



Indian author, Anita Desai spent two hours with Master of Creative Writing students from the English Department last week.

Quiet and humbly spoken, she asked each student to talk about their work, then revealed a little of her own writing process, stressing that she was very private and kept her work close to her chest until she was ready to show someone.

Anita, who was in New Zealand as a guest of the Auckland Writers and Readers Festival, also read from her latest work, *The Artist of Disappearance*, a collection of three finely crafted novellas which explore the relationship between people, art and the contemporary world.

Heralded as the greatest living Indian writer, Anita is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a retired Professor of Literature.

She is pictured above with head of the Master of Creative Writing Course, Associate Professor Lisa Samuels (front row: third from left and Anita fourth). The other teachers on the course also pictured are: John Newton (right of Anita), Professor Michele Leggott (right back) and Dr Selina Tusitala Marsh (second from right, back row).

## International pregnancy research



New Zealand researchers will head up a new dedicated pregnancy research centre based in Chongqing Medical University in Western China, which will bring together the talents and knowledge of researchers from China, Canada and New Zealand.

The International Pregnancy Research Alliance (IPRA) will focus on discovering new ways to prevent and treat pregnancy complications such as gestational diabetes, pre-eclampsia and premature birth.

Professor Philip Baker from The University of Auckland (and Director of the Centre of Research Excellence Gravida) has been appointed by the Chinese Government as a National Distinguished Professor - and given the responsibility for running the new centre.

Membership of the alliance will enable researchers from the three countries to access the Chongqing research centre and to collaborate on research projects with international colleagues. Professor Frank Bloomfield and Professor Mark Vickers from the Liggins Institute and Professor Baker travelled to Chongqing for the launch of the research centre and alliance.

The alliance complements other scientific programmes with China announced by the Ministry of Business Innovation and Enterprise (MBIE) and the concept has received support from the Government's Science and Innovation Promotion Fund.

Research by the alliance partners means expectant mothers and their babies in all three countries will be the first to reap the benefits of new knowledge to reduce the distress and ill

*Continued on page 3*



## New Ombudsman

University of Auckland Law Professor Ron Paterson begins his five-year term as Ombudsman on 4 June 2013 following a unanimous resolution in Parliament on 12 December last year.

Ron has been granted leave of absence from the University during this period but looks forward to maintaining close relations with the Law School.

"I see opportunities for colleagues and students to be involved in the office. There is a strong Public Law team at the Auckland Law School and I hope to share their expertise," he says.

Ron has spent half of his career in legal education and half in health policy and regulation, preparing him well for this new role. He believes it would be good to see more movement of academics into public roles.

"Teaching, research, writing and public speaking equips you well for public service," he says. "There is a great pool of talent across the University able to contribute to public life. I believe a lot of University academics underestimate how valuable their skills are in this respect.

"It's good for public administration and it enriches the University. You acquire very useful

skills as an academic, researcher, and teacher. And conversely, moving back from public administration roles, you have applied skills that give new insights and dimensions to your teaching and research," he says.

He will be working with Chief Ombudsman Dame Beverley Wakem, sharing the workload of a very busy office dealing with complaints of maladministration by public agencies and Official Information Act requests.

His experience as Health and Disability Commissioner (2000-2010) and as Chair of the New Zealand Banking Ombudsman Scheme (2010-13) has given him a wealth of experience in complaint handling, and his work as a Deputy Director-General of Health (1999-2000) gave him valuable insights into the workings of central government.

"I look forward to the new challenges and to helping ensure fairness and openness in public administration. I see the broader education and public watchdog aspects of the Ombudsman's role as vital," he says.



## What's in a name?

For an innovative text message research trial, the choice of a name was of crucial importance.

The study, funded by the Health Research Council and led by Professor Shanthi Ameratunga (Population Health), aims to reduce alcohol consumption and related harms among trauma patients. The programme, which uses mobile phone messages, is currently being tested through a large randomised controlled trial.

Those taking part are patients admitted to hospital after sustaining an injury (perhaps on the roads, in the home or while playing sport) and are subsequently screened and found to be drinking in a harmful way.

Participants in the "intervention group" receive text messages - developed by a team of experts led from the University - which are designed to give them support and information and to help motivate them to reduce their drinking.

Dr Bridget Kool, who manages the programme, says the messages aim to get participants "thinking about the ways in which they are drinking, the effects of that behaviour

on their lives, and ways of changing it".

The research team engaged a leading New Zealand digital design agency, RAPP Tribal, to help develop a brand name that would resonate with the target audience.

The naming was very important, says Bridget, because the name appears on every text. "The team at RAPP Tribal were extremely creative and great to work with. They presented us with ideas we would never have thought of ourselves."

"YourCall" was chosen because it was the most popular option across different age and ethnic groups and for both males and females: "People thought the name was empowering and viewed it as a challenge or a 'call to action'", Bridget says.

*Photo: Shanthi Ameratunga*

## Highlighted Events

### Parental leave

Associate Professor Susan Morton, Research Director of *Growing Up in New Zealand*, will present some early findings about parental leave and managing the transition back to work. *Growing Up in New Zealand* is a longitudinal study providing an up-to-date picture of what it is like to be a child in this country. At this session at the ClockTower Presentation Room at 1pm on 13 June the Equity Office will also give an overview of policies, resources and support services available at the University, followed by a chance to ask questions and an opportunity to network. RSVP by 7 June to Natalie McGrinder: n.mcgrinder@auckland.ac.nz

### Inaugural meeting

The University's inaugural LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex) student and staff network meeting will take place on Thursday 6 June from 3-4pm in Old Government House Lounge. You will hear more about the University's LGBTI network initiatives and meet other members of the network, and will have the chance to discuss and share with the Equity Office - Te Ara Tautika - any issues or concerns that LGBTI students and staff may have, and help decide how best to develop and utilise the LGBTI network in the future. Please RSVP by 4 June to Natalie McGrinder on n.mcgrinder@auckland.ac.nz

### Showing off research

The School of Chemical Sciences' Research Showcase will take place on Wednesday 12 June in the Engineering Neon Foyer, ENG 1439, Building 401, 20 Symonds Street, from 9am-12.40pm, featuring invited talks by PhD students.

From 1.30-3pm will be a poster session. From 3.30-4.30pm keynote speaker Lance Gravatt will speak on "Kiwi chemical sciences: A backwater or the headwater of the Pacific?" From 5 - 7pm there will be a wine tasting and a chance to mix and meet others. For more information, see [www.chemistry.auckland.ac.nz/events](http://www.chemistry.auckland.ac.nz/events)



As part of the Council's on-going need to address Auckland's housing issues, the University has been conducting research to be used as a basis for policy advice to the Council on its urban growth strategies.

"Transforming Cities" aims to understand and manage change in urban environments, transform space and place for sustainable futures and imagine and develop mechanisms or interventions to create liveable cities.

Lee Beattie, lecturer in Architecture and Planning, and colleague Professor Errol Haarhoff are responsible for the part of the research that concentrates on urban planning and urban design.

"The key objective should be about the Draft Unitary Plan to provide housing choice," says Lee, recognising that over a lifetime people will have different needs in terms of how and where they want to live. "Younger people want a sassy living environment close to friends. Elderly people want

security and they don't want big houses either."

Looking at growth management and urban design implementation, Lee sees there are a lot of existing plans that are guiding development. However, the plans are unclear about the outcomes they are seeking.

"What we need are higher quality medium-density developments close to a town centre, so we can reduce travel and provide services so people can walk to schools and their local park," he says. "It's important to create that public realm - the street scene and all the social services that come with it. As such, the creation of a sense of community is the mainstay."

Lee hopes "Transforming Cities" will move the housing debate forward, and ensure that the Council will construct unitary plans or district plans that have the tools to create housing we want to live in.

"We need our small scale developments and our town centre developments."

## Focus on natural medicines

The 2013 Winter Lectures, comprising one lecture a week from 23 July to 27 August, will address the "Charms and harms of 'natural' medicines".

In New Zealand, population-based data on the use of 'complementary medicines' (CMs) are not available, although the National Health Survey 2006-07 found 18 percent of New Zealand adults consult with CM practitioners, including medical herbalists, naturopaths, homoeopaths, acupuncturists, and traditional Māori healers.

In developed countries, a substantial proportion of modern conventional pharmaceutical medicines, typically based on single chemical entities, originates from natural sources such as plants and marine organisms, or is derived from, or modelled on, naturally occurring chemical compounds.

This year's Winter Lecture Series will respond to popular interest in 'natural' medicines, and address real concerns over their quality, safety and efficacy.

Topics include nature's molecular creativity and modern drug discovery from natural resources, and evidence for efficacy and safety of herbal and other 'natural' or complementary medicines, including those with 'lifestyle' uses, such as smoking cessation. Future strategies, including regulation, will also be covered.

Speakers are internationally known in their fields, and come from four Schools (Chemical Sciences, Medicine, Pharmacy, Population Health) representing two faculties (Science, Medical and Health Sciences) within the University. The first speaker, on 23 July, will be Distinguished Professor Margaret Brimble, who will speak on "Nature's medicine chest: Opportunities for drug discovery".

*International pregnancy research continued from page 1*

health that major pregnancy complications carry. Babies of pregnancies complicated by these conditions suffer increased health problems throughout their lives, including heart disease, hypertension and diabetes. New knowledge in this crucial area of science will help many generations to come, says Professor Baker, and is specifically recognised in the second of the newly-announced National Science Challenges entitled "A better start to life".

The alliance plans to expand its membership to other universities in China, Canada and New Zealand over time.



The recently released QS World rankings of universities by subject reflect very positively on the continued efforts by our staff to raise academic quality across the University. The subject rankings use the 2012 QS measures of academic reputation, employer reputation and citations. The proportion of each of those factors used to derive the ranking varies by subject.

Of the 28 subjects ranked, 20 improved their rankings from 2012, four held constant, and four declined. Many of the rankings are very impressive:

- Top 20: Accounting & Finance
- 21-30: Psychology, Education, Law, Linguistics
- 31-40: English Language & Literature, Computer Science & Information Systems, Political & International Studies
- 41-50: Pharmacology & Pharmacy, Civil & Structural Engineering, Modern Languages, Biological Sciences, Medicine, History, Mathematics, Statistics & Operational Research, Philosophy, Economics & Econometrics
- 51-100: Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Geography, Sociology

It is of course important to appreciate that these are subject rankings and that one should not read too much precision into them. However, they do indicate that many of our subject areas are well regarded internationally, which is very important for our recruitment of international and, increasingly, domestic students.

A second study, released at the same time by Universitas 21, the international university network of which we are the sole New Zealand member, ranks national university systems. New Zealand places 13th in the world for the quality of its university output. Our system is highly connected nationally and internationally (ranking 9th in this parameter), while the progressive and open nature of New Zealand society helped us to achieve second place in the 'environment' category, reflecting particularly our high and increasing high proportion of female staff and students. However, we ranked 21st in government funding allocated to universities, among the lowest in the western world. It is a testimony to hard work of all our staff that we have been able to maintain our performance, in both subject and system rankings, despite the continued erosion of our funding base.



## NEW BEGINNINGS THROUGH DANCE

Barbara Snook (left) and Rosemary Martin are the first students to complete PhD's majoring in Dance Studies. Both women work at NICA, Barbara as a Professional Teaching Fellow for the Dance Studies programme, and Rosemary as a Dance Studies Postgraduate Adviser and lecturer.

To graduate is the accumulation of not just four years of study, but of professional and personal journeys that continue to flourish with possibilities.

Barbara originally taught dance for High School students and was the Caroline Plummer Fellow in community dance at the University of Otago in 2008.

"My daughter and husband had recently died and I had to look for a new direction for my life and I came here to The University of Auckland to reinvent myself," she says, (having never lived in Auckland before).

Associate Professor and Head of Dance Ralph Buck became Barbara's PhD supervisor, and was "amazingly supportive". Barbara is looking forward to research and a lot of teaching, which she "just loves". Her thesis explores the meanings and contexts informing the delivery of dance in New Zealand classrooms.

Rosemary Martin's thesis is about international education in dance and follows the personal narratives of seven women from the southern Mediterranean region. Her supervisor is Nicholas Rowe, Acting Head of Programme for Dance at NICA. Both Nicholas and Rosemary retired from professional ballet careers to pursue academic life – Rosemary danced for the Royal New Zealand Ballet. Inspired by Nicholas's stories of living and teaching in the Occupied Palestinian territories, Rosemary travelled to the Middle East to do her PhD research and to get outside of her comfort zone.

"To be recognised in the academic sphere for dance is vital," says Rosemary. "Dance is a lot of fun but there is rigour behind dance and dance research as well; it can be valued in a lot of different contexts and communities internationally and domestically."

Barbara and Rosemary feel they are now at the beginning of a new journey. Says Barbara: "Even at my age it's a new beginning". Rosemary agrees: "I've finished my PhD but I'm right back at the beginning in the very early stages of an academic career."



## NEVER GIVE UP

Navigating the world of tertiary education was made all the more difficult for James Vunileva due to a head injury he sustained as a child that affects his cognitive processing. Nevertheless he graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services with a major in Youth Work.

With the help of the Pasifika Success unit at Epsom, Student Disability Services, Equity Office and staff at the Faculty of Education, James not only completed his degree, but over the last three years has organised a music event to raise money for CanTeen, worked on a youth programme in schools called PRIDE (personal resilience in developing excellence), and worked with a family violence organisation called PROJECT - Pacific Island safety and prevention.

He cites losing his brother in a car accident in 2004 as being the catalyst for coming to University because "life is too short". His Mum is his biggest inspiration and with all the rough patches that he has endured in his life his personal motto is: "Success comes from never giving up. I wanted to do something that I would love to wake up every day to do, and be happy to do for the rest of my life," says the graduate. "That will make a difference to people's lives."



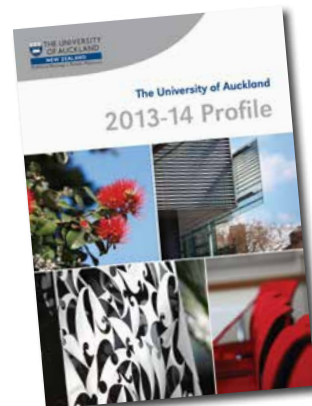
## Sharing the occasion

Dr Ellen Nakamura, who teaches Japanese History and Asian Studies in the Faculty of Arts and seven-year-old daughter Roena were on hand to watch their husband and father Jun, an Honorary Research Fellow in Asian Studies, graduate with his PhD in Linguistics at Autumn Graduation.

Ellen and Jun met in 1995 when Ellen went on a scholarship from New Zealand to Tokyo's Gakugei university.

"Jun completed his PhD part-time while looking after our two daughters while they were young," said Ellen.

(The younger of the two was unable to be there to see her father graduate, as she is too young to sit still for two hours, Ellen explained.)



A new-look University Profile has just been published. It provides a brief overview of the University and its activities. If your department, service division or faculty would like copies of the Profile, they are available from Communications: c/- Kate Pitcher - k.pitcher@auckland.ac.nz



## THEN THERE WERE THREE

A family graduation trifecta was realised with the graduation of twins Grace (left) and Olivia Francis and their mother Marion Francis.

Marion graduated with a Master of Taxation Law. She has spent the last ten years studying toward her degree from her home base in Cambridge, where she works as an assistant manager in the KPMG Hamilton Tax Team.

Grace and Olivia each graduated with a Bachelor of Music, majoring in Classical Performance. Although the sisters share a love of music, Grace's main performance instrument for study is the piano, while Olivia's is the violin. Grace is enjoying her study after having to take a semester off while recuperating from glandular

fever. She is preparing to undertake Honours and plans to study overseas eventually.

Olivia is about to begin a performing tour of Europe in July as part of an award-winning string quartet, then plans to stay on in Europe to study violin.

Says sister Grace: "I think she has huge dreams and her sights set high, and I've no doubt she will make her mark on the world."

Grace likes to work collaboratively with singers, instrumentalists and chamber groups: "Having the chance to communicate both with them and with the audience during a performance is a very special thing."



## Tiritiri prizewinner

University photographer, Godfrey Boehnke, has won second place from among 135 entries in the landscape section of the annual Tiritiri Matangi photo competition, with the photo above, described by the judges as "A wonderful image summing up Tiri, Tui, Feeders, Coprosmas, Cabbage Trees and Norfolk Pine, against an interesting sky, a lot of story in one dramatic exciting picture, where the

capture of the Tui still enables identification, even in silhouette. The contrasting colour of the feeders enhances what could have been a somewhat monochromatic piece."

The photo was taken during a photoshoot for the University's alumni magazine, *Ingenio*, which features a story on the University's involvement with one of New Zealand's signature conservation projects, the wildlife sanctuary on Tiritiri Matangi Island.

See [www.auckland.ac.nz/ingenio](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/ingenio)

## National Science Challenges, CoRE and MBIE funding rounds

The Government announced ten National Science Challenges in early May. The University has run processes to identify researchers able to participate in those challenges. MBIE is organising workshops for mid-June to identify themes, research elements and research participants for each. The University is seeking to support one or two additional CoREs in the upcoming CoRE round, as well as re-bids of the existing CoREs. Forms for Expressions of Interest in new CoREs are available from the intranet (under Research). Planning is underway for the MBIE funding round.

## Kate Edgar Trust Postdoctoral Research Awards

The Kate Edgar Trust funds two Postdoctoral Research Awards per year, each with a value of \$15,000. From 2013 these will be administered through the Research Office not the Scholarships Office. Recipients may use the funds to cover a range of costs relating to their postdoctoral research e.g. living expenses, part salary, costs associated with preparing the thesis for publication as a book or a chapter, or as a paper for publication, travel, publisher costs. Closing dates for applications are in February and July each year. The next is 29 July. For more information contact [researchadministration@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:researchadministration@auckland.ac.nz)

## First Health Research Council Explorer Grant

Associate Professor Geoffrey Krissansen (Medical Sciences) was recently awarded one of three new HRC Explorer Grants, designed to provide support for transformative projects with potential for major impact. Geoffrey will investigate a novel drug-delivery technology aiming to replace defective proteins associated with genetic disorders such as cystic fibrosis, hereditary diffuse gastric cancer and other disorders caused by a defect to a single gene.

## Worldwide Universities Network Research Development Fund update

Information and forms for the 2013 round of this fund will be available on the staff intranet from 24 June. WUN is an international network of 19 research-intensive universities, focused on developing new multi-lateral, transcontinental research collaborations. The Research Development Fund is an annual competitive fund aimed at bringing together researchers to undertake high-quality, sustainable research that addresses global challenges. The deadline for applications is 29 July. For further information and forms, visit Staff Intranet » Research » Take up international research opportunities » Partnerships and collaborations » Worldwide Universities Network.

## From the collection

Developing the new Conference Centre for the University in 1982, architects Kingston Reynolds Thom and Allardice worked with architectural drawing lecturer Pat Hanly to brighten the place up.

Hanly himself worked with Claudia Pond Eyley to make a large mural for the exterior, while Don Driver and Barry Lett were commissioned to make wall hangings. As sculptors, Greer Twiss and Peter Nicholl positioned lengths of timber and steel outside. Dick Frizzell had been on the staff at Elam as a part-timer since 1980, and was entranced with post-abstract in the United States. Francis Pound had announced the arrival of New Image painting in Auckland with a winter exhibition at the Auckland Art Gallery in 1982, and with Paul Hartigan, Denys Watkins and Gavin Chilcott, Dick Frizzell was a leading light.

Escaping from designing the packaging for slug pellets, Frizzell had fled advertising for the higher realms of cultural production in the 1970s; his painting reaching its apotheosis with the *Dancing Chicken* of 1980. Heading straight for the New York art world for confirmation of his direction, Frizzell collared American artists for advice, and was crestfallen to be returned to sender. Neil Jenney directed him to examine his own backyard and “represent”, assuring him that success would follow: “So that is what I did - one item at a time, iconicised in the middle of a generous colour field. It was the worst-selling show I have ever had.”

In *Workers on a Construction Site*, the central figure is clad in his carpenter’s apron and steel cap boots, wearing only a terry toweling hat as protection against the searing sun of an Auckland summer. A



dinky hammer on his belt, he shovels gravel into the cement mixer, a bucket of water nearby. Nothing is to scale: his massive legs and muscly chest and arms dwarf a nearby handsaw and sawhorse. Just as his form as a worker is exaggerated, his tools are shrunk, abbreviated to become toy-like signs of the hand-built nature of the job ahead. Celebrating the worker as hero, Frizzell also reveals his ironic affection for the particularities of the fast-growing kiwi suburb of the seventies. Fashionable Spanish-style haciendas parade along the top of the painting, with concrete driveways leading to the road. Frizzell contrives to peel the image back at the corner, pretending to show the four-by-two framing of the wall itself. His

aim is to reveal the artifice of painting itself, which is no longer striving to be naturalistic, or a window onto the world, but instead foregrounds the conventions of art making itself with disjunctions of scale and placement, and a flattening of form and colour.

Like a split-screen movie, Frizzell provides scenes within the scene to give more information about the activity. Inset at the bottom is a red-shirted figure in profile, his hammer lifted above his head as he aims at an upright which is cropped out of sight. Above him against a brilliant violet background, a wheelbarrow is being pushed up a makeshift ramp by the central figure, as if time has elapsed, and we are viewing the next frame in a comic strip. The imagery is recognizably kiwi, but the content is as much a display of painting skill as it is an unpacking of the construction industry’s skills. Glossy layers of enamel paint are built up and scraped back with bold shifts of colour and a heavy use of line. Even the attendant piebald dog functions to activate space, directing attention above.

After 16 years on staff, Dick Frizzell left Elam to become a full time painter in 1996. His contribution to the University will be celebrated with an exhibition at Old Government House from 10 June to 19 July. The artist will speak at the opening at 6pm on Monday 10 June, and all are welcome to attend.

Dick Frizzell, *Workers on Construction Site*, 1982, enamel on Ruffit board, 3040 x 3400mm

## From the cultural collection

The idea of the New Zealand Cartographic Society (NZCS) for a proper wall map for schools was born back in the late 1990s in response to the Department of Survey and Land Information’s decision to discontinue production of their only physical wall map of New Zealand (NZMS 293, 2nd edition) in 1994.

The map was made by NZCS member Barry Bradley as principal cartographer and designer with assistance from Phil Dixon and Geoff Aitken. Another member, Roger Smith, provided relief information.

The idea behind this project was to provide an affordable educational aid for teaching geography. The map incorporates strong visual symbology with careful application of colour and selection and generalisation of features. The addition of both hypsometric and bathymetric layers enhances the new digitally-derived relief elevation image. Road and rail networks along with population centres and settlements feature strongly. Major topographic features, spot heights and islands are also mapped and named. An inset of the Pacific Hemisphere visually demonstrates New Zealand’s position in the water and its relationship to its offshore

island territories and Pacific island neighbours. Overall, this design helps to give an instant impression of New Zealand’s physical character and its relationship to subsequent settlement and infrastructure patterns.

The University’s map collection consists of over 50,000 sheets covering most parts of the world, with special emphasis on New Zealand and the Pacific region. The collection includes the basic New Zealand topographical series, beginning with NZMS 1 published in 1939, and it also includes urban plans, aerial photos and a wide range of thematic mapping. Maps provide a powerful medium with which to portray information about a place, and their relevance crosses many different academic disciplines. The map collection is used by students and staff across the University including those from the Faculties of Arts, Science and Engineering, and the Business School.

Sarah Miselis

Subject Librarian Environment, Science Information Services. The University of Auckland Libraries & Learning Services.



Image: Barry Bradley. “Geographic Map of New Zealand” [map]. 1:1,300,000. Auckland. The New Zealand Cartographic Society. 2012.

# What's on

## THURSDAY 30 MAY

### 5th Auckland Triennial seminar

Gary Lawson: *Ideas for our 'Ideal Home (land)'*. 12noon, The Lab, Auckland Art Gallery.

### Vaikoloa seminar in Pacific Peoples Health

Fuimaono Karl Pulotu-Endemann: *The Fonofale Model: A framework for Pacific research, policy and clinical practice*. 1-2pm, Rm 220, Bldg 730, School of Population Health, Tamaki Campus. RSVP to Telusila Moala-Vea, t.vea@auckland.ac.nz or ext 86951.

### Postgraduate Fair

Open to students or graduates from any university and to professionals who are considering furthering their studies. It is your opportunity to research everything you need to know about postgraduate study at The University of Auckland.

Visit [www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/for/future-postgraduates/fp-events/pgfair](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/for/future-postgraduates/fp-events/pgfair)

## FRIDAY 31 MAY

### PharmaTell seminar

Dr Parekh, University of Queensland: *New age cures for age old diseases: Nanotechnological approaches*. 12noon-1pm, Seminar Rm 503-020, Bldg 503, 85 Park Rd, Grafton.

Queries to [enquiries@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:enquiries@auckland.ac.nz)

### School of Music lunchtime concert

Woodwind and brass 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](mailto:concerts@auckland.ac.nz)

### 2013 Beca Interfaculty Basketball Finals

5.30-7.30pm, Recreation Centre, 17 Symonds St.

## SATURDAY 1 JUNE

### Gallery events

1pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St.

1) Live saxophone performance by Callum Passells in relation to Anri Sala's Long Sorrow.

2) Photographer Sholto Buck in conversation with Alix Coleman.

Queries to [gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz)

## MONDAY 3 JUNE

### Queen's Birthday holiday

## TUESDAY 4 JUNE

### Centre for Longitudinal Research seminar

Prof Phil Baker, Liggins Institute: *The key to pre-eclampsia and improved outcomes*. 1-2pm, Function Room 730-220, Bldg 730, Tamaki Campus.

RSVP to [m.heathcote@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.heathcote@auckland.ac.nz)

### Bioengineering research seminar

David Williams, Professor of Electrochemistry, School of Chemical Sciences: *From sensors to systems to*

*networks for air quality measurement: a tale of science and commercialisation*.

4-5pm, Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

### Student Jazz Ensemble Concert

Large Ensemble Concerts. 7pm, Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre, 74 Shortland St. Also 5 June.

A series of jazz performance concerts featuring The University of Auckland Big Band, School of Music guitar, percussion and saxophone ensembles, and the School of Music jazz vocal choir.

Queries to [concerts@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:concerts@auckland.ac.nz)

### Recital Concert

*Autumn Serenade*. 7.30pm, Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. An evening of choral and ensemble music featuring the School of Music's Auckland Chamber Choir with Elizabeth Lau conducting.

Queries to [concerts@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:concerts@auckland.ac.nz)

## THURSDAY 6 JUNE

### Retirement Policy and Research Centre forum

*Overseas pensions: Justice delayed?* 2.30-6pm, Case Room 4, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

This forum brings together academics, government officials, politicians and those affected by NZ's overseas pensions policy, to debate the way forward.

RSVP to [m.dale@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.dale@auckland.ac.nz)

### Inaugural LGBTI student and staff network meeting

3-4pm, Lounge, OGH.

Hear about the University's LGBTI network initiatives and meet other members. Discuss and share with the Equity Office - Te Ara Tautika any issues or concerns that LGBTI students and staff may have, and help decide how best to develop and utilise the LGBTI network in the future.

RSVP by 4 June to Natalie McGrinder on [n.mcgrinder@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:n.mcgrinder@auckland.ac.nz)

Visit [www.equity.auckland.ac.nz/lgbti](http://www.equity.auckland.ac.nz/lgbti)

### School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work presentation

Mike Webs: *Online learning: How a course for frontline managers became a virtual community of practice*. 4-5.30pm, venue tba.

RSVP to [m.james@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.james@auckland.ac.nz)

## FRIDAY 7 JUNE

### NZ Centre for Human Rights Law, Policy and Practice symposium

*What place for Human Rights in our Constitution?* Law School, 9-17 Eden Crescent. Runs until 8 June.

The primary goal is to bring together policy makers, lawyers, academics and civil society groups to discuss these important questions. The outcome of this reflection will be presented to the Constitutional Advisory Panel. Speakers include Dr Ranginui Walker, the Hon Dr Wayne Mapp, and representatives from the Human Rights Commission.

RSVP to [lawevents@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:lawevents@auckland.ac.nz)

Queries to [k.gledhill@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:k.gledhill@auckland.ac.nz)

Visit [www.law.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/events/template/event\\_item.jsp?cid=564369](http://www.law.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/events/template/event_item.jsp?cid=564369)

## SATURDAY 8 JUNE

### Exhibition event

Live saxophone performance of 3-2-1 by Asher Truppmann Lattie in relation to Anri Sala's artwork Long Sorrow 1pm, Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Queries to [gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz)

## MONDAY 10 JUNE

### Jazz Series Concert

*Omri Mor Trio*. 7pm, Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Featuring Omri Mor (piano), Simon Starr (bass), Noam David (drums). Free. Bookings are essential.

## TUESDAY 11 JUNE

### Bioengineering research seminar

Assoc-Prof Elizabeth Rata, School of Critical Studies in Education, Faculty of Education: *Race politics in the University and the effects on knowledge*. 4-5pm, Ground Floor Seminar Rm G010, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

### Philosophy seminar

Dr Christine Swanton, Dept of Philosophy, and Assoc Prof Tim Dare: *Virtue ethics, the counsel of rogues?, and the role ethics dilemma*. 5pm, Small Lecture Theatre, Law School.

## WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE

### Exhibition

Andrew Kennedy and Vito Trupinic: *Anxious Production: Disrupting a Functionary Bond*. 11am-4pm, Wed-Sat, Elam Projectsplace Gallery, 20 Whitaker Place. Runs until 22 June.

Queries to [elamoffice@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:elamoffice@auckland.ac.nz)

Visit [creative.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/elam-projectspace](http://creative.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/elam-projectspace)

### Energy Matters 2013 series

Harvey Weake, Methanex: *Energy supply - geopolitics or geology?* 6-8pm, Decima Glenn Rm, Level 3, Owen G Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

RSVP to <https://secure.business.auckland.ac.nz/>

[EnergySpeakerSeriesHarveyWeake](mailto:EnergySpeakerSeriesHarveyWeake)

### Student Performance Concert

6.30pm, Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre, 74 Shortland St.

Popular Music students completing their final-year of undergraduate study perform original works prepared over one semester.

Also 13 June. Free.

Queries to [concerts@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:concerts@auckland.ac.nz)

# 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 photos please view [www.sabbaticalhomes.com](http://www.sabbaticalhomes.com) Listing 47086. Email [m.hoogerland@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:m.hoogerland@auckland.ac.nz)

## 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)

**Delightful townhouse**, one of four only, close to Rose Gardens, French Market, Judges Bay, public transport and shops. Fully furnished including linen, two bdrms, two bthrms, quiet and sunny. Balcony, green outlook, garage and outdoor area. Suit mature couple. No letting fee. \$610 pw. Available 19 May. Ph (021) 832 654 or email [marham@xtra.co.nz](mailto:marham@xtra.co.nz)

**Fabulous 4-5 bdrm house in Freemans Bay**. Available for 3 months 17 June - 16 September 2013 (some flexibility). All mod cons, 2 bthrms, lovely sunny garden and fresh vegetables growing. Price flexible for the right tenant. Contact Sal on (027) 641 1802 or [salgordon@xtra.co.nz](mailto:salgordon@xtra.co.nz)

**Remuera.** Compact, but airy and spacious two-bdrm fully furnished private townhouse with study and open plan kitchen dining and living. An ideal property for people arriving from overseas with only suitcases and no desire to buy furniture, linen etc. Has sunny terrace and two small courtyards. Carport attached. Would suit a professional couple with a baby or young child. In a safe neighbourhood with an excellent primary school (Meadowbank) within walking distance.

UoA is accessible by bus or train. \$499 pw. Contact [r.jenner@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:r.jenner@auckland.ac.nz) Visit [www.sabbaticalhomes.com/Home\\_Rent\\_House\\_Rental\\_Auckland\\_New\\_Zealand\\_48270.htm](http://www.sabbaticalhomes.com/Home_Rent_House_Rental_Auckland_New_Zealand_48270.htm)

**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 now. Please email [aowrite@gmail.com](mailto:aowrite@gmail.com)

## 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)

**MedEntry UMAT Prep:** Government accredited and internationally trusted registered training organisation offers quality focused training for UMAT. Aspiring doctors and dentists, year 13 students and first-year health science students, please visit [www.medentry.co.nz](http://www.medentry.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.



## IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

When my daughter was two she was hospitalised nearly 30 times with severe asthma.

It meant that often at three in the morning an ambulance would race her, my wife and me into the hospital. A drip in her little arm would miraculously bring her back from the precipice.

It was a long, hard winter and in the spring as she improved I saw her one night in her bedroom with her toy pink rabbit. She was miming putting a drip into his paws, and gently, lovingly explaining this would make him better.

My daughter's play that night was not some trivial and peripheral activity. In terms of dealing with the confusion of life for her at that age it had central importance. She created a fictional world in her play so that she could better make sense of her real world. In her real life she was powerless and the world in the form of the doctor acted on her. In the fictional world, however, she was the doctor and took control and power over the events in her life. In this simple story we can see the potential in pretending, and the rich possibility of play.

All children, in all cultures, create pretend worlds to better understand their own worlds. As children, to understand our mothers, we step inside her shoes and wander around in them as we imagine ourselves as her. These simple steps in someone else's shoes are the beginning of empathy, of understanding ourselves in others. And yet these steps are vital for as novelist Ian McEwan reminds us: "Imagining what it is like to be someone else other than yourself is at the

core of our humanity. It is the essence of compassion and it is the beginning of morality."

Play provides us with the means to make sense of our own world and then to explore what the world is like for others. It also allows us to imagine who we might become, how we might begin to see our lives and our worlds differently to how they are. Play frees the imagination to consider new possibilities, new ways of seeing. Children who lack the opportunities to play become limited in how they understand their present lives and how they might change them. Parents and teachers need to provide opportunities for children to play and pretend with other children. Social imagined play is vital for the development of language, of skills in negotiation, and in building levels of empathy.

When we are children we play in and through our bodies, learning in and through all our senses. Disembodied learning, focusing on literacy and numeracy standards, privileges other ways of knowing and schooling marks for many children the death of imaginative and creative worlds. As we age and we put away childish things many adults stop playing. Yet our most successful scientists, artists, business owners and philosophers are set apart because they have retained their ability to play with ideas, to imagine new possibilities and empathetically engage with others.

Research tells us clearly that the more we play as children and the longer we are able to hold onto play in our adult lives the more successful we are. Not merely in monetary terms but in our

ability to sustain meaningful relationships, to create lives of value and meaning to those we live among.

Adults need to play more to reconnect to the lives of their childhood, when all things still remained possible. They need to play more so they can reconnect with their bodies and their senses. They need to skip and dance and pretend because it makes themselves and others feel better about the world, their place in it and how the world might be different in the morning. Adults need to play to remind themselves that there is more to life than work, more to life than struggle, more to life than getting and spending. Play is important for us as individuals but it is vital to the success of communities. Play is the beginning of hope. Hope is a leap of the imagination, a playful joy in realising you do not have to live and die in the world you were born into. A world without play and without hope is a world devoid of humanity. Play is the beating heart of humanity, something to be cherished in children and to be joyfully retained into old age.

*Associate Professor Peter O'Connor, Director of the Critical Research Unit in Applied Theatre in the University's Faculty of Education, is an internationally recognised expert in applied theatre.*

*First published in Ingenio, Autumn 2013*

*Photo: Peter O'Connor with masters student Angie Richardson on a panel at Brain Day at the University.*