has been reappointed for a further five years.

Vice-Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon says Professor Whittred had made an impact since joining the Business School five years ago.

“In considering his reappointment I consulted with senior members of the faculty. Their support for Greg was overwhelming.

“I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Greg on an outstanding first term as Dean, and on his reappointment for a further term.”

Since the Dean joined the Business School in 2008, enrolments in the PhD programme have nearly doubled, as have research grant applicants.

Global rankings have improved, with all disciplines now ranked from 20 to 50 worldwide.

At the programme level the school has undertaken major initiatives in team-based learning and lecture recording.

At the same time the school’s public profile has been significantly enhanced. Press coverage has risen greatly, with 60 major stories and 212 pieces in which staff were quoted in 2012.

Come to the ‘Salon’

The University of Auckland Society is hosting its own unique ‘Salon’ during the second semester. Based on the famous 17th and 18th century French salons where poets, writers and artists presented and discussed their work, the 2013 Salon Series kicked off at Old Government House at 5pm on 17 July with “Poetry in Focus”.

The next Salon session, all of which are free to University of Auckland Society members, is Fiction in Focus on 21 August with guests Stephanie Johnson, Sarah Laing and Charlotte Grimsdow and Alex Jesperson, a professional teaching fellow in the English department, as panel chair. The final session, Media in Focus, chaired by Professor Annie Goldson will be on 6 November and will feature David Hastings, Jan Stephenson and Gavin Ellis.

The Society helps alumni, supporters and friends of the University connect with each other, and with the wider community, through a range of intellectual and social opportunities. Membership costs $50 a year and is open to all University graduates as well as staff, past and present.

Society members are offered VIP access to a number of events that take place on campus during the year as well as discounts on services and events in the Auckland area.

Staff who are interested in attending these Salon sessions or who want to find out more about the Society may contact Jane Bradley at society@auckland.ac.nz.
“Wonderfully readable” history

Dr Thomas Miller, an honorary academic and former eminent researcher on immunopathology in the Department of Medicine, was sailing his yacht on the Kawau Harbour when he had a serendipitous meeting with a fellow yachtsman and former colleague, Professor Norman Sharpe.

After an enjoyable chat that evening about earlier days – the events, the personalities, the exciting advances in research and treatment – the two decided the history of Medicine at Auckland must be recorded before it was lost.

Unbeknown to Thomas and Norman, another former colleague, Dr David Richmond, who had been a Professor of Medicine and Medical Education in the same department, had been recording some of the key events with a view to writing a history.

When Thomas and David decided to join their efforts with those of Judy Murphy, formerly a cardio-vascular researcher in the department and now an honorary senior research fellow in the School of Population Health, the ultimate result was a wonderful book, published this year.

Entitled In the Beginning: A history of the Medical Unit at Auckland Hospital and the formative years of the Department of Medicine, The University of Auckland, the book was designed and produced with strong support from Val Grey, graphic artist and medical illustrator for the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, assisted by Warren Jones, former faculty photographer.

The book can be obtained from the University Book Shop, or by contacting Thomas Miller on t.miller@auckland.ac.nz

In the Beginning tells the story of how the Fulltime Medical Unit established at Auckland Hospital in 1959 evolved into the Department of Medicine at the University and how medicine at Auckland Hospital made the transition from a practice-based service to an academic discipline, involving research, clinical services and teaching. It highlights much of the ground-breaking research on disorders such as kidney failure, thyroid and cardio-vascular disease, and chronicles the careers of key players, including Dr JDK (Derek) North, inaugural Professor of Medicine, Professor Sir John Scott and Professor Norman Sharpe. In support of the historical details, we hear the voices of those who were there through a series of fascinating personal stories, memories and anecdotes.

The book has inspired much positive feedback, including the following wonderful accolade, sent by a former professor, resident in the US: “What an achievement. I am filled with admiration... To open it is like opening a portal that reveals the historical details, we hear the voices of those who were there through a series of fascinating personal stories, memories and anecdotes. The book can be obtained from the University Book Shop, or by contacting Thomas Miller on t.miller@auckland.ac.nz

Correction

Apologies for the inaccuracies published in the story on Professor Andrew Pullan in the last University News. In fact Andrew was HOD at Engineering Science from 2008 to 2010. He was not diagnosed with cancer until mid 2011. Professor Ron Patterson met Andrew while working at The University of Auckland.

EU FP7 Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowships 2013

Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowships bring researchers from the EU to New Zealand for training and development which will benefit the EU. Previous years have seen fellows hosted by the Schools of Biological Sciences, Environment and Medical Sciences. If you are proposing to feature as a host in an application to the forthcoming 2013 round (deadline 7 August) please contact David Saunders (d.saunders@auckland.ac.nz) at the Research Office.

The Genesis Oncology Trust:

The Genesis Oncology Trust invites applications for grants to support New Zealand-based initiatives that will lead to improvements in the prevention, detection, diagnosis or treatment of cancer, or improvements in palliative care. These initiatives can be biomedical, clinical, epidemiological or psychosocial. Contact Julia Zhu at the Research office for further details (julia.zhu@auckland.ac.nz). The Research Office deadline for all grant applications is 13 August.

Mobility funding opportunity

The Human Frontier Science Program Organisation supports innovative basic research into fundamental biological problems, with an emphasis on novel cross-disciplinary approaches. The organisation offers fellowships to researchers in member countries (including New Zealand) to work overseas, and for overseas researchers to work in member countries. Long-Term Fellowships (three years) are for applicants with PhDs in a biological discipline who wish to conduct research in the life sciences that is significantly different from their previous work. Cross-Disciplinary Fellowships target advanced graduate students or postdocs in physics, chemistry, mathematics, engineering or computer sciences, who have had limited exposure to biology but want to train in the biological sciences. The preliminary application deadline is 13 August 2013. Contact David Saunders (d.saunders@auckland.ac.nz) at the Research Office, or visit www.hfsp.org.

Award winner

Paul Augustinus of the School of Environment has recently received an award from AINSE (Australian Institute for Nuclear Science and Engineering) to use the ANSTO nuclear science facilities in Sydney on the following projects: Refining the eruptive history of the Auckland Volcanic Field: implications for volcanic hazards and identifying and quantifying human impacts on the environment: the sediment records from northern New Zealand lakes.
At first blush, this painting from Ian Scott’s Authentic Traditions appears to be textbook postmodernism. Combine “low” art (beer advertising) with “high” art (a photograph of Colin McCahon, twentieth century New Zealand art’s biggest gun) with a conventional painting of iconic South Island scenery and a cluster of punga trees for ironic effect.

Yet despite all the elements in Ian Scott’s painting being representational and recognizably symbolic, their dissonance emphasizes abstract, formal properties in painting in a modernist way. Colour blocks are pushed to the surface but there is no logic to the distribution, no cohesion to the pattern. Loud and important, a square of yellow is balanced with one of green above, and a floating rectangle of red hovers supernaturally over a predominantly blue and green landscape. Is the recently deceased modernist master, Colin McCahon (1919-1987) an angel heralding new beginnings for the landscape?

All the imagery is copied or appropriated. Rather than invent his own version of the Great New Zealand Landscape, the artist has repainted a classic Douglas Badcock original of Central Otago. Worthy of inclusion in a collection of table mats of New Zealand scenery, this view is carefully, and conventionally, composed. It gives the viewer a bird’s eye perspective of a ploughed field with a stone church and autumnal poplars reflected in the glassy surface of the Clutha River which flows diagonally across the foreground. A dramatic sky casts shadows on the snowclad peaks behind. Timelessness is the painter’s aim, with the work a celebration of bucolic agricultural life in the hinterland, or as South Islanders prefer to call it, the heartland.

Commercially successful, Douglas Badcock (1922-2009) once sold 42 paintings in an afternoon at Smith & Caughey’s, and published three books on his art in the 1970s. Badcock frequently aced the Kelliher Art Award, an art competition which ran annually in New Zealand from 1956 to 1977 with a prize of £500.

Established by the beer baron Sir Henry Kelliher (Dominion Breweries was his company, as heralded by the beer advertisement silkscreened on this work), its aim was “to encourage artists to paint the essential character of the New Zealand scene and the ways of life of its people”. With missionary zeal and considerable capital, Kelliher, who was from Otago himself, had hoped to stem the tide of modernism and abstraction in the 1950s. As a twenty year old immigrant from Bradford in Yorkshire, Ian Scott had entered the competition, winning the junior section with Low Tide, Anawhata in 1965 while in his second year at art school. Colin McCahon, who was Ian Scott’s lecturer at the Elam School of Fine Arts in the mid 1960s, had nothing but contempt for the Kelliher with its “aesthetics of the cake tin or tea towel” and called it the Kelliher prize for calendar art.

Rather than a postmodern critique of authorship with a random collection of copies arranged non-hierarchically, Ian Scott’s New Zealand Evening is a serious consideration of the twilight of a tradition. He emulates the way American painter Robert Rauschenberg encouraged his viewers to tease out the links between seemingly unrelated imagery. He asks us to consider not only the status of this mode of landscape in the contemporary art world, but also the relationship between abstraction and representation in modernism. This continued as the theme for his work with recourse to combining imagery from pornography and minimalism until his recent death from cancer on 27 June 2013.

Linda Tyler
Ian Scott (1945-2013) New Zealand Evening (Central Otago) 1993, acrylic, enamel and silkscreen on canvas, 1160 x 1270mm

Sir George Fowlds is a name that may not be recognised by many current staff or students. But the Scottish born businessman and some time New Zealand Minister of Education was President (equivalent to Chancellor) of the Auckland University College from 1920-1933. After his death the Auckland University College Council resolved to award an annual medal in his name to the most “distinguished honours student” in the year. The silver medal, designed in Auckland by Walker and Hall but produced in their Sheffield foundry, featured a profile of Sir George seemingly based on a 1933 sketch by L.D. Morrison. On the other side was the Auckland University College coat of arms framed by pohutukawa leaves. The ribbon under the coat of arms was kept empty in order to be able to engrave the name of the winner on it. The original die for the Fowlds Memorial Medal cost 7 pounds 10 shillings and each medal a further 1 pound 10 shillings.

Medals were awarded from 1939 to 1947. At that point there were several outstanding students in the same year and the Professorial Board was unable to choose between them. The decision was made not to present a single medal but to award Fowlds Memorial Certificates to one student per faculty. In 1962 there were further changes and the Fowlds Memorial is now celebrated by the awarding of several Fowlds Memorial Prizes.

Elizabeth Nichol
Records Management Programme Manager
Office of the Vice-Chancellor

From the cultural collection

The few remaining un-awarded medals now form part of the University’s heritage collection of objects and artifacts that help to tell the story of the University’s activities. Fowlds’s contributions to the University are also recognised by a memorial stone just inside the ClockTower main entrance and membership of the Sir George Fowlds Society recognises benefactors who have made substantial donations to the University. The University Library also holds a very large collection of his papers and archives which were donated by his family.
Chemical Sciences showcase

What’s on

THURSDAY 27 JULY
Vaikololoa seminar in Pacific Peoples’ Health
From evidence to policy and practice, Pacific Health Section, School of Population Health. Speaker tba. The critical early years of life: Preparing for Pacific educational and economic success. 1-2pm, Rm 220, Bldg 730, School of Population Health, Tamaki Campus. RSVP to t.veal@auckland.ac.nz

WEDNESDAY 31 JULY
Access to Powerful Knowledge Symposium
9.30am-4pm, Rm N356, N Block, Gate 4, 60 Epsom Ave, Epsom. Presented by the Knowledge and Education Research Unit (KERU) and the School of Critical Studies in Education (CRSTIE). RSVP to a.moller@auckland.ac.nz

Fermata seminar
Dr Warren Drake: Cracking the Wagner code. 5.30pm, Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free.

3 Minute Thesis Competition final
5.30-7.30pm, DGG84, Level 0, Business School. Queries to 3mt@auckland.ac.nz

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: www.auckland.ac.nz/3minute

SATURDAY 3 AUGUST
Gallery talk
Curator Andrew Clifford, Centre for Art Research, responds to Anri Sala’s work with a discussion of the politics of improvisation in art and music. 1pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 6 AUGUST
Third 2013 Winter Lecture
Charms and harms of natural medicines. Prof Cindy Farquhar: Hype or hope? Complementary and ‘natural’ remedies in the treatment of couples with subfertility. 1-2pm, Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St. Admission is free and open to the public. No bookings required. Queries to 373 7599 ext 87698.

WEDNESDAY 7 AUGUST
Fast Forward Lecture series
Pip Cheshire, architect: Rammed earth and carbon fibre: One project up north. 6.30pm, Engineering Lecture Theatre 1.439, 20 Symonds St.

Classifieds

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 (021) 246 6710 at City Sales or rentals@citysales.co.nz or log on to www.citysales.co.nz/rentals

SHORT TERM LET – 1 MONTH. 9 August to 8 September. Pansybob, Three Lamps. Two bedroom flat in terrace house, 1 off street car space, garden, SKY TV & internet broadband. Second bedroom is set up as a study. $400pw plus $100 bond. Electricity use to be deducted from bond. Occupier overseas, returning 8 September. Contact Mike 022 671 2287

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

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.

For sale: UOA Vehicle - Hyundai Tucson 2.0 City A4 2009 (warm silver) 26,700km, good condition, well maintained. The car is sold as is, where is and we recommend you inspect the vehicle for your own satisfaction. $17,000 minimum bid, sealed bids and the car will be sold to the highest bidder. For information/to view car contact Mabel Sotto, m.sotto@auckland.ac.nz or phone ext 85365.

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The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon John Key’s deal with SkyCity to grant them a 35-year casino license appears not to recognise the wide range of harms their operations are having and will continue to have on Aucklanders.

These arrangements need to be understood in the context of how gambling has proliferated in New Zealand over the last 30 years.

One way of viewing the gambling industry is to see it as primarily an extractive industry similar to mining or native forest logging. Instead of creating something new, gambling obtains its profits by tapping into systems that already exist, in this case the financial activity in a local economy.

While a small amount of mining or logging may have limited impacts on the natural ecology—a forest will regenerate after the loss of a few native trees—larger scale extractive operations have impacts that are unsustainable. Similarly, small-scale low-potency forms of gambling, such as card games and housie, generate little harm, but large-scale gambling operations generate harms that trample widely over the social and financial ecology of surrounding communities.

International research has pointed repeatedly to how high intensity, high volume gambling has a broad range of harmful effects on populations. The harm from problem gamblers alone spreads misery through families, promotes property crime and fraud, manufactures mental health issues on a large scale and eats into the viability of many businesses.

Indeed, placing a large casino smack-bang in the middle of a city the size of Auckland can be compared to placing a large open-cast mine in the middle of Tongariro National Park. For both, it is the immediate precious natural or human ecology that will bear the brunt of the negative impacts.

Many of the provisions in Key’s deal are harm-producing rather than harm-reducing: 230 new pokies, 240 seats at automated gaming tables, 40 extra gaming tables, $20 dollar bill acceptors and the system for monitoring gambling behaviour.

Each of these measures will be added to an already highly dangerous gambling environment. For example, installing $20 bill acceptors onto machines may not seem like a major change, but it flies in the face of efforts overseas to moderate the pace of machine gambling through measures such as forced breaks and limiting each bet to one dollar.

While the detail has yet to be released, Key’s deal specifies measures which on the surface appear to reduce problem gambling. These include increased investment in host responsibility and the tracking of problem gamblers. These are weak concessions when placed against a backdrop of measures aimed at ramping up business.

In line with the mining comparison, problem gamblers can be likened to seams of gold running through a community. They may comprise a minority group of players, perhaps only 10-20 percent, but they spend vastly more than ordinary players. They are, therefore, responsible for a sizeable proportion of the profits.

From a business point of view, it seems unrealistic to expect SkyCity to willingly avoid a source which accounts for much of their profits. Problem gamblers are just far too valuable to be seriously managed out. For this reason, industry efforts at host responsibility are at best seen as public relations exercises aimed to provide the impression of protection. Host responsibility, like mine safety, only becomes meaningful when activities are subject to independent scrutiny and evaluated against best practice standards.

A further concern is improvements in the capacity of the Casino to monitor gambling behaviour. What are the privacy implications of a commercial operation possessing detail on a very personal aspect of one’s life, one’s gambling behaviour? What systems will be put in place for casino operators not to use that information for marketing to vulnerable individuals?

John Key’s deal fails to observe the main principles set up in the 2003 Gambling Act. The local community has not been consulted, the minor concessions to harm minimisation are outweighed by increased consumption, public health provisions are ignored and nothing has been done to assess the wider and longer term negative impacts on Aucklanders.

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