

RANGITOTO RE-VISITED

Rangitoto, April 1868. John Kinder photo. Auckland Museum. album 5 p.361

Rangitoto may not be quite the volcano we think it is according to controversial, new research just published by University of Auckland geologists.

By examining volcanic ash from 60 metres deep in Lake Pupuke, geologists led by Associate Professor Phil Shane and Associate Professor Paul Augustinus, believe that Rangitoto may have erupted either intermittently or semi-continuously from about 1500 to 500 years ago. This completely usurps previous beliefs that the basaltic volcano, following a similar pattern to the rest of the Auckland volcanic field, formed about 550 years ago and has only erupted twice.

"The old paradigm is that these volcanoes erupt suddenly in a new location and only for a year or two and then that's it," says Phil Shane, who is one of the lead authors of the paper published in the *International Journal of Volcanology and Geothermal Research* this month. "This needs to be revisited in light of the new Rangitoto history of activity. We cannot rule out long-lived activity in the future or eruptions at sites that have experienced previous activity. The Auckland volcanic field could be going into a new mode of operation."

Phil's team includes recent PhD graduate Ola Zawalna-Geer, who spent several years painstakingly dating Rangitoto's eruption pattern. The team have collected more than ten cores of Lake Pupuke sediment by lowering piping 60 metres down to the floor of the lake and then a few metres into the sediment. "We've looked at two of the cores in great detail by opening them up and taking a sample of sediment every centimetre down."



Associate Professor Phil Shane and Associate Professor Paul Augustinus

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Outstanding PBRF

The University of Auckland has been re-confirmed as New Zealand's leading research institution with outstanding results in the 2012 Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) quality evaluation.

Notable features of the University's PBRF performance:

- It has 34% of the A-rated staff in the entire country, while having only 25% of eligible staff
- Its number of A-rated (internationally esteemed) researchers has increased by 88 to 288 since 2006

- Its research degree completions rose from 899 (671 masters, 228 doctorates) in 2006 to 1,168 (847 masters, 321 doctorates) in 2012
- It received 33% of the funding allocation for Research Degree Completions and 36% of the allocation for External Research Income, reflecting the University's nationally leading performance in these areas
- The University has secured 30.6% of the total PBRF fund or \$80.4m, up \$5.7m from last year.

Women and children first



A joint project between Auckland and Otago academics is showcasing the importance of health research in our country.

"Today's Research, Tomorrow's Health" is a series of presentations held in key locations around New Zealand, championed by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Distinguished Professor Jane Harding, and other leading University academics. The group is working closely with the University of Otago to raise awareness amongst stakeholders and the public of the importance of health research investment.

Now in its second year, the project began in 2012 with a focus on cancer research. The first of two 2013 presentation series is focusing on women's and children's health. It launched with an event at Parliament in February, hosted by Labour Leader the Hon. David Shearer. Ministers, MPs, policy makers and other invited guests enjoyed five-minute talks from five leading health researchers on a variety of topics related to women's and children's health. The event also included five posters on

Photo, left to right: Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Crampton, Division of Health Services, University of Otago; Deputy Dean Professor Ian Reid, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland; David Shearer MP, Leader of the Opposition, Labour Spokesperson Science and Innovation; Distinguished Professor Jane Harding, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), The University of Auckland.

Fire at the Maidment



A fire broke out at the Maidment Theatre at 4.30pm on Wednesday 3rd April. Around 30 people were in the building and all were evacuated safely. The Fire Service were called to the scene immediately, and quickly had the situation under control.

It was believed to be the result of a curtain catching fire in one of the theatres, and a full investigation has confirmed this as the cause; a curtain ignited from a stage light, with damage mainly contained within the stage area.

display, with researchers on-hand to speak informally about their work. One of the key presentations was by Jane Harding, speaking on "Improving lifelong health for babies".

After the successful event in Parliament, "Today's Research, Tomorrow's Health" is going provincial with presentations in Rotorua on 30 April and Palmerston North on 30 May. Rotorua's event will be held in the Rotorua Energy Events Centre, and will be co-hosted by Professor John Fraser, Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.

Says Jane: "Parliament was a wonderful opportunity for researchers to give parliamentarians a glimpse of how high quality health research is making a difference to New Zealanders.

"The provincial events are opportunities for the New Zealand public to learn first hand of the quality of health research in New Zealand and how it changes lives. In a sense, the researchers are 'reporting back' to the public that supports their research." For more information visit: www.auckland.ac.nz/healthresearch

The Fire Investigator and Insurance Company have completed their initial on-site assessments and it is estimated that the theatre may well be non-operational for a period of up to six months while extensive restorative work is undertaken.

The University of Auckland informed The Auckland Theatre Company that it would not be able to provide the venue for 'Midnight in Moscow.' There will likely be some further disruption to scheduled performances, the extent of which is unable to be confirmed pending the damage assessment. The University is working closely with the Auckland Theatre Company to support alternative arrangements for shows that have been displaced.

The Don Binney painting housed in the Maidment Theatre appears to be undamaged but will be professionally assessed.

Rangitoto re-visited continued from page 1

Using chemical methods the geologists have then separated out hundreds of tiny volcanic glass shards. "When we find these in high abundance it indicates an eruption. We also analyse them with an electron microprobe and get a chemical analysis of each glass shard – if it matches the Rangitoto chemical finger print, for example, then we know the shards come from Rangitoto."

By examining the shards, the geologists can also date the sediment in the cores. "We can trace Taupo which erupted 2,000 years ago and Okataina which erupted about 700 years ago. Because we can recognise volcanic ash from these volcanoes in the core, we know how old the sediments are. So as we find abundances of Rangitoto shards from different levels in the core we can date them accurately.

Phil and Paul say they hope their work will have an impact on future hazard and risk planning in the Auckland area, and will be presenting their results at science and planning meetings.

"This finding is important for hazard-risk modelling of the Auckland region," stresses Phil, "and it has implications for other volcanic fields like this around the world."

Top PhD theses

Five PhD theses on topics as various as wireless implantable devices and the emergence of lesbian representation in early cinema have been rated the most outstanding of the 312 successfully examined in 2012.

The Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Best Doctoral Thesis has been awarded to:

Cosmin Laslau, School of Chemical Sciences, Faculty of Science;

Chris Mckinlay, Liggins Institute;

Stefan Oehlers, Department of Molecular Medicine and Pathology, School of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences;

Susan Potter, Department of Film, Television and Media Studies, Faculty of Arts;

David Russell, Auckland Bioengineering Institute.

Awardees will be presented with their certificates at the University's "Celebrating Research Excellence" function on 1 May.

High performance athletes fund



A new fund for high-performing athletes and clubs at The University of Auckland has got the approval of one of New Zealand's most accomplished athletes.

The Mahé Drysdale Sports Support Fund is available to high-performance athletes who have been selected to represent New Zealand, at national or at universities level, and is in need of financial support for travel, accommodation and other costs that come with competing at international events.

It is named after Mahé not only for his achievements in the single sculls at both the world championships and the Olympic Games, but also because he is a Distinguished Young Alumnus of the University, graduating with a Graduate Diploma in Commerce in 2001 and a Bachelor of Commerce in 1999.

"I was surprised to be asked," says Mahé, who is overseas, training for an Ironman competition and fitting in a brief holiday. "My rowing career started at the University and I think it is a great initiative so I was happy to lend my name to it."

The fund is also available to clubs and teams affiliated with the University who are attending, or plan to host, inter-tertiary sports tournaments.

Says Mahe: "The fund will be a great success if it can help an athlete or team go to the next level in their sport and give them the experience they need to achieve their dreams. It's a challenge I faced early on in my career, just finding support to keep me going at that high level so hopefully this contributes to keeping athletes and teams on track."

Louis Rattray, Director for Sport and Recreation, is glad to have the Olympic gold medallist's support for the fund.

"It's great to have our first sport oriented fund for high-performance athletes named after one of the world's best rowers. He is a role model for our students not just for what he has achieved but the focus it took to get there."

For Mahé, a return to the water is imminent after a brief hiatus following the 2012 London Olympics. He is hopeful of a return to the New Zealand team in time to compete at this year's World Rowing Championships in Korea in August. "I've had a great break but I'm definitely ready to get back and compete on the international stage."

Featured alumnus



Our Chaplain, the Reverend Uesifili Unasa is currently the featured alumnus of the month by the United States Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA).

Throughout April, Uesifili's work will be recognised on the International Exchange Alumni website www.alumni.state.gov/featured-alumni/member-month, ECA's official website for the more than one million Department-sponsored exchange alumni worldwide.

In 2011 Uesifili went to Washington DC to participate in the Community Activism and Minority Rights International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). While there he was invited to

stand on the exact spot at the Lincoln Memorial where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous 1963 'I Have a Dream' speech.

"I was moved," says Uesifili, "by the audacity of the speaker and by the people who marched to Washington on that day - who dared to dream of a different America where all people are equal."

Inspired by Dr. King's example, Uesifili returned to New Zealand and mobilised New Zealand's various Pacific Island - or Pasifika - communities to make their social, economic, political, and cultural concerns known. The outcome was "The Advance Pasifika March for Our Future" in June 2012, the first ever Pan-Pacific march in New Zealand to raise awareness on issues such as poverty, education, underachievement, discrimination, unemployment, and the marginalisation felt by some Pasifika people in New Zealand.

From the Vice-Chancellor



The results of the 2012 exit survey of doctoral candidates conducted by the School of Graduate Studies have once again reflected very positively on this, the most advanced academic programme in the University.

All doctoral candidates are invited to complete the survey on a confidential basis at the time of first submission of their theses at the Graduate Centre. Last year 246 of the 326 doctoral students who submitted their thesis completed the survey - a return rate of 75%, up from 48% when the survey began in 2009.

As in previous years, the most significant factors in choosing The University of Auckland were the availability of an appropriate supervisor in the respondent's area of interest. This was followed by the offer of a scholarship and the reputation of the University and the department or school in which they would be studying. Just under 80% reported that they held a scholarship.

The active involvement of supervisors was reflected in the fact that 98% of respondents met their main supervisor at least monthly or as required (up from 91% in 2011) while 94% had a similar frequency of meetings with their co-supervisor (up from 69%). As in 2011, 88% rated their main supervisor as "good or excellent" while the same rating was given to co-supervisors by 84% of respondents (up from 77% a year earlier). Over 95% of the respondents agreed that they had access to a suitable working space and to appropriate computing facilities and services.

On average, respondents published three research papers and attended three international conferences during the time that they were in the doctoral programme.

Overall, these are very encouraging statistics. Growth in the doctoral programme is one of our key strategic objectives in terms of benchmarking with leading research universities around the world. We have been spectacularly successful in this regard, with our number of doctoral completions rising from 170 in 2004 to 325 last year. It is a credit to everyone involved in the doctoral programme that we have candidates who complete the exit survey by writing comments like: "I have been exceptionally happy with my doctoral experience at Auckland. It suited me perfectly. Best four years of my life".

Staff news

Three important staff appointments have been made over the last month

HR Director



Andrew Phipps succeeds Kath Clarke as our Director of Human Resources, following an international search. Andrew, who holds bachelors and masters degrees with Honours in social

sciences from Waikato University, will be known to many in the University and the wider HR community through his current role as Deputy Director (Advisory Services) in HR. He has held this position since 2006. Prior to that he was a human resources consultant with the Union Bank Switzerland and a human resources adviser and manager in our Faculty of Science.

Director of Alumni Relations and Development



Mark Bentley has been appointed the new Director of Alumni Relations and Development, following an international search. He succeeds John Taylor who retired at the end of last year. Mark holds a

Bachelors of Arts (Honours) from the University of Lancaster, a Chartered Institute of Marketing Diploma in Marketing from Manchester Metropolitan University and a Masters degree of Business Administration from The University of Auckland.

He has previously worked in marketing and advancement positions for tertiary institutions in the UK. More recently he was employed in the Business School as Director of Marketing and Advancement and General Manager, Excelerator, NZ Leadership Institute. He leaves his current position as Chief Executive Auckland, Communities Foundation, to take up this appointment on 24 June.

University Proctor



Following the review of the Mediation Service a new office of University proctor has been established within Campus Life. The role of the proctor will be to assess disputes involving students and make a judgment on

appropriate next steps. These may include referral to an external mediator. The proctor will also provide guidance to those (Deans and Heads of Department) seeking advice on how disputes and similar matters involving students should be handled.

A retired member of academic staff and former Dean of Arts, Dr Jan Crosthwaite, has been appointed as the University Proctor and will take up the position from 15 April 2013. She can be contacted at proctor@auckland.ac.nz from that date.

A finely woven memento



When the University celebrated its centenary in 1983, Mrs Nancy Payne, who had been the secretary in the Education Department on the City Campus for 16 years, decided to put her crocheting and embroidery skills to work. She created a beautiful linen table cloth with the University emblem and logo at its centre and the faculties portrayed grandly around its edges.

"I didn't do anything with it at the time," remembers Nancy, who now at age 89 is leaving her home in Botany Downs to be closer to family in New Plymouth and is giving the table cloth to the University.

"It is truly touching to see how people, in their own way, honour and give back to their alma mater," says University Registrar, Tim Greville. "Some are able to donate and others to give their

time and effort and, as here, still others create something unique. We are fortunate indeed to have people like Nancy in our University community and to pay tribute to her and all like her."

As well as putting in many hours working at the University "because I loved it", Nancy slowly studied for a BA in Anthropology. After 12 years she was proud to graduate in 1986 and had her photo with Chancellor Dr Lindo Ferguson published in the *University News*. She officially retired in 1987 but continued to work as a temp for the University Chaplain and in departments like Engineering and Political Studies for another five years.

These days much of Nancy's time is spent with her six children, 15 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Myanmar visit



Last month, Myanmar President U Thein Sein visited the University as part of a mission to New Zealand.

The visitors were given a preview of some of the University's geothermal research, and introduced to border opportunities for engagement, including English Language training. Professor Peter Malin from the Institute of Earth Science and Engineering (IESE) illustrated the Institute's mapping techniques, showing Myanmar's geothermal map. Dr John Rugis demonstrated, in the 3D visualisation lab, details of an earthquake sequence and underground structure of geothermal field. Mark Alvarez also explained the use of borehole instruments in a geothermal exploration and reservoirs.

The President took office in March 2011. Since then he has instituted major political reform, which has led to rapidly increasing bilateral engagement.

Ten days after the visit, a delegation led by Myanmar's Speaker of the Lower House met with members of our Faculty of Law to learn about New Zealand's law system.

Academic integrity online



This year nearly 10,000 students are expected to complete the University's Academic Integrity Course. The five modules of the online course cover academic integrity at university, avoiding academic dishonesty, acknowledging the work of others, using copyrighted material correctly and consequences of academic dishonesty at The University of Auckland. Students are required to achieve 100% on the associated Cecil tests to successfully complete the course.

Following recommendations from a Teaching and Learning Quality Committee working group, the course was developed by the University Library's Learning Services team in collaboration with faculty experts, the Centre for Academic Development's eLearning team, Student Learning, Diagnostic English Language Needs Assessment, Office of the Vice-Chancellor and the Examinations Office. The course includes videos, comic strips and activities to highlight realistic situations that students may encounter while at University.

Feedback from the pilot in Semester Two 2012 was positive, with most students indicating that they found the content relevant, informative and

engaging. Students liked the scenario-based approach which allowed them to understand what actions could be considered academically dishonest at university. This was particularly appreciated by some of the international students who may have come from cultures with a different understanding of academic integrity.

All staff and students can access the online course from www.academicintegrityauckland.ac.nz although only students required to complete the course are enrolled in the corresponding Cecil course.

In 2013 administration of the course is determined by each faculty. Individual faculties have set different completion dates with most faculties requiring students to complete the course by the end of Semester One. All new doctoral students are also required to complete the course as part of their provisional year requirements. Work is being undertaken to ensure that students new to the University are automatically enrolled into the Academic Integrity Course when they enrol for a course of study. This process is expected to be in place for the start of 2014.

Agreement with Japanese institute



University of Auckland graduate students can carry out research in Japan for periods of up to one year, with accommodation and living expenses fully covered by the National Institute of Materials Sciences (NIMS) as a result of a new agreement.

During a recent visit from the President of NIMS, Professor Sukeatsu Ushioda, he and Professor Jenny Dixon, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Engagement), signed an International

Cooperative Graduate Program, making The University of Auckland one of only a dozen institutes worldwide with such an agreement with NIMS. NIMS is the world's third highest ranked research institute in materials sciences, with over 1500 staff working at its world class facilities.

This follows last year's signing of a Comprehensive Collaborative Agreement between the two institutes, which enables University of Auckland staff to be hosted for periods of up to one month at NIMS's facilities in Japan. The two agreements were organised under the auspices of the Research Office's International Research Team Development Award. They greatly enhance the ability of University staff and graduates to access unique equipment and laboratories and to carry out research with NIMS's staff, many of whom are world-leaders in their research areas, to the benefit of both organisations.

Research Funding News

Save Sight Society – Research Grants

Funding for ophthalmologists, trainee ophthalmologists or for work being done in University Departments of Ophthalmology. Contribution to the project by ophthalmologists involved should be substantial and detailed. Applications are encouraged from new investigators. Deadline at the Research Office via the University's Research Funding Module is Friday, 3 May. More information can be found at www.savesightsociety.org.nz.

National Heart Foundation – Fellowships and Grants

Funding for heart research to enable cardiologists and researchers to carry out research and undertake training. Applications for overseas training, research fellowships, small project grants, grants-in-aid and travel grants are invited. Deadline at the Research Office via the University's Research Funding Module is Friday, 24 May. More information can be found at www.heartfoundation.org.nz.

Neurological Foundation – Travel Grants

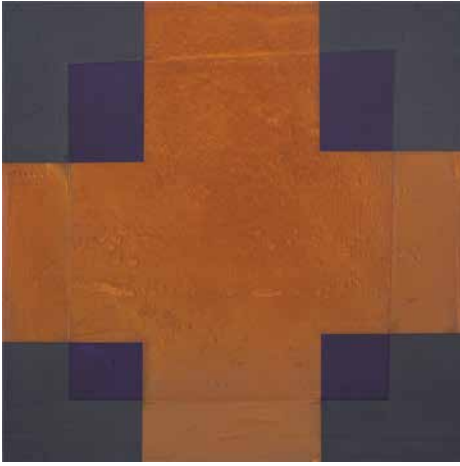
Applications are invited from either a principal investigator or a named associate in a Project Grant funded by the Foundation, or holders of a Foundation Scholarship or Fellowship. Deadline at the Research Office via the University's Research Funding Module is Friday, 24 May. More information can be found at: www.neurological.org.nz.

Maurice & Phyllis Paykel Trust – Travel Grants

Grants-in-aid to assist with travel relevant to research in a health-related field e.g. travel to scientific meetings or research centres; or for short travel periods to work in research laboratories or undertake research training. Usually \$1,000 - \$3,000. Researchers seeking funds for personal attendance at a conference must apply using this category (even if the conference will be held locally, Conference Support Grants are not available for this purpose). Deadline at the Research Office via the University's Research Funding Module is Friday, 24 May. More information can be found at www.paykeltrust.co.nz.

Contact for information:

Lorraine Scott, Senior Research Administrator, ext 88652 or lj.scott@auckland.ac.nz.



After studying at the Elam School of Fine Arts in the 1970s, Stephen Bambury travelled to North America. There he encountered paintings by the Russian artist Kazimir Malevich who had undertaken “a desperate struggle to free art from the ballast of the objective world” by using basic motifs: the square, the circle and the cross. This last shape was a loaded sign but also an exercise in pure geometry, dividing the canvas into nine squares. As many geometrical abstractionists have observed, the cross is the mother of all grids.

Malevich’s aspiration was to create paintings that everyone could understand and which would operate like icons, hung across the corner of a room for veneration. This early twentieth century Russian artist aimed to collapse the dualistic opposition between form and meaning, vesting the meaning in the form – the physical fabric of the work itself. As critics would remark later,

Malevich’s strand of Suprematism led to Minimalism, where the subject became the object.

Stephen admired Malevich’s quest for compositional wholeness, commenting that: “Malevich tilted the form on traditional ground. The ground became a zero, non-objective, nothingness...He used traditional composition to achieve this liberation of form. I want to do it without needing to paint a field. I will construct the forms – the wall is the field...” At a time when many New Zealand artists were producing work which related to locality and identity, Stephen’s dedication to an international context for his work was unusual. He proceeded to develop a series of two-colour paintings which were like binary sets: each colour implied the situation for the other colour to exist.

Integrating his painting with architecture would become Stephen’s ideal as he aimed for an ambiguity of figure and ground.

Rather than applying materials to a substrate or surface as is customary in painting, Stephen produces complete entities out of geometric forms which bond with the industrial materials used to construct them. In *IC089321*, he uses chemically generated pure iron pigments. The fast rusting iron filings are applied as a coarse grey powder to the aluminium support, and the colour is the result of oxidation in the atmosphere. Time, therefore, is one of the artist’s materials, and he is aiming for a slow burn. Stephen says: “I use the allure of the beauty of surface, colour and space to provide a runway into the work. This offers people a ‘painting

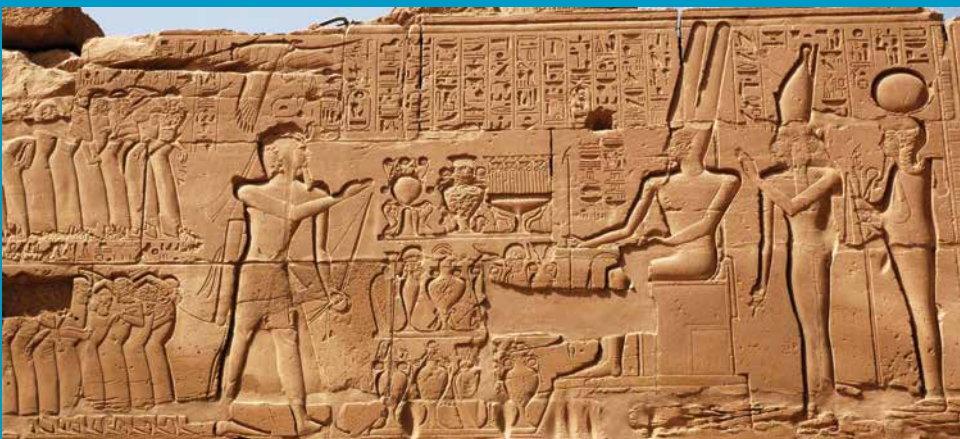
experience’, something you don’t have with anything else in the world.” The play of light on the surface of his paintings transforms his seductively-crafted sensuous materials to create an oasis of interest for refugees from a media-rich world.

Stephen’s works are logically sequenced through experiments with materials and effects, the numerical code which identifies each one becomes its title, in this case *IC089321*. For Stephen, the terms “no title” or “untitled” were stylistic conventions, and employing them would consign his paintings to the era of late modernism. In each painting in this series, the Greek cross is both a constructive element and a spiritual symbol. Deployed within consistently-sized quadrilateral forms with no exact right angles, the cross shape facilitates an infinite variety of texture, surface and colour, while segments are harmoniously proportioned. With his extension of Malevich’s legacy, Stephen engages the historical field while accessing the contemporary moment.

Linda Tyler

Stephen Bambury, IC089321, 2008, iron filings and acrylic polymer on aluminium panel, 795 x 795 x 100mm.

Book



Icons of Power – Revelations through ancient Egyptian art written by Professor of Ancient History Anthony Spalinger and published by Charles University in Prague explores the Egyptian narrative art and the ancient Egyptian concept of foreigners as ‘other.’

Icons of Power is a major contribution to Art History as well as Egyptology, with presentation and discussion of the ancient art and techniques

used in wall reliefs from the Egyptian New Kingdom during the Empire Period (18th to 20th Dynasties). It promises to hold wide appeal for Egyptologists, scholars, historians and those interested in ancient art.

Content covers the entire stone wall reliefs of the temples found in Thebes, the Egyptian religious capital of the New Kingdom period, and the centre of worship of Amun-Ra, the Egyptian

Sun god. It includes original colour photographs and extensive diagrams.

“The wall reliefs are arranged in registers, which are sequences of scenes very much like a series of photos. These registers are created in rows. Viewing them is almost like walking with a tour guide. All scenes are idealised images – they didn’t need to be real, but they did need to show the power of the Pharaoh,” says Professor Spalinger.

Common in theme, these reliefs depicted idealised images of the King setting out for battle and returning. They showed how the Egyptians viewed races from other lands as alien. Each group of people were depicted differently, from their clothing and weaponry to their actions.

Anthony specialises in Egyptology. His interest is the interconnections in the ancient world: diplomacy, trade, technology, arts and literature, and the way these interact, all of which are brought to bear in *Icons of Power*.

New Zealand in Afghanistan



A challenging documentary on New Zealand's military engagement in Afghanistan by Professor of Film, Television and Media Studies, Annie Goldson screens on Māori Television on the eve of Anzac Day.

He Toki Huna: New Zealand in Afghanistan explores New Zealand's involvement in Afghanistan – the longest ever war in which this country has played a part. Commissioned by Māori Television and directed and produced by Annie and Kay Ellmers (Canvassing the Treaty, Polynesian Panthers) through Occasional Productions, the documentary gives an overview of the

engagement, and backgrounds some of Afghanistan's turbulent history to provide context to the post 9/11 invasion.

Annie says the documentary sheds light on our recent past and holds valuable lessons for the future. "By joining in the war post-911, have we been 'good global citizens' fighting the good fight against international terrorism? Or did New Zealand enter into an alliance that has meant our soldiers have been actively and militarily involved in a complex conflict that most of us know little about and have not agreed to participate in?"

What's on

THURSDAY 18 APRIL

Department of History seminar

Prof David V. Williams, Faculty of Law: *Historians' context and lawyers' presentism: Debating historiography or agreeing to differ?* 4-5pm, Room 59, 7 Wynyard St.

Faculty of Education special event

A tribute to Professor Dame Marie Clay. 4-6pm, Music Auditorium, B Block Gate 3, 74 Epsom Avenue, Epsom.

The Dean of the Faculty of Education invites you to attend a tribute to the outstanding achievements of Professor Dame Marie Clay, the first woman to hold a professorship at The University of Auckland. A portrait will be unveiled for permanent display in the Faculty.

RSVP to <http://damemarieclay.eventbrite.com>

DALSLS seminar

Prof Victor Friedman, University of Chicago: *Language, death and revitalisation in the Balkans: UNESCO, Europe, and the Nation-State.* 6.30-8pm, Rm 402, School of Engineering.

FRIDAY 19 APRIL

School of Music lunchtime concert

Piano and strings students. 1.05-1.55pm, Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St.

A series of lunchtime concerts showcasing School of Music students in both individual and ensemble settings. Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 20 APRIL

Exhibition talk

1pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Peter Buchanan, Systematics Science Team Leader at Landcare Research, based in Auckland, speaks about the fungi illustrated and recorded by John Buchanan. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 23 APRIL

The University in 2Q30: Towards a new agenda

Rm 220, Level 2, Arts 1. Runs until 24 April.

This Conference is the last in a series of national and international workshops and symposia, generated by European Commission funded project

- University Reform, Globalisation and Europeanisation (URGE) - exploring how the processes of regionalisation and globalization are redefining the nature and scope of universities. The University in 2Q30 is the third of these symposia held in Auckland and will again connect the themes of URGE to processes of change in New Zealand universities.

Bioengineering research seminar

Dr James Russell, School of Biological Sciences and Dept of Statistics: *Island conquerors: The population dynamics and management of invasive rats on islands.* 4-5pm, Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

SATURDAY 27 APRIL

Gallery event

12noon-4pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St.

Sandra Morris will tutor a botanical drawing workshop in the John Buchanan exhibition. Numbers limited. Enrol by emailing a.tyler@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 29 APRIL

Exhibition opening

Don't I know you? 5.30pm, Elam Projectspace Gallery. Runs until 12 May. A selection of student work from the Elam Tuakana group curated by Salome Tanuvasa and Chris Ryan. Queries to elamoffice@auckland.ac.nz

TUESDAY 30 APRIL

Engineering Careers Fair

10am-3pm, Atrium, School of Engineering.

Come along and network with potential employers and find out about internships, graduate programmes and job vacancies they are offering. Students and alumni are welcome to attend.

Communiqué 2013

Sarosh Mulla: Index. 12noon-1pm, Auckland Art Gallery Auditorium.

Queries to events-archplan@auckland.ac.nz

School of Asian Studies seminar

Dr Irene Lee: *A Freudian perspective on incest on the Korean screen: Park Chan-wook's Oldboy (2003).* 4pm, Pat Hanan Rm 501, Arts 2.

Queries to asianstudies@auckland.ac.nz

WEDNESDAY 1 MAY

Fermata seminar

Dr Sun Hee Koo: *Ethnicized sound and contesting Koreanness: The construction of national music among Chinese Korean, North Korean, and South Korean cases.* 5.30pm, Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Albany. Country living at its best close to the city! Lovely fully furnished family home on lifestyle block. Available from 1 August 2013 to 5 January 2014.

Three bdrms, one bthrm, foodies kitchen and great inside and outside entertaining areas. Large flower and vegetable gardens and play areas for children. All mod cons, sunny and comfortable spacious living. 7 minutes to motorway. \$700 pw. For photo's please view www.sabbaticalhomes.com Listing 47086. Email m.hoogerland@auckland.ac.nz

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Grey Lynn. Fully furnished three bdrm townhouse with two bthrms and dble garage. Walk to University. On Link Bus route two blocks from Ponsonby Rd. Available 20 May 2013 to 15 February 2013. Suit academic/professional. \$700 pw. Email g.brierley@auckland.ac.nz or phone Emmy 376 0344 (hm) or 021 859 662.

Grey Lynn. Spacious, sunny bdrm with own private bthrm, built in wardrobes and desk, opening out onto a courtyard and back garden - part of architecturally-designed addition at the back of aging villa. Share new kitchen and two living rooms with owner who works and studies at the University. Would suit academic/professional. \$250 pw - includes expenses. Phone Tess 923 4149 (wk) 376 2996 (home) or (021) 0251 2451.

Ponsonby. Fully-furnished villa, three bdrm, central heating etc, on Link Bus route, 30 minutes walk to University.

Available 21 May - 9 Aug. \$325 pw + utilities. Contact 378 6091 or a.poletti@extra.co.nz

Professional staff member seeking a non-smoking, quiet-living grown-up to rent a sunny, furnished master bedroom with French doors/deck in 3-bdrm house in Pt Chevalier (easy walk to buses, supermarket, beaches & amenities). Sharing with a toddler and cat. References requested. Available mid-April. Please email aowrite@gmail.com

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

South of France: Between Provence and the Cevennes. Ancient chateau offers B&B. Located in wonderfully varied historic area. Vibrant markets, pretty villages, great walking and canoeing. Reasonable rates. Contact jmgee1@gmail.com

MISCELLANEOUS

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REFUGEES AS POLITICAL CURRENCY

John Key's recent agreement with Julia Gillard stipulates that New Zealand will resettle 150 of Australia's detained asylum seekers, in exchange for the Australian navy monitoring Pacific waters, and the ability to process any mass arrivals to New Zealand in Australia's processing centres. As generally defined by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), a refugee is an individual who is unable to live in/return to their country due to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of religion, race, nationality, political opinion, or membership of a particular social group or political opinion. An asylum seeker is a person seeking refugee status and the particular protections afforded by numerous countries signatory to the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. New Zealand and Australia are both signatories.

Historically, New Zealand has been internationally recognised for its practices and legislation regarding the protection of refugees and asylum seekers. Since the introduction of the Refugee Quota System in 1987, New Zealand has accepted up to 750 refugees per year, with a portion of the quota reserved for individuals identified by the UNHCR to be in the Women-at-Risk and Medical/Disabled subcategories, which many other countries will not accept. Over the last decade, more than 7000 refugees from 55 countries have been resettled in New Zealand. Whilst this commitment is admirable, 750 people are a drop in the bucket on global terms. The most recent UNHCR statistics estimate that there are 34 million people of concern and 10.4 million refugees worldwide. Of these, less than one percent of refugees were resettled last year in countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, with numbers dropping considerably in recent years partly due to increased vigilantism by overseas border agencies.

Key and Gillard's new asylum seeker deal raises three immediate concerns. First, by agreeing to receive 150 of Australia's detained asylum seekers, the New Zealand government is tacitly accepting Australia's practice of mandatory detention that has received international condemnation for human rights abuses. Inspections by the UNHCR and Amnesty International have found that these facilities were ill-equipped and overcrowded, with situations of oppressive heat and flooding. Detainees have been told that the wait period could be up to five years. Not only is five years a long time to be in limbo awaiting confirmation (or denial) for formal protection and legal status, but the harsh conditions of detention are unnecessary especially considering that more than 85 per cent of asylum seekers are found to be legitimate refugees. Children can also be detained within these facilities (many of whom are unaccompanied minors). Numerous studies show that mandatory detention negatively impacts on people's mental health (both as a cause and an exacerbating agent) and there are alarmingly high incidents of hunger strikes, self-harming and suicide attempts.

Second, the 150 individuals accepted from Australia will be deducted from New Zealand's original quota of 750. This would reduce New Zealand's number of refugee quota places to 600, when there are over 10.4 million refugees globally. New Zealand should look towards increasing the number of refugees accepted for resettlement, not assisting Australia to maintain detention centres that have documented human rights abuses and questionable commitments to the protection of some of the world's most vulnerable people.

Third, there has never been a mass arrival of asylum seekers to New Zealand. The seas that asylum seekers travel to reach Australia from Indonesia and neighbouring countries are certainly dangerous, but not nearly as distant or treacherous as crossing the Tasman Sea and the open Pacific

Ocean. Seeking asylum is not a crime – it is a right. Refugees and asylum seekers are fleeing persecution; they have been forced from their homes out of necessity, not by choice. Only in circumstances of grave danger would someone consider fleeing in a rickety boat on the high seas – if you chose the boat route, you would have no other viable options left. Widespread discourses of “queue jumpers” and “boatloads of terrorists” are unjustifiably used by the media and governments to discriminate and fear-monger, essentially treating vulnerable individuals as criminals (“illegal migrants”) and a danger to society.

If New Zealand is truly seeking a regional solution to the “problem” of asylum seekers, this deal is not the answer. A true regional solution would include upholding international obligations under to the 1951 Refugee Convention, encouraging other Pacific nations to become signatories to the convention, abolishing mandatory detention, and creating efficient, effective and humane procedures for processing asylum seekers and refugees in all nations across the Pacific.

Rachel Bogen is enrolled in the Faculty of Education's Masters in Social Work (Professional) programme. Her academic interests lie in understanding the political, economic and social factors underlying the forced movement of people. She has worked as an independently contracted interpreter for Refugees as Survivors New Zealand.

Dr Jay Marlowe is a senior lecturer in the Faculty of Education's School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work. His primary research interest focuses on forced migration and resettlement.