The University’s Strategic Programme Office (USPO) is one of New Zealand’s three top Project Management Offices.

The office was nominated for the PMO of the Year Award at the New Zealand Project Management (PMINZ) Awards held in Auckland on 11 September.

“We were shortlisted because we have demonstrated the strides taken to help the University make good investment decisions,” says USPO manager, Nicola Faithfull. “As part of that we have developed new methodologies and practices that did not previously exist, including a unique P3M (portfolio, programme and project management) methodology, with supporting reference guides and templates.”

The USPO has been set up in the last few years to ensure that all the University’s big strategic projects that have an impact across the organisation follow best practice that enables them to deliver tangible measurable benefits.

“The role of a PMO in any organisation is to support the selection of projects that will add the most value and then deliver them successfully,” says Nicola. “With a focus on benefits and outcomes, the University can be confident in building an effective portfolio that ensures the right projects are done right, maximises available resources and takes into account the environmental constraints of a large, complex organisation.”

Key for the University of Auckland’s nomination, alongside Wellington City Council and Transpower (the winners), was being able to demonstrate a consistent and structured methodology. Its P3M tool fits the bill perfectly by putting projects through six structured Stage Gates from pre-project and initiation where ideas are defined and evaluated to the planning, execution, transition, close and ultimately the realisation of benefits.

University projects currently at different stages in the USPOs P3M methodology include FAR; a pilot of an electronic document records management system for exams, Evolve and capital works; a hazardous and restricted materials project, a reporting enhancement programme and the Finance Improvement Programme which was retrofitted to P3M and is now complete.

“As our resources become more constrained it is essential we deliver value from our strategic investments,” says Adrienne Cleland, Director of Administration. “The PMO can help us keep on track and strongly focused on delivering those benefits that led to the investment being approved.”

This is the first year PMINZ has introduced the PMO of the Year award, which recognizes the increasing influence of Project, Programme and Portfolio Management Offices in enabling organisations to succeed.

“As the Project Management profession matures in New Zealand we are seeing consistent improvement in the number and quality of nominations and 2013 has provided the strongest group yet,” said Calum Robertson, Vice President of PMINZ and member of the Awards judging panel. “The judging panel faced difficult decisions in a number of categories”.

See the USPO page on the Staff Intranet http://collaboration.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/uspo/SitePages/Home.aspx
CLeaR successfully launched

The Centre for Learning and Research in Higher Education (CLeaR) held a very successful launch at Old Government House on Wednesday 21st August, with high attendance and strong faculty representation. The photographs here capture the formal and informal moments of CLeaR’s celebration, including a barbershop quartet singing ‘Let’s Fly Away’.

Two Auckland University Press books shine

Two Auckland University Press books won awards at the 2013 New Zealand Post Book Awards, announced in August.

*Patched: The History of New Zealand Gangs* by first-time author Jarrod Gilbert won the People’s Choice Award, often described as “the most important award” since it is the only one voted on by readers around the country. *Patched* beat two very popular cook books by a big margin to take the category.

*Patched* was also a finalist in the General Non-Fiction category. “Gilbert’s history is a clear-headed one that neither shies away from gangs’ offences nor panders to ill-informed depictions of them,” commented the judges.

“Best of all,” they said, “this being recent history, Gilbert has been able to research gangs first-hand... That he has taken advantage of this ability – which would have been neither easy nor safe – makes all the difference with the book. It also makes for some colourful language of a sort not usually seen in a serious work like this.”

*The Darling North* by Anne Kennedy, former University of Auckland Literary Fellow, won the poetry category. Said the judges: “The daring of her enterprise, the expansiveness of her experiences, the intellectual and emotional power of her writing all go towards creating a collection of outstanding brilliance.”

The Press’s poetry editor Anna Hodge describes *The Darling North* as a book of seven small, perfect epic poems – all different in form but unified by the clever, expressive voice of an extraordinary poet. Also a novelist and screenwriter, Anne Kennedy writes poems with the heft and pull of gripping narrative – “What would you save in case of a flood?” she asks. “What lost love was buried in the tidal flats? What if you had come to Paradise early?” But these larger frames and stories play out in remarkable, intricate lines and language – creating poems that are breath-taking in their hum and sweep and facility.”

Poet in action

Australian poet Pam Brown is a distinguished visitor to the University of Auckland during September and early October. She is participating in several events on campus including a lecture on 26 September and a symposium titled “Poetry as social action” on 27 September hosted by the NZ Electronic Poetry Centre (nzepc).

Pam has published 17 books of poetry and prose, ten chapbooks and an e-book.

Her most recent book, *Home by Dark*, was published in 2013 by Shearsman Books in the UK. From 1997 to 2002 she was the poetry editor for the progressive Australian literary journal, *Overland*. In 2004 she became associate editor of the international online magazine *Jacket*. She is currently associated with *Jacket2* where she recently edited ‘Fifty-one contemporary poets from Australia’.

For more on events with Pam Brown see www.nzepc.auckland.ac.nz
Boosting journalists’ statistical confidence

The Department of Statistics is undertaking a new media outreach activity to help improve the statistical literacy of New Zealand journalists.

Professional Teaching Fellow Dr Andrew Balemi (pictured) and his journalist wife Julie Middleton, have been visiting journalism schools and newsrooms presenting their one-and-a-half-hour workshop, titled "How I learned to love statistics: A workshop for journalists". They’ve been to Auckland (AUT), Christchurch (Aoraki Polytechnic and The Press), Hamilton (Wintec) and Wellington (Whitireia Polytechic) so far, and are planning to visit New Plymouth’s Western Institute of Technology.

"Journalists don’t have to be fantastic with numbers to handle statistics well, because they can get help with that," says Andrew, one of a dozen staff members on the department’s website list "Statisticians for Journalists". "We want to help them understand some basic concepts of statistical thinking to build their confidence so they can ask the right questions of data and the people providing it."

Professor Chris Triggs, Head of the Department of Statistics, says engaging with the media is an important part of its outreach work in an increasingly data-saturated world. "We’re always happy to help demystify data." He adds that the workshops were a natural follow-up to the June 2011 launch of the department’s blog, StatsChat.org.nz, which dissects good, bad and just plain interesting statistics that appear in New Zealand media.

Women in Leadership programme 2014

Applications are now open for the 2014 Women in Leadership Programme.

The Programme aims to provide opportunities for women to develop their personal leadership skills. Specific objectives include increasing the numbers of women in senior positions; enhancing opportunities for women to be recruited and retained in under-represented areas; fostering formal and informal learning, mentoring and career development for women.

The programme seeks both individual advancement and longer term organisational change by eliminating barriers and enabling women’s success.

An Information session will be held 1 October, 12.30-1.30pm in the Federation Room, Old Government House. Enrolment required. Further information and the application form can be found on the Women in Leadership Programme website or by contacting, Mary Ann Crick, ext 86379 or ma.crick@auckland.ac.nz

The closing date for applications is 31st October 2013.

Debating Auckland’s future

Hundreds of people braved a wet, blustery night for the chance to hear four of the candidates in the upcoming Auckland mayoralty race present their vision for the future of New Zealand’s largest city.

Hosted by the University of Auckland Society and the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries the evening got off to a lively start when the invited speakers - current mayor Len Brown, John Minto, John Palino and the Reverend Uesifili Unasa - were joined unexpectedly at the Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium by activist and Unasa - were joined unexpectedly at the Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium by activist and

Chaired by Rod Oram, the speakers tackled a wide-range of issues including housing affordability and public transport. The debate was informative and lively and if the show of hands at the end of the night for the preferred candidate is any indication, the mayoral election might be a close contest.

Dr Elizabeth Aitken-Rose, Head of the School of Architecture and Planning with Auckland Mayor Len Brown

The University of Auckland News
First female chair in Engineering Science

Rosalind Archer is the Mighty River Power Chair in Geothermal Reservoir Engineering at the University and director of the University’s Geothermal Institute. This follows Mighty River Power’s pledge of $1 million over the next five years to help establish a chair in geothermal reservoir engineering.

Rosalind is head of the Department of Engineering Science where she has taught and contributed to research projects for 11 years. Her appointment to the chair brings with it a promotion from associate professor to professor.

“I want to extend my thanks to Mighty River Power for their support of the chair and I look forward to growing the Institute as an interdisciplinary endeavour that addresses geothermal energy from many angles.”

The Deputy Dean at the University of Auckland’s Faculty of Engineering, Professor Gordon Mallinson, says: “The role of the chair is to provide leadership in research and education related to the exploration and utilisation of geothermal energy resources. A key element of this role is the Geothermal Institute of which Rosalind will be the director.”

Rosalind joined the University in 2002 as a lecturer. Previously she was an acting assistant professor at Stanford University, and an assistant professor at Texas A&M University. Her research interests are in reservoir engineering of geothermal and petroleum reservoirs. She has a PhD in Petroleum Engineering with a PhD minor in Geological and Environmental Science from Stanford University, a Master of Science in Petroleum Engineering from Stanford University, and a Bachelor of Engineering in Engineering Science from the University of Auckland.

Rosalind led the University’s portion of a successful bid for $4.4 million funding for research into geothermal power from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

The “Geothermal Supermodels” project aims to develop next generation integrated geothermal modelling tools capable of building models of multiple geothermal systems to better understand the interactions between them and their sustainability.

Chief Science Advisor

Professor Jim Metson, Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Science, has been appointed Chief Science Advisor for the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

Jim’s two-year term as MBIE Chief Science Advisor is a part-time secondment. His continued role at the University will allow him to retain ongoing links with the community.

“This is a crucial interface in delivering on the Ministry’s statement of intent,” says Jim.

“There is a substantial science component not just within the work of the Science, Skills and Innovation Group, but in activities across what is a very large and diverse Ministry. In this role it’s really important to keep strong connections within the University and with other research organisations across the country.”

Dean of Science Professor Grant Guilford congratulates Jim on his appointment. “We in the Faculty of Science are well aware of Jim’s strengths in all of the areas stated as being required of the successful candidate, amongst them his outstanding professional scientific credibility, excellent understanding of the science and innovation system, and excellent relationship management and leadership skills.”

Jim is an expert in materials and surface science, with a particular focus on metal oxides and applications in the aluminium industry. He is the current Deputy Dean of Science, Associate Director of the Light Metals Research Centre, and a former Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) and Head of the School of Chemical Sciences.

At the UN

This book, At the UN: Addresses from Helen Clark’s first term leading the UN Development Programme, brings together a selection of speeches made by Helen Clark, our former long-serving Prime Minister, alumna and former staff member of the University, during her first four-year term as Administrator of the UN Development Programme.

These speeches, delivered to international audiences, cover a wide range of topics and offer illuminating detail on global issues.

“In these speeches Helen Clark brings her formidable experience to the service of a more effective world system in development and governance,” says Pascal Lamy, Director General, World Trade Organisation.

“At the UN: Addresses from Helen Clark’s first term leading the UN Development Programme.

“Helen Clark has made a big impact since she has been at the UN,” says Sir Geoffrey Palmer, Former Prime Minister of New Zealand. The problems are formidable and the solutions have to be bold. The speeches in this book open up for New Zealanders what the issues are and how Helen is going about tackling them.”

“Helen Clark’s speeches highlight the critical connections between human rights and development. Her writings reflect a profound awareness that the people most affected by disease, poverty and injustice must become agents of change for a just and more equitable world.” Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS.
Mathematicians have found it useful to enumerate all sorts of things arising in discrete mathematics: elements of finite groups, configurations of ones and zeros, graphs of various sorts: the list is endless.

*Analytic combinatorics* uses analytic techniques to do the counting, generating functions are defined and their coefficients are then estimated via complex contour integrals. Authored by Senior Lecturer Mark C. Wilson (Computer Science) and Professor Robin Pemantle from the University of Pennsylvania, this book is the result of nearly 15 years of work on developing analytic machinery to recover, as effectively as possible, asymptotics of the coefficients of a multivariate generating function. It is the first book to describe results and techniques necessary to estimate coefficients of generating functions in more than one variable.

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**University wins animal welfare award**

A collaboration of University of Auckland departments has been recognised for its significant contribution to reducing and refining the way animals are used for scientific research worldwide.

The group has received the 2013 National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) Three Rs award, sponsored by the Royal New Zealand SPCA.

The Circulatory Control Laboratory from the Department of Physiology and the Auckland Bioengineering Institute’s Implantable Devices Group won the award for their development and validation of a number of wireless physiological monitoring tools, says NAEAC chairperson Dr Virginia Williams.

“*The concept of the Three Rs is to replace live animal subjects, reduce the number of animals used and refine experimental techniques to minimise pain and distress. The team’s work demonstrates two of these principles.*”

“The impressive technology developed in New Zealand enables refinements through reduced need for handling the animals, and reductions in animal usage worldwide. Use of animals in science is only acceptable if all efforts are made to minimise harm or suffering,” says Dr Williams.

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**Apology**

In Issue 15 of UniNews, on page one, we stated that Associate Professor Merryn Tawhai was part of the Faculty of Engineering. This is incorrect. Merryn is Deputy Director of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute and is not with Engineering.

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**Research Office hosts visit from US Office of Naval Research Global**

On 16 August, the Research Office hosted a briefing by Cmdr. Blake McBride from the US Office of Naval Research Global (ONRG). ONRG are interested in any innovative research with potential naval relevance and benefit, including materials, health, biological sciences and logistics. ONRG has funding and can also facilitate direct links to ONR Program Officials in the US. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact David Saunders, Fund Specialist, ext. 84486, d.saunders@auckland.ac.nz

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**MBIE Science Investment results announced**

Congratulations to our successful applicants to the MBIE Science Investment round. The following teams have been funded in 2013:

- **Professor Mark Taylor**, who together with the Light Metals Research Centre achieved a successful award for Large Scale Electrical Energy Storage and Saving (three years). Mark also achieved a substantial award to build on the previous work of a multi-party collaboration called the Materials Accelerator. The new collaboration, the Product Accelerator, aims to address global knowledge gaps in multi-materials function and processing.
- **Professor Peter Davis** and the team at Centre of Methods and Policy Application in the Social Sciences (COMPASS) who received three years funding for the project: “Developing a knowledge laboratory of the early life-course using systematic reviews and meta analyses”.
- **Dr Tet Lee** of the School of Biological Sciences for his project “Enhancing the competitive advantage of New Zealand’s clean, green image. A novel means of mitigating methane emissions from livestock” (two years)
- **Dr Susan Morton** and her team at the School of Population health for the project “Who are today’s dads? - Understanding the diversity and importance of fathers for children growing up in NZ today” (three years).

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**Partner-led WUN project proposals**

The University has been invited to partner on a variety of projects for submission to the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) Research Development Fund 2013 round. The preliminary proposals cover topics from soil science to psychology, and are all available to view on the staff intranet at University home > Staff Intranet > Research > Take up international research opportunities > Partnerships and collaborations > Worldwide Universities Network. For further information about these and other WUN opportunities, please contact Usha Bhatia at u.bhatia@auckland.ac.nz or ext 85562.
From the art collection

When potter John Parker began making a name for himself in the 1970s, the clean, manufactured look of mass-produced Crown Lynn ceramics was losing its fashionable status and was certainly not to be taken seriously by potters.

In contrast, John found inspiration in Crown Lynn’s distinctively grooved hand-potted range, produced by British import, Ernest Shufflebotham. Shufflebotham had been recruited from British company Wedgwood, where he worked under Kiwi ex-pat designer Keith Murray, and brought with him a refined sensibility of clean modernist forms and soft matt white glazes. Shufflebotham only stayed in New Zealand from 1948-55 but his tenure coincided with Crown Lynn sourcing its best white clay in Matauri and perfecting its glazing and firing processes, and his works have become some of Crown Lynn’s most sought after items.

This passing of influence, from New Zealand to England and back again, is a point of fascination for John, who is an avid collector of both Murray and Shufflebotham pots. Highlights from Parker’s own research collection, including several of his own works, were included in the exhibition “Crown Lynn: Pottery for the People” held at the Gus Fisher Gallery in 2011, demonstrating the circularity of influence and inspiration.

Although their work is hand-thrown, Shufflebotham, Murray and John produce it with industrial lathe techniques. It is this fine tension between formalism and experimentation that has been a constant of John’s ongoing practice. Looking to industrial processes, some of his ridged forms also nod toward the mass-produced ceramic insulators used on power pylons. For a period from 1996, he announced that he would only produce work in white, although he now also works in black and red. But by establishing self-imposed rules and a limited range of minimalist forms or finishes for each range he produces, John is able to push these boundaries to expand his vocabulary and keep collectors coming back to add his latest variations to the growing range.

John first trained at Elam School of Fine Arts before completing a diploma in teaching at Auckland Teachers College in Epsom, where there was a thriving ceramic scene, and then a Master of Fine Arts at the Royal College of London in 1975. He returned to New Zealand in 1977 and became Director of Auckland Studio Potters Centre, going on to win many awards and also finding renown as a theatre designer. City Gallery Wellington held a major retrospective of his work in 2002 and he was given a Laureate Award by the Arts Foundation in 2010.

A selection of John’s orbs, bottles and vases were purchased for Tāmaki Campus in 2002 and are on permanent display in Café Europa as part of a collection that was started in 1992 to fit-out the then new campus but is now managed as part of the wider University Art Collection.

In 2009, John also paid homage to West Auckland’s Crown Lynn legacy by producing a ceramic tile mural for New Lynn’s train station that depicts the most ubiquitous but (now) keenly collected item from Crown Lynn’s whiteware range, the swan.

Andrew Clifford

John Parker (b.1947), white ceramic cylinder, bottles, vase and orb vase, c.2001 Six pieces of white-glazed ceramics (#60, 80, 85, 92, 96, 103), various dimensions The University of Auckland Art Collection

From the cultural collection

Located within the Architecture & Planning Library, the Archive primarily collects architectural drawings and associated documentation relating to architects and architecture from the greater Auckland region. The Lopdell House drawings were received as part of a donation from the former Auckland Education Board.

Originally a hotel, known as Hotel Titirangi, the house was designed by Auckland architect William S. R. Bloomfield in the late 1920s. The plans, elevations, sections and details depict the reinforced concrete structure. Capable of accommodating 63 guests in bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, a large roof terrace, drive-in garaging for guests’ cars and sweeping views of the Manukau Harbour, it was opened with some fanfare in 1930 by the then Prime Minister Gordon Coates.

The hotel failed to flourish due to a combination of circumstances - the inability to gain a liquor licence, combined with the effects of the Depression, followed by World War II, saw its closure. In 1942 the building passed into the hands of the Department of Education and it fulfilled a variety of education-related functions. It was sold in 1982 to the Waitemata City Council and was transformed into West Auckland’s Regional Art Gallery, as it remains today.

Bloomfield is believed to have been the first New Zealander of Māori descent (Ngāti Kahungunu) to have graduated and practiced as an architect. He was widely travelled and educated internationally, gaining his architecture qualification from the University of Pennsylvania, USA. As a partner in the architectural firms Bloomfield & Hunt and Bloomfield, Owen & Morgan he is also remembered for Queen’s Arcade, Queen Street, Yorkshire House on the corner of Shortland and O’Connell Streets, the Masonic temple on St Benedict’s Street, and many residences.

Sarah Cox
Architecture Archivist
Architecture Archive, Architecture & Planning Library
What’s on

THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

2013 Vice-Chancellor’s Lecture Series
Prof Muriel Médard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA, USA: Networking code TCP for a faster Internet. 1.2pm, Robb Lecture Theatre, Bldg 501, Basement Level, 85 Park Road, Grafton Campus. Queries to 923 2258.

Department of English seminar
Pam Brown, Australian Poet. Poetry topics, position and process - a montage. 3pm, Room 303, Arts 2.

Department of History seminar
Dr Erin Griffey, UoA: In the bedroom: Display, ritual and personal identity in the Stuart bedchamber. 4pm, Room 59, 7 Wynyard St.

Public lecture
Prof Richard Stahl, University of California, US: Effective and appropriate strategies for the diffusion of scientific information. 6.30pm, Lecture Theatre B15, General Library Bldg.

EXHIBITION

Exhibition event
Women and Art – a Suffrage Day event. 1pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Women artists talk about the importance of art for women on the 120th Anniversary of Suffrage in NZ. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

Concert
Auckland composer collective The Committee present ‘Equinox’, a concert of new art music. 4pm, Foyer, Clack Castle Bldg, 22 Princes St. New works by eight Auckland composers, performed by eight of Auckland’s finest musicians. Tickets $17/$10 on the door. Visit www.facebook.com/ thecommitteeperformers

MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

Retirement Policy and Research Centre Forum
Speakers: Dr Alison O’Connell, Victoria University, and Retirement Commissioner Diane Maxwell: Are UK’s pension reforms over-taking NZ’s? 2.30-6.30pm, Decima Glenn Level, 3, Owen G Glenn Bldg. 12 Grafton Rd RSVP to t.dale@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

Anthropology seminar
Prof Norman Hammond, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge University: Exploring an ancient Maya city in Central America. 6.30pm, Library Theatre B15, General Library Bldg.

TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

Fermata seminar
Dr Jonathan McKeown-Green: Defining music. 5.30pm, Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St.

THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

Child and Family Research seminar
Jill Goldson: Family facilitation: an evidence based approach to dispute resolution in the rearranging family. 4pm, J2 Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Education, 74 Epsom Ave. Register at https://strengtheningpracticeseminars.eventbrite.co.nz

Department of English seminar
Pam Brown, Australian Poet: Authentic local: an illustrated autobiographical sample of an Itinerant local’s pursuits in poetry and art. 6.30pm venue tba.

FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

School of Music lunchtime concert
Voice 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

EXHIBITION

Exhibition event
Gus Fisher Handle Recommended, MTV and your tween. 1pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Parents and tweens talk about music videos. There has been concern about the content of popular music videos for some time, with critics troubled by the submissive female roles and narrow and exceptional representations of women’s – highly sexualised – bodies. Are music videos like advertising, being influenced by pornography? How do tweens themselves make sense of what they see and what it means? For details. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

Karleihnz Company concert
Spring Forward: 5pm, Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Book at ITICKET.

TUESDAY 1 OCTOBER

Immigration information for Graduate Job Search Visa and Permanent Residency
12noon-3pm, International Office, Rm G23, Old Choral Hall, 7 Symonds St. RSVP to space@music.auckland.ac.nz. Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/international

Jazz series master class
Mark Isaacs: Crossing over to comonground. 4pm, Music Theatre, School of Music. Queries to concerts@music.auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 7 OCTOBER

Repeated lecture
Prof Jim Denier, Engineering: From Newton to NZ: a continuum of mechanics. 5pm, Lecture Theatre 505.007, Grafton Campus. Book at ITICKET.

Inaugural Lecture
Prof Julia Margaret Kennedy, FMHS: A traveller’s tale. 5pm, Lecture Theatre 505.007, Grafton Campus.

Inaugural Lecture
Prof Karlheinz Stockhausen, FMHS: A way with metaphysics: From fiction to fictionalism. 6pm, Lecture Theatre B10, Library Bldg.

WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

School of Music lunchtime concert
Brass, woodwind 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

WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

21st Century Women in Media Conference
10am-4.30pm, 828, Library Basement, General Library Bldg. Register at suffrage13@gmail.com Register at suftrage13@gmail.com With Paula Penfold (TV3), MC. Celebrating 120 years of Women’s Suffrage.

WEDNESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

School of Music lunchtime concert
Voice 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

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 or log on to www.citysales.co.nz/rentals

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Waitehe cottage. Charming, sunny, fully furnished Waitehe cottage, quiet location near bus stop. Weekend or longer getaways. Suit couple or up to 4. Minimum two nights. Reasonable rental. Christmas and dates in school holidays still available. Photos and further information available on request. Contact aldil@aol.com or (021) 136 1759.

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 5828 to discuss your needs, or email nichristie@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 (ak) or (021) 188 7781.

Classifieds
Camellias flowering in September are an annual reminder of the passage of The Electoral Act, 1893, which declared that for the purposes of voting under the Act the word “person” should include women. The Act was the culmination of nearly 30 years of agitation and political action by committed women and men who believed in equal electoral rights and equal citizenship in a democracy. This year marks 120 years of women voting for members of our national Parliament.

The Electoral Act was a long one - it contained 170 clauses and 20 schedules – and the only other mention of women stated that “No woman, although duly registered as an elector, shall be capable of being nominated as a candidate, or of being elected a member of the House of Representatives, or of being appointed to the Legislative Council”. The Act passed its third reading in the Legislative Council, the old Upper House, on 8 September 1893 and received the royal assent on 19 September. During those 11 days the supporters of women’s suffrage wore white camellias, the symbol of the suffrage movement, and the opponents, in their last ditch attempt to persuade the Governor to withhold assent, adopted the red camellia as their flower.

The movement to enfranchise women succeeded in New Zealand relatively early; women in some other countries took nearly a hundred years longer to gain the vote for their national assemblies. There has been some debate over whether we can legitimately claim the women’s vote as a world first and how important the Act, passed by a small colony, insignificant in world affairs, was compared to the later enfranchisement of women by larger and more powerful nation states. Among historians these debates matter and they mattered for the women and men of the time. As a matter of record, the Pitcairn Islands, in a unique situation, had enfranchised women in 1838, and the New Zealand Act was widely cited and used as an argument why other countries should fall in line.

Women could stand for election to the House of Representatives from 1919.

There are always conservative aspects of political reform: enfranchisement has at times been an effective counter-revolutionary strategy. There is, however, no doubt about the boldness of the move in 1893. In New Zealand, women’s franchise gained support across the political and social spectrum. Party politics based on ideological differences were not strong before 1890 and women’s suffrage attracted those who believed in equality, justice and fairness. The notion that women would vote to conserve social values, to promote social order and morality was strong. But the promotion of social order and morality was often a radical platform in the late-nineteenth century, opposed to the interests of big business, such as the brewers, and vested interest. We should not underestimate the strength of the challenge that the women’s vote posed to the status quo and the boldness of this particular “leap in the dark”.

The movement won significant support in Auckland. Women’s rights, including the vote, were a major topic of debate in the Auckland press, in Auckland churches, on public platforms and doubtless in homes from the late 1860s. Mary Ann Colclough, a teacher and prolific press columnist in the second half of the 1860s, called for women’s rights over a broad range of causes. Elizabeth Caradus, who came to Auckland in 1842 when she was nine and ran her husband’s small rope shop on the corner of Union Street when he went to the goldfields in the 1860s, was a leading social activist and a staunch suffrage campaigner. Samuel Edger, the unconventional pastor, who delivered “unsectarian” services and public lectures in the Choral Hall among other locations round Auckland from 1867 to 1882, and father of Kate Edger, advocated women’s suffrage for years.

Celebrating the campaigns of our predecessors is one way we honour their work, which was not only on their own behalf, but for future generations. Celebrating this particular campaign reminds us of the historical moments when New Zealand has been at the forefront of world-leading reform. We need to treasure such moments.

Raewyn Dalziel
Emeritus Professor of History