



## UNFORESEEN FLOWERING

How have flowers been traded within and between Pacific Islands?

This is one of the questions being explored by Dr Yvonne Underhill Sem, HOD of Development Studies, in a study of the culture of flowers in the Eastern Pacific, including Nuie, Samoa, the Cook Islands, Tahiti and Fiji.

She is looking, for example, at the “flow of flowers” within and between islands. She is exploring the meanings and implications of their use for festive or everyday occasions, and investigating the differences between island groups in how they use flowers and on how this might relate to other aspects of their cultures.

Yvonne’s study is a wide one, with a book in progress, later to be published by Zed Press. But in the meantime she has seen some exciting outcomes, even while the wider study is still in progress. One was in the form of a smaller project which Yvonne describes as “wonderful, unique, fertile and fruitful”, a source of pride to the young people who have been involved, a source of encouragement to the people from the island of Ma’uke who have a strong desire to preserve their language, and a source of highly



Tereau, Sam, Rikana, Tapita, Denis, Cushla and Teata: authors and photographers for *'Ei of Ma'uke*.

relevant linguistic material for PhD student Sally Nicholas’s thesis on the grammar of Cook Islands Māori (Māori Studies/DALSL).

This “project within a project” is a beautiful little book, produced with encouragement and assistance from Yvonne by a group of high school students from her own homeland, Ma’uke, one of the smallest of the Cook Islands group, with a population of less than 400. It is the first book ever published in both English and

Ma’ukean Māori, a unique variety of Cook Islands Māori – which is in danger of being lost.

The book, describing the island and its tradition of making *'Ei* or garlands, is written by the group of Ma’ukean school students and beautifully illustrated with photos they took.

Wrote Yvonne in her introduction: “Small islands in the Pacific are often thought of as ‘out of the way’. Not many people live there, transportation is infrequent and costly, and it is hard to imagine that they are important to others beyond immediate family, friends and tourists attracted to places off the beaten track. This small book shows how they are.”

“Putting this book together is a beginning, not an end”, wrote one of the student authors. “We have taken pictures, used iPhoto, written and had many discussions.

The easy and fun parts were taking pictures and editing on the laptop. Eating biscuits and sharing ideas was also fun, but writing the text and translating between Māori and English was harder than we thought. But we would do it again – next time it could be about whales,

*Continued on page 2*

## No small feat

*The Auckland University Press Anthology of New Zealand Literature* has been honoured twice over at the 2013 PANZ Book Design Awards.

Designed by the Press's senior designer Katrina Duncan, with cover design by Scott Crickett, it took out both the Hachette New Zealand Award for Best Non-Illustrated Book and the HarperCollins Publishers Award for Best Cover.

Asked what it takes to create a prizewinning design for a book of this kind, Katrina's first answer was: "Plenty of patience."

"I had to think about how we were going to fit all that content into a book that didn't weigh a ton and wasn't so big the printer couldn't bind it, without creating a page so dense that no one would want to read it. The sheer size of the book was a challenge.

"I also had to think carefully about what typeface could work as the voice for such a variety of material: I think we covered close to 200 years of writing, and pretty much every conceivable genre."

The designers chose "Jan Tschold's classic Sabon typeface (not only economical, but also as appropriate for Cook's journals as it is for a novel written in 2011) and 70gsm cream bookwove paper (thin and light, but with good opacity) which allowed for a 1200-page book before we'd exceed the binder's maximum spine width."

The Judges described the *Anthology* as an under-stated but self-assured piece of design work" and as "a mountain of information that the designer has handled with delicacy and conviction."

She's managed to do all this and still leave us with some delicious wide gutter margins."

The book brings together 500,000 words, 200 writers and 371 entries, covering 250 years of New Zealand literature, ranging from fiction to non-fiction, letters and speeches, poems, songs and cartoons. It was the only New Zealand book to be named a "Most Beautiful Book - Australia and New Zealand" in the inaugural Most Beautiful Book Awards earlier in the year.



Katrina Duncan

## Consulting on leadership

Dr Jennifer de Vries, an independent researcher and leadership development consultant based in Perth, will be visiting the University as a guest of the Staff and Organisational Development Unit and the Equity Office - Te Ara Tautika.

An accomplished researcher, writer and facilitator working nationally and internationally in the field of mentoring she has published "Mentoring for Change", based on research commissioned by Universities Australia and designed as a scholarly resource to help build capacity in the delivery of mentoring programmes.

She recently implemented a mentoring programme at the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at the University of Melbourne. During her visit she will be presenting a seminar on Friday 16 August on "Mentoring for development and change: A bifocal approach".

This seminar to be held in the Decima Glenn Room at the Owen G Glenn Building from 9 to 10.30am, will be followed by a workshop from 11am to 1pm for those directly involved in delivering or mentoring programmes. To enrol please email [sodu@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:sodu@auckland.ac.nz)

Further information can be found on the Events page on the intranet. Gender equity is another specialty of Dr de Vries and she will lead a workshop for Women in Leadership Alumni and a discussion group with the senior women's leadership network.

She will also be working with the Equity Office as part of their women and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) project to consider strategies for increasing the representation of women in these areas.

*"Unforeseen flowering" continued from page 1*

fishing, or historical sites like caves."

*'Ei of Ma'uke*, written by Tereau, Sam, Rikana, Tapita, Denis, Cushla and Teata, was edited by Yvonne, with Ma'ukean elder, scholar and linguist, the late Papa Rangi Moeka'a, who was a lecturer in Cook Islands Māori at the University; emerging Ma'ukean scholar and linguist Sally Nicholas who is the current Cook Islands Māori lecturer in the Centre for Pacific Studies; and Ma'ukean secondary school teacher Teata Ateriano who trained and worked in New Zealand but returned to teach in Ma'uke ten years ago.

## Emerging issues

An eventful few months of contributing to debates of high international importance began for Dr Yvonne Underhill Sem with her attendance in New York at a UN Expert Group Meeting on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Held in April, this was the first in a series of meetings leading up to the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Apia in Samoa in September 2014.

Yvonne, who heads the University's Department of Development Studies, was invited as one of eight experts to provide substantive input into the process of preparing for the conference, taking place in the Pacific for the first time, and to "start the ball rolling" on emerging issues which the full conference will address.

Some of the issues of which Yvonne spoke were concerned with population mobility in the Pacific, not only to New Zealand and Australia but also within and between island groups, sometimes precipitated by climate change and rising sea levels. She spoke of the challenges of having high rates of fertility, with limited access to sexual and reproductive health services, and of a burgeoning youth population which needs to be provided with good education, meaningful employment, a satisfactory justice system and adequate housing. Gender issues were also to the fore, highlighting an urgent need to find ways of dealing with the "enormously pervasive and incredibly worrying" extent of violence towards women in the Pacific, as confirmed by studies from the World Health Organisation.

Yvonne then picked up some of these themes as an invited speaker (one of four keynote speakers) to deliver the opening address at a joint consultation between UNESCO, the United Nations Development Programme and UN Women on "Women's empowerment for a culture of peace and non-violence in the Pacific" held in Nadi, Fiji, in June.

## Research in *Time*



Elizabeth Broadbent (right) with Heidi Koschwanez

University of Auckland research has recently reached an audience of millions through an article that appeared in the American *Time* magazine.

The research, first published in the *Journal of Psychosomatic Medicine*, showed that writing about distressing experiences can not only be a way of easing the emotional pain of trauma, but can also speed physical healing.

Led by Dr Elizabeth Broadbent, one of our senior lecturers in psychological medicine, and coordinated by post-doctoral research fellow Dr Heidi Koschwanez, the study investigated the mind-body connection and concluded that writing about a traumatic experience may be important to both mental and physical health.

Study participants were volunteers recruited

from retirement villages and apartment complexes in Auckland. This was the first study to show that writing about personally distressing events could speed wound healing in an older population that is at risk of poor healing, says Elizabeth.

The researchers studied 49 healthy senior citizens, aged 64 to 97. Half of them were assigned to write for 20 minutes a day for three days about the most traumatic event they had experienced. They were encouraged to express their deepest thought and feelings, and if possible, to share thoughts or emotions that they had never expressed to others about the experience. The other half of the participants wrote for 20 minutes for each of the three days about their plans for the next day, and avoided mentioning their feelings, opinions or beliefs.

Two weeks after the first day of writing, researchers took small skin biopsies from the arm of all the participants that left a wound.

Researchers photographed the wounds every three to five days until they were completely healed. Eleven days after the biopsy, 76 per cent of the group that had written about trauma had fully healed. In the other group, only 42 per cent had fully healed. It was also found that participants who got at least seven hours sleep a night had faster healing wounds.

The exact mechanism is not known, but it is thought that writing about upsetting experiences might reduce stress and improve sleep, and therefore improve healing.

## Inspiration for anthropologists

Two books that will inspire current and future Anthropology students were officially launched at Old Government House last month.

*Senses and Citizenships: Embodying Political Life*, edited by social anthropologists Dr Susanna Trnka, Dr Christine Dureau and Professor Julie Park, and *Up Close and Personal: On Peripheral Perspectives and the Production of Anthropological Knowledge*, also edited by Dr Susanna Trnka and Professor Cris Shore, were officially launched by Dean of Arts, Professor Robert Greenberg.

*Senses and Citizenships*, explores how movement, taste, sound and smell can be configured as aspects of national belonging. The book expands on contemporary understandings of the rights and duties of citizens and presents anthropological investigations of the sensory aspects of collective participation in face-to-face communities, ethnic groups, nations and transnational entities.

*Up Close and Personal*, discusses how social anthropologists practice their craft. Combining rich personal accounts from twelve veteran anthropologists with reflexive analyses of the state of anthropology today, this book is a treatise on theory and method offering fresh insights into the production of anthropological

knowledge, from the creation of key concepts to major paradigm shifts.

Professor Greenberg described the books as “ground breaking work that demonstrates what can be achieved when great minds get together.”

Both books stem from the 2008 joint international conference of the Association for Social Anthropologists of the UK and the Commonwealth (ASA)/ Association of Social Anthropologists of Aotearoa/New Zealand (ASA A/NZ), and the Australian Anthropological Society (AAS), hosted by The University of Auckland. This unique event was the first time that all three national associations had come together to hold a joint conference, and it resulted in ongoing international research collaboration, as shown in these two volumes.



Photo: From left to right are Dr Susanna Trnka, Professor Cris Shore, Professor Julie Park and Dr Christine Dureau

## From the Vice-Chancellor



I recently had the opportunity to attend a fascinating educational activity, the two-day Quality and Safety Symposium run by the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences for all third year students from our Nursing, Medicine and Pharmacy programmes and fourth year students from our Optometry programme. The objective of this symposium is to help our future health professionals understand, analyse and prevent iatrogenic harm (that caused unintentionally by health professionals in the course of their duties). The content is updated annually - this year it was aligned with the national “Open for Better Care” campaign launched in our hospitals a few weeks ago by the Health Quality and Safety Commission.

Some 475 students from the four programmes crowded into the Pullman Hotel ballroom for the two-day symposium, a mixture of lectures and facilitated student analysis and discussion.

Inter-professional groups of students were formed so that there was a good deal of learning about how to work with new colleagues in different disciplines, as well the actual problem of iatrogenic harm. I was able to sit in with one group as they wrestled with a letter of apology to family members of a “patient” who, as a result of a prescribing error, had found himself in intensive care with complex medical problems. It was very interesting to see the emergence of natural leaders within this group as they learned to work as a team, and how they dealt with problems such as “How much technical information do we need to give the family about what went wrong?” and “How do we reassure the family that we have put in place procedures to ensure this never happens again?”

The leaders of this programme - representing medicine, nursing, pharmacy, optometry and Hauora Māori - are to be congratulated on this very innovative exercise, one that was the recipient of a University Teaching Excellence Award several years ago. Their work will be important in ensuring that as the health sector becomes ever more complex, our graduates are well equipped to work with professionals in related fields to ensure both that the quality of health care they deliver is very high and that the risks of iatrogenic harm are greatly reduced.

# Sharing with schools



“Fantastic, brilliantly organised, and very innovative,” was how Julie Harrison, Senior Biology Teacher at Kerikeri High School, described an intensive update in the latest biomedical science from Maurice Wilkins Centre investigators.

“I was so inspired that I want to go back to university, it was that good,” she said, adding how important, and challenging, it can be for science teachers to keep pace with rapid advances in their field.

The event, held at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences late last year, was the first in a series sponsored by the Maurice Wilkins Centre that has now been attended by more than 500 teachers from Kaitia to Invercargill. Organised by Rachel Heeneey, Head of Biology at Epsom Girls Grammar School, and Centre Deputy Director Professor Peter Shepherd, the teacher professional development days provide cutting edge scientific material in a format that teachers can use directly in the classroom.

“One of the activities Centres of Research Excellence like the Maurice Wilkins Centre are tasked with is outreach to schools,” Peter explains. “We realised that one of the best ways we could make an impact was to directly support high school biology teachers. In particular, with a new

NCEA curriculum coming into force, biology teachers are being asked to teach in several new areas but they’ve had limited support to develop the classroom material.”

Peter and Rachel created their programme to fill this gap, with scientists from Maurice Wilkins Centre partner institutions nationwide volunteering to produce material for the school curriculum.

The material – on topics ranging from diabetes to new technologies in genetic profiling – has been presented in interactive sessions at the development days, and also made freely available on the Maurice Wilkins Centre website.

One focus has been on reaching provincial areas that cannot easily access university expertise, and teacher Julie Harrison points out that for rural teachers like her they also provide a rare networking opportunity.

A survey showed that 98 percent of teachers found the days very or extremely useful, 100 percent would like them to continue and would attend again, and more than 93 percent would use the material provided directly in their teaching.

## Deep sea fishing

Artist Christine Hellyar has presented her multi-part sculpture entitled *Deep Sea Fishing 2010* to The University of Auckland Art Collection.

This work formed part of an exhibition by Christine, entitled *Hutton and Cotton: the McGregor Museum Revisited* and held in the Gus Fisher Gallery last year. The names referred respectively to the author of the first reference book on New Zealand native animals and to a twentieth-century geo-morphologist.

The work focused on taxonomies and endangered species, with reference to the University’s McGregor Museum. The collections of this museum, dating back to 1884 were originally held in Old Choral Hall and later in the Old Biology Building and are now displayed in cabinets in three seminar rooms in the School of Biological Sciences (SBS).

After the exhibition the University purchased crochet and knitting filling three cabinets which had formed part of the display. Linda Tyler, Chair of the Art Collection Committee, was delighted when the artist offered to gift the fishing nets – which, dyed crimson by the artist, had been heaped on top of the cabinets.

At the presentation ceremony, fittingly celebrated with a sustainable seafood lunch in SBS, Linda said: “In the exhibition the bright red nets

softened the glass-fronted wooden cabinets but also had a symbolic function, referring to the storage of the collection in the McGregor Museum.”

The artist’s staining of the nets with blood-red dye is a pointed protest against the destructiveness of deep sea fishing. She makes reference to benthic trawling, a commercial fishing practice where a net is dragged at the very bottom of the ocean. In 2006 the United Nations reported that deep sea bottom trawling causes 95 percent of damage to seamount ecosystems worldwide.

Professor Gillian Lewis, Head of School, said she was delighted to have the cabinets from the old McGregor Museum back in the building, and that – coming as she did from a family home where the doily and antimacassar reigned – she was fascinated by the handworked fibre.

Christine pointed out the parallels between science and art – explaining that Charles Cotton’s book on geomorphology described knitted and braided forms in the landscape. Part of her purpose, she said, was to make reference to the 130-year history of the University.

“But most of all,” she ended, “I wanted to make something beautiful, that people will enjoy looking at for years to come.”

*Deep Sea Fishing 2010* is on public display in the foyer of the Thomas Building.



*Deep Sea Fishing 2010*

Dr Nirmal Nair from the Faculty of Engineering didn't know what to expect from the Future Research Leaders' Programme (FRLP) when his Dean nominated him to attend from the beginning of 2013. However he is now happy to pass on the message that his participation as a "cohort" in the programme has been "a valuable experience so far".

FRLP was originally developed by the Australian Group of Eight universities to help staff acquire the skills and knowledge critical for success in research leadership. The University of Auckland then customised the programme to the Auckland and wider New Zealand contexts. It is a free programme available to academics who aspire to take on a research leadership role (involving leadership and management of people, projects or both).

The eight modules cover such essential topics as research strategy and planning, commencement and collaboration, governance and compliance, and intellectual property, knowledge transfer and commercialisation – with staff free either to commit to all modules or to "pick and choose" between them according to their needs.

This year has seen the introduction of a "cohort" approach, meaning that some staff have entered through nomination by the Deans of their faculties or the Assistant Deans (Research). Each of these "cohort participants" has the opportunity – in addition to attending the workshops and studying the modules – to interact with a more experienced researcher who acts as a mentor.

Says Nirmal: "For my faculty role as 'theme leader' it has been very useful to learn more about University processes and research strategies. The commercialisation workshop in particular was great in helping me develop a three to five-year year strategy for my research team. And I appreciate the opportunity to learn from a personal mentor who provides confidential advice on research and leadership."



*Dr Ilva Rupenthal*

One recent FRLP "graduate" is Dr Ilva Rupenthal from Medical and Health Sciences, who has completed all eight modules over the last two years through a "pick and choose" approach.

"The workshops would be useful for every academic," says Ilva, "and for me there was at least one important take-home message from each session."

"I found it very helpful to learn about how grants and contracts are administered by the University, and how the set dates for milestones form part of the contract with the funder and cannot simply be changed. I now think more carefully about my project milestones and have also learned how to utilise remaining funds once the contract has finished."

Ilva has enjoyed the opportunities for networking with colleagues from other departments and faculties: "I have made many new friends and have even started new collaborations with my fellow 'FRLP graduates.'"

For more information on FRLP, see the staff intranet under Research>Researcher development>Research essentials programme.

## Forthcoming International Funding Opportunities

The Garnett Passe and Rodney Williams Memorial Foundation: fellowships, scholarships and project grants are available in the field of otorhinolaryngology. University deadline is 23 August 2013.

Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering (AINSE): funds for facilities, accommodation and travel to use the nuclear facilities at ANSTO, Lucas Heights, Sydney, Australia. For research in a wide range of disciplines including materials, medicine, anthropology and environment. University deadline is 24 August 2013.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): Research Fellowships for flights and subsistence for a 6-26 week visit to conduct research abroad in The Natural Resources Challenge, Sustainability in Practice, The Food Chain. University deadline 3 September 2013. For details of the above opportunities contact David Saunders, International Fund Specialist ext. 84886, d.saunders@auckland.ac.nz

## Neurological Foundation

Project Grants: applicants can be scientifically or medically qualified, and the research can be clinical or biomedical. Applicants are usually salaried by their institution and a grant will typically cover salaries for technicians, scientists or nurses, plus working expenses, grants can be from one to three years duration.

Small Project Grants: up to \$12,000 and usually for pilot or feasibility studies or a piece of equipment. University deadline is 25 August 2013. Contact Julia Zhu ext. 89346 or email julia.zhu@auckland.ac.nz

## Auckland Medical Research Foundation (AMRF) – Project Grants (Round B)

Funding to support medical research projects for durations of up to two years, maximum of \$140,000. The Foundation is committed to funding excellence and has an established policy of supporting emerging researchers. In addition, the recently established Hugh Green Diabetes and Breast Cancer Research Fund supports projects specifically in these two areas. The William and Lois Manchester Trust provides support for research into reconstructive plastic, maxillofacial and hand surgery (including skin graft and burns research, but excluding cosmetic surgery). University deadline is 6 September 2013, contact Sidney Walls ext. 89217 or email s.walls@auckland.ac.nz

## Attention parents

The University of Auckland Clinics are making special offers on pricing at the moment for hearing and eye assessments for children.

Students studying to become optometrists and audiologists need to see a diverse range of clients, including children. The University runs an Optometry Clinic and a Hearing and Tinnitus clinic, where students provide care to clients and are supervised by experienced clinicians from the Department of Optometry and Vision Science and the Department of Audiology.

The clinical staff are keen to encourage more young children to come for assessment at the clinics to provide students with more exposure to this age group and the needs they have with

their vision and hearing. And of course, the advantages go both ways since assessments provided to children are of the highest standards, very thorough and delivered in a child-focussed way.

Eye examinations for children at the Optometry Clinic are free for those under five until 31 October and hearing assessments for children at the Hearing and Tinnitus Clinic are \$20 for those from six months to five years.

The clinics also provide services to the full range of age groups and anyone can make an appointment.

See [www.clinics.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.clinics.auckland.ac.nz) or call 923 9909 for more information.

## From the art collection

Believing that fruit depicted on tomb walls would become real in the afterlife and give the hungry inhabitant something to feast on, the Egyptians inaugurated the still life tradition in painting. It endures to the present day.

By the early twentieth century, bowls of apples, oranges and pears had become the testing ground for new ideas about flattening pictorial space for the Cubist artists Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque and Juan Gris. Waikato-born Frances Hunt follows their lead a half century later, deconstructing a few wine bottles into a tangle of geometric forms, planes and black outlines in this excursion into Cubism.

Carefully balancing its blocks of colour, the painting's tones are tamped down, creating subtle harmonies of pink, green, brown, and blue-grey, like a tasteful frieze for a foyer. In her treatment of form and composition, Frances Hunt tackles full-frontal modernism, with nothing pretending at depth hiding in the recesses of the composition. Rather than describing a representational content, her title is generic and suggests that this work is one of a series of exercises in still life composition where subject is less important than style. Tellingly, Frances Hunt insists here on the primacy of French painting at a time when gestural and colour-field Abstract Expressionism had already arrived in New Zealand from America. Although ARD Fairburn lamented that there was "falsity in the efforts of a Pig islander to paint like Picasso", this painting is representative of the popular version of cubism which gently cantered through New Zealand's art societies in the 1950s, awakening the public to alternatives to representation in painting without startling them with complete abstraction.

Already 41 years old when she enrolled in the three-year full-time course at the Elam School of Art in 1932, Frances Hunt admired the fracturing



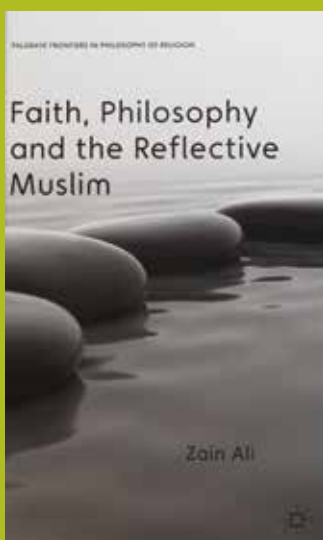
of form she saw in the works created by her favourite tutor, John Weeks. Though English-born, Weeks had grown up on a farm in the Waikato as had Hunt herself. Weeks learned his techniques of geometricisation in Art Deco Paris, enrolling in the Montparnasse atelier of André Lhote in 1925. Lhote wrote treatises on figure painting and landscape, and taught his students to acknowledge the Cubist revolution in their work without getting burned on the barricades of complete abstraction. To make a living from painting, it was necessary not to alienate the buyers, the urban bourgeoisie.

Frances Hunt left New Zealand with her mother and brother Francis for an art gallery-hopping tour of Europe in 1927. After Elam, she joined fellow graduates in the Rutland Group, exhibiting

the still lifes, landscapes and portraits that she produced in the large studio she had added on to her Epsom house. Included in the New Zealand Centennial Exhibition of 1940, she won the Bledisloe Medal and was emboldened to begin her experiments with abstraction, which continued through the 1950s and 1960s.

*Frances Hunt (1890- 1981) Still Life Composition V, c.1959, oil on board, 395 x 535mm*

## Book



### Faith, Philosophy and the Reflective Muslim

**Is belief in God justified? This question has been examined many times, but almost certainly never from the angle taken by the author of this book, Zain Ali, who heads the Islamic Studies Research Unit at the University.**

The book takes the perspective of the "reflective Muslim", which describes a person of Islamic faith who acknowledges that people of other religious and non-religious persuasions are as concerned with seeking truth and avoiding error as they themselves are.

This work begins with the assumption of religious ambiguity i.e. that the total relevant evidence shows belief in God to be neither true

nor false. Accordingly the central question of this book is whether a person can be entitled to hold and act on his or her belief in God when there is religious ambiguity.

Zain Ali contends that belief in God can be justified under the condition of religious ambiguity, and defends this view by employing an account of faith inspired by the pioneering work of the American intellectual, William James.

Zain currently teaches papers on Islam and is interested in the intersection between Islamic philosophy and contemporary philosophy of religion.

## Alcohol and Adolescents

A presentation by ASB Visiting Professor Thomas F. Babor, hosted by the University's Centre for Addiction Research in partnership with the School of Pharmacy, will focus on research showing that young persons exposed to alcohol marketing initiate drinking at an earlier age and progress more rapidly to heavy drinking.

Examples will illustrate how the alcohol industry violates its own self-regulation codes for responsible marketing, and also how the

marketing content is often consistent with the culture of binge drinking that often characterises the way young people consume alcohol. This presentation will take place at the AMRF Auditorium on Grafton Campus on 15 August from 5.45 to 6.45pm.

ASB Visiting Professor Babor will deliver a number of seminars and workshops to University students and staff during his visit, including "Translating research into practice" in Room 106,

Ko Awatea, Middlemore Hospital on 15 August, 12.15 to 1.15pm, and "Treatment for alcohol and other substance use disorders - a public health perspective" on 14 August, 4.30 to 5.30pm in the Function Hall at the School of Population Health, Tāmaki Campus. He will also be a guest speaker at the official opening of the Centre for Addiction Research by Associate Minister of Health, Hon Todd McClay on 9 August.

## What's on

### THURSDAY 8 AUGUST

#### Career seminars

*Be competitive in the NZ job market.* 5.30-7pm, Case Rm 2, Level 0, Owen Glenn Bldg. Tips on how to compete in the NZ job market from industry experts - for international students.

Visit [www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/career-seminars](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/career-seminars)

#### 2013 NZ Aronui Lecture

Prof Jonathan Mane-Wheoki: *Remembrance, resistance, resurgence: The global rise of contemporary indigenous art.* 6pm, Auditorium, Auckland Museum, The Domain, Parnell. Queries to [lectures@royalsociety.org.nz](mailto:lectures@royalsociety.org.nz)

### FRIDAY 9 AUGUST

#### Dance Performance

*House Test.* 10.30am, Auckland Art Gallery. University of Auckland students led by Mark Harvey, and inspired by the *Model Home* Triennial work by Michael Lin, Atelier Bow Wow and Andrew Barrie.

#### School of Music lunchtime concert

String and woodwind students. 1.05pm, Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. A series of lunchtime concerts showcasing School of Music students in both individual and ensemble settings. Free. Queries to [concerts@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:concerts@auckland.ac.nz)

### SATURDAY 10 AUGUST

#### Gallery event

1pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Live saxophone performance of 3-2-1, by Asher Truppman Lattie in relation to Anri Sala's artwork *Long Sorrow*.

Queries to [gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz)  
Visit [aucklandtriennial.co.nz](http://aucklandtriennial.co.nz)

### TUESDAY 13 AUGUST

#### Fourth 2013 Winter Lecture

*Charms and harms of natural medicines.* Assoc Prof Janie Sheridan: *Herbal highs and lows: the recreational use of psychoactive plants.* 1-2pm, Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St.

A series of six weekly lectures. Admission is free and open to the public. No bookings required. Queries to 373 7599 ext 87698.

#### Alice Griffin Shakespeare Fellow Lecture

Prof Stephen Orgel, Stanford University: *Depicting Shakespeare.* 6.30pm, Lecture Theatre, OGH.

### WEDNESDAY 14 AUGUST

#### Dept of Computer Science seminar

Patrice Delmas, UoA: *Image processing for environmental science: Water management in Mexico City.* 12noon-1pm, Rm 303-561, City Campus.

#### Fermata seminar

Martin Rummel: *Popper's Pops: On the 100th anniversary of David Popper's death.* 5.30pm, Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free.

#### Fast Forward Lecture series

Takaharu and Yui Tezuka: *Nostalgic future.* 6.30pm, Engineering Lecture Theatre 1.439, 20 Symonds St. Visit [www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/fastforward](http://www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/fastforward)

#### Public lecture

Barbara Arrowsmith-Young: *The woman who changed her brain.* 7.30-9pm, Lecture Theatre 260-098, Level 0, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. \$5. Register at <http://baynz01.eventbrite.ca/>

### THURSDAY 15 AUGUST

#### Inaugural Lecture

Prof Martyn Nash: *Unlocking the chest with bioengineering.* 5-6pm, Room 403.401, Faculty of Engineering, 20 Symonds St.

#### Public lecture

Dr Katherine Mack, University of Melbourne: *Our place in the Universe (and selected cosmic mysteries).* 6.30pm, Large Chemistry Lecture Theatre, Bldg 301, 23 Symonds St. Book at [katiemack.eventbrite.co.nz](http://katiemack.eventbrite.co.nz)

### FRIDAY 16 AUGUST

#### School of Music lunchtime concert

Brass and guitar students. 1.05pm, Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. A series of lunchtime concerts showcasing School of Music students in both individual and ensemble settings. Free. Queries to [concerts@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:concerts@auckland.ac.nz)

### SATURDAY 17 AUGUST

#### Concert

*Somi Kim and guests.* 5pm, Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Featuring Estrella, Thomas Atkins, Elisha Fai-Hulton, Tavis Gravatt and more. Free. RSVP to [concerts@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:concerts@auckland.ac.nz)

### MONDAY 19 AUGUST

#### 2013 Robert Chapman Lecture

The Right Honourable Helen Clark: *Beyond the Millennium Development Goals: What could the next global development agenda look like?* 6pm, Maidment Theatre, Alfred St.

#### Dept of Mathematics public lecture

Prof Terence Tao, 2006 Fields Medal winner: *The cosmic distance ladder.* 6.30pm, Engineering Lecture Theatre 401-401, 20 Symonds St.

#### Sir Douglas Robb Lecture 2013

Identity, honour, politics. Prof Kwame Anthony Appiah: *I am what we are: Identity in ethics.* 7.30pm, Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Free, all welcome. Queries to 373 7599 ext 87698.

### TUESDAY 20 AUGUST

#### Fifth 2013 Winter Lecture

*Charms and harms of natural medicines.* Prof Gil Hardy: *Interactions between medicines and food supplements.* 1-2pm, Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St. A series of six weekly lectures. Admission is free and open to the public. No bookings required. Queries to 373 7599 ext 87698.

#### Chemical Sciences seminar

Prof David O'Hagan, School of Chemistry, University of St Andrews, Scotland: *Fluorine in organic rings and things.* 4pm, Medium Chemistry Lecture Theatre, 23 Symonds St.

#### Inaugural Lecture

Prof Julie Park: *A place for anthropology.* 6pm, Library Theatre B10, Alfred St.

### WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST

#### Fast Forward Lecture series

Lance Herbst, Herbst Architects: *On context.* 6.30pm, Engineering Lecture Theatre 1.439, 20 Symonds St. Visit [www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/fastforward](http://www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/fastforward)

#### Sir Douglas Robb Lecture 2013

Identity, honour, politics. Prof Kwame Anthony Appiah: *How do I save my honour?* 7.30pm, Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Free, all welcome. Queries to 373 7599 ext 87698.

## Classifieds

### ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

**Apartments for rent.** Call us for your rental requirements; we offer city apartments furnished/unfurnished, all sizes and prices; great rental deals for long-term leases; call David Feng (09) 303 0601 or (021) 246 6710 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)

**Friendly, tidy flatmate** wanted to share two-bdrm house with female owner and Stanley the cat in quiet Grey Lynn street. Bus-stop and West Lynn shops at end of street. Dble room with built in wardrobe, enjoy afternoon sun, looking onto garden courtyard. \$215 pw + expenses. Contact Judith on (021) 934 942.

### ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

#### Furnished room or small apartment wanted.

I will be on sabbatical in Auckland for four months, from 27 August, and would like to rent accommodation for all or part of this time. Offers of just 1-3 months are also interesting to me, as I have family nearby so will not need to be in Auckland the whole time. I am originally from NZ but now living in Norway. Happy to house-sit, or join an existing household, or rent my own little place. Please contact [katrina.roen@psykologi.uio.no](mailto:katrina.roen@psykologi.uio.no)

### 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)

**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](mailto:Karen.embleton@mondotravel.co.nz) or 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.



# ALCOHOL: FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The University's faculties produce an impressive quantity of significant alcohol and drug research each year.

However, our country-wide profile is not as high as we would like it to be. Many of us can claim to be better-known overseas.

In order to better influence New Zealand alcohol and drug policy and reduce harm, we need to be more visible as a group and to work more effectively together. The University's new Centre for Addiction Research (to be headed by Professor Janie Sheridan from the Department of Pharmacy and officially launched on 9 August) will help us to achieve those aims as well as to conduct cutting-edge and innovative research.

In the last five years we have witnessed a major campaign to reform New Zealand's alcohol policy. The main focus of the campaign has been to advocate five law changes and it has a strong distrust of the alcohol industry. And yet, despite very effective work, the campaigners will be disappointed in the Government's response. The drink-driving limit remains at 80mg per 100ml despite scientific evidence that at that level we have seven times the chance of an accident, compared to being sober. And there is no change in the pricing of alcohol, despite good evidence that increased prices reduce consumption and associated harm. The campaign's results to date raise questions that the new centre may wish to consider. In Europe the characteristics of good advocacy are a major concern of alcohol scientists.

Why do politicians not listen to research when to us the evidence is quite clear? One answer is that the industry got to them first, but the real

answer may well be that we push our views without understanding how politicians are influenced. Alcohol scientists need to show politicians that good alcohol policies help them achieve their political priorities, and politicians need support from us when moving a country's alcohol policy forward.

Achievable and sustainable change needs the public to be on side. Mikhail Gorbachev's attempt to reduce Soviet Union drinking problems failed in part because "the changes were not popular, not respected and not obeyed". If there is no social movement pushing for change and influencing the public, then strict alcohol policies will be weakened over time by the pressure of market forces, market interests and the ideology of consumer sovereignty.

Currently the public's reality appears to be that alcohol is bad for some but not for them (irrespective of their drinking patterns). This is probably fair because, depending on your survey, around 80 percent of New Zealanders either drink alcohol safely or not at all. Consequently we need to present an objective appraisal of alcohol consumption and health; simply focusing on the effects of alcohol abuse risks us talking past the public's reality. It is easier for people to make informed decisions when presented with balanced and accurate information. Such an approach is used, for example, by the US Food & Drug Administration, in that it highlights both benefits and adverse effects of prescription drugs.

We also need to better understand the alcohol industry, which purports to employ over 100,000 New Zealanders: its structure, between-company relationships, lobbying effectiveness, public

relations strategies, public health activities, and research funding. In turn, the industry needs to better understand what science has to say about alcohol and alcohol policy.

To achieve change without involving such a major stakeholder seems counter-intuitive. But what should be the industry's role? Industry members, or for that matter strong anti-alcohol advocates, should probably not be involved in policy development and research. Vested interests don't help produce achievable, sustainable policy change, or good evidence-based scientific research.

Of course, policy is not the only focus in alcohol and drug research. In the last 15 years there has been a revolution in the genetic, physiological, psychological and sociological understanding of addiction. New treatments have been invented that mean addiction is no longer a condition that can't be helped. However there is plenty left to do and the multidisciplinary new centre will find itself fully occupied.

Adapted from: Professor Ross McCormick Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. "Rapporteur's Report European Debate on Evidence-based Alcohol Policy - Fifth European Alcohol Policy Conference - [www.amphoraproject.net/](http://www.amphoraproject.net/)."

Ross McCormick is Associate Dean (Postgraduate) at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. He is an alcohol and drug researcher and clinician, and is medical advisor to the Brewers Association of Australia and New Zealand.