ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

The artist is back to complete his work. At the same time he is working to acquaint young people with the mysteries of the links between past and present, through the ancient Pacific art of sennit lashing, used in the construction of canoes and houses, and of the University’s own Fale Pasifika.

Sopolomelama Filipe Tohi, a Tufunga Lalava or master craftsman, created the bindings seen on the massive beams in the ceiling of the fale. Now, nine years after the grand, formal opening of the building which forms the traditional heart of the Centre for Pacific Studies, Filipe has returned as the Fale Pasifika Heritage Artist in Residence to extend and complete his work. Throughout the month of June he will be creating new bindings for the uncovered joints at the side of the ceiling, one of which can be seen in the photo above.

Filipe was born in Ngele’ia, Nuku’alofa, Tonga, and immigrated to New Zealand in 1988. He has completed several commissioned artworks for public buildings, including a sculpture that stands in front of the Auckland Art Gallery. He was bestowed with the title of Sopolomelama or “bringer of light” by the Samoan head of state in 2004 for his lashing on a fale near Apia in Samoa.

Filipe is the fourth artist to join the Heritage Artist in Residence Programme, which established the Fale Pasifika as a dedicated site to encourage preservation of traditional knowledge through heritage art forms.

For his work in the fale Filipe is using long lengths of sennit made from the husks of coconuts, which are dyed in the traditional red and black, then wound and tied to create distinctive geometric patterns.

The colours are symbolic, as Filipe explains. The red represents the male and the black the female, linking back to legends of the tree of life - the coconut - which provides food, drink, medicine, materials for building, for constructing canoes and tattooing tools, and for making fishing nets.

The traditional patterns of sennit, complex and many-layered, are “like a language. When you unravel the patterns, you show the symbols that express knowledge that is meaningful in the

Journal goes global

A medical journal that started life as a one-man project from an Auckland home has influenced pharmaceutical policy in small nations around the world.

Dr Zaheer Babar from the School of Pharmacy was the founding editor of Southern Med Review, which he began five years ago from home, to promote pharmaceutical policy research at a global level.

Continued on page 3


Lecture series to honour alumna

A special degree ceremony was held on 27 November 2012, to present a Master of Literature in English to Marcia Russell.

It was held at the Mercy Hospice in Herne Bay, in the presence of Marcia’s family and friends, plus representatives of the University: Marcia died peacefully at the hospice on 1 December. She is survived by her partner, Tom Finlayson, her daughter Kate, her sister Pam, and two nieces - Marcia Scott and Amy Scott Erickson.

Marcia received four degrees from the University in total – a BA, BA(Hons), MA and MLitt - the last three with first-class honours. Her MLitt thesis, supervised by Professor Michele Leggott and Dr Jan Cronin, dealt with poet/journalist, Elizabeth Riddell (1907-98). Riddell is known mainly in Australia - but Marcia’s thesis reveals her beginnings as a poet in New Zealand. It is a significant contribution to the study of the legacy of women writers to New Zealand and Australian literature.

This study takes on an added resonance, however, from Marcia Russell’s own career as a pioneering woman in both print and broadcast journalism in New Zealand. In the 1960s, Marcia was the first woman to work on the general news section of a morning newspaper, and went on to establish in 1968 the ground-breaking magazine for women, Thursday: it dealt with controversial issues such as abortion law reform and the introduction of the DPB. Marcia later worked in television, especially on documentaries: among many other achievements, she became Head of News and Current Affairs at the new TV3 in the late 1980s. She received the OBE in 1996, and in 2003, was the first recipient of the Academy of Film and Television Lifetime Achievement Award.

To mark Marcia’s legacy, an annual lecture series will begin this year. On 19 September (Suffrage Day), media history specialist Professor Bridget Griffen-Foley of Macquarie University (Sydney) - who knew Elizabeth Riddell - will lecture on the family dynasties that have dominated the Australian media (Old Government House Lecture Theatre, 6.30 pm).

Professor Joanne Wilkes (English)

PBFR a worthwhile challenge

“A University with a high number of new and emerging researchers is a healthy and vibrant institution,” says Professor Penny Brothers, Associate Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) for the Performance Based Research Fund (PBFR).

In PBFR there are two types of “new and emerging” researchers, she explains: early-career academics and those with postdoctoral or research fellow appointments. New academic appointments are a sign of a vibrant research and teaching environment, while high numbers of postdocs and researcher fellows show that the University is successful in winning external funding.

For Dr Grant McIntosh, a research fellow in Chemical Sciences, the 2012 PBFR round was his first. “I knew I had to do it before I even knew what it was,” he says. “I hadn’t done it before - didn’t know the tools existed. And it did impose a steep learning curve. But I came out with a very useful knowledge of the Research Outputs Software, which allows you to put research outputs in and generate summaries back. This definitely helps with creating a CV or putting together data for a funding application. It means that you pull all your activities together, so you can later sculpt the information to your needs.”

Grant also gained a wider view of research contributions, realising they were not confined to peer-reviewed publications or formal supervision, but could also include less formal contributions such as helping a PhD student establish and implement an analytical methodology.

For Dr Rina Kim, a lecturer and undergraduate adviser in Drama, the process of preparing for her first PBFR helped her to be clear on the best moves for advancing her career, and the kinds of information she needed to collect and record. “The process helps you develop good habits,” says Kim. “It gave me a chance to look at exactly what I’ve been doing and how I can contribute. Before it seemed most productive just to write and publish. Now I have a broader view of what I need to do.”

New and emerging researchers have one definite advantage in PBFR, says Penny Brothers. “It is easier for them than for other academics to achieve a funded quality category. The bar for a C category is placed lower for them, though they still retain the possibility of gaining an A or B.”

Ironically, the way the 2012 PBFR average quality scores were calculated penalised institutions like The University of Auckland which have a high proportion of new and emerging researchers. “We value these researchers very highly,” says Penny. “These are the colleagues who will go on to be New Zealand’s future research leaders in universities, CRIs and business.”

The following poem was written for Marcia Russell by Professor Michele Leggott in September 2012.

marcia

we are here with you
as the stars turn
as you turn from us
and take your first step
we are here with you
as the stars turn
as you turn from us
and take your first steps
over the dark field
we turn with you
bright star on a horizon
of dust and luminous possibilities turning you turning us
towards them
so that we are here
with you turning
as stars turn in a field
of bright possibilities
your first steps
our luminous map
turning them
towards us

The following poem was written for Marcia Russell by Professor Michele Leggott in September 2012.
New appointment, familiar face

The University has appointed someone to a new role, who is well-known across the University, especially within the Faculty of Arts.

Dr Jan Crosthwaite has taken up the part-time position of Proctor, making a return to the University after retiring earlier this year from her position as Dean of Arts.

Having also been a lecturer in Philosophy for many years, as well as an Associate and Deputy Dean, Jan is no stranger to university life.

“The University is like a large town with people of diverse ages, ethnicities and cultural views so it’s not surprising that every so often people will rub against one another and disputes arise,” she says.

The Proctor will deal with issues concerning student conduct and disputes involving students.

Academic disputes are handled through other processes, but Jan will be able to direct students (and staff) to these processes. She will also be able to refer students to mediation services where appropriate. The role of Proctor, Jan points out, is not a mediation role, nor a role of counsellor, but the person in that role must have good links with people providing those services.

There are also others who provide support for students in dealing with problems and disputes of various kinds, including the AUSA Advocacy team and the student representatives and mentors that work within the faculties.

“Because we are such a large and complex place, sometimes people don’t know where to go and part of my job will be to point them in the right direction,” says Jan.

Artist in residence continued from page 1

culture."

There was no written language so the patterns, with their thousands of variations, give insights into the history of the Pacific people and the environment in which they lived.

“Just as the string binds the canoe and makes it strong, it also provides a link to the past, binding people together. The sennit is a symbol of genealogy, like the umbilical cord that links succeeding generations and connects us with our ancestors. You can feel the past at the same time you see the present.”

Filipe feels it is vital in the University for young people to have some glimpse of the past. “The residency is important to me because this is the institution where people begin to question who they are and where they are going.”

It is for the young people also that Filipe is continually extending the range of his craft, embracing new techniques and using non-traditional materials such as steel, aluminium and wood. “I have to develop different techniques so young people can see that they have a relationship with this kind of art form, and can play a part in taking it into the future.”

People in the University and the community are invited to visit the fale and watch Filipe at work between 9am and 4pm on weekdays. Please check with Nina Tonga (n.tonga@auckland.ac.nz) to let her know the time of your visit and make sure it fits in with Filipe’s timetable.

Journal goes global continued from page 1

This month, the open access online journal will be relaunched as the Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice by a new publisher, Biomed Central, based in Oxford. Editorial control of the journal will stay with Zaheer and it will remain the property of Auckland UniServices Ltd.

The journal’s content was recognised at a global level by the World Health Organisation which stated that the journal “fulfilled a global need”.

“Published studies were instrumental in changing medicine policies in some countries, such as Vietnam and Thailand,” says Zaheer. “The Journal also published studies on the pharmaceutical situation of countries where little or no pharmaceutical literature is available, including Slovenia, Macedonia and Afghanistan.”

Southern Med Review was a biannual peer reviewed journal and by December 2012 had published more than 70 papers with authors from 45 countries. Issues covered included access to medicines, (such as pricing policies, patents and affordability) and the use of medicines (including pharmacy practice and socio-behavioural aspects).

“The journal is unique in publishing the work of new researchers, documenting the pharmaceutical situation of low and middle income countries, and debating pertinent pharmaceutical policy questions,” says Zaheer. “Due to its success and to that niche in global pharmaceutical policy, Bio Med Central was interested in relaunching it as a new title.

“The new journal will focus on the global agenda, including high income economies and will provide a platform for researchers to disseminate empirical research findings with the aim that people everywhere will have access to the medicines they need and use them rationally,” he says.

The Journal of Pharmaceutical Policy and Practice will be relaunched online at www.joppp.org on 13 June.
Bright future for Continuing Ed

Following the loss of Government funding for adult and community education last year, the future of Continuing Education was somewhat uncertain.

Since then, however, a patient and creative approach to redeveloping programmes and establishing collaborative partnerships has meant the future is looking very bright.

Already this year, the centre has delivered over 80 open-entry courses and seminars welcoming over 1,200 adult learners onto campus.

The resurgence of the public programme has been led by Richard Harvey, whose approach has reshaped its development and delivery.

“Continuing Education no longer owns courses or course content,” explains Richard. “Rather it provides the platform, channel and support for University staff to disseminate their teaching and research to the wider community, with the benefits going back to that department or faculty. The University has a strong commitment to community engagement and Continuing Education has the framework in place to support any type of outreach activity and deliver this activity to a wide audience through our public programme.”

Recent courses have included topics as diverse as Ancient Greece, Antarctica, Contemporary Art and Astronomy.

Richard has worked in Continuing Education at the University for over six years and in 2009 was awarded a General Staff Excellence Award for his Contribution to Engagement with Communities. Last year he took on the role of Outreach Manager and the challenge to remodel the University’s outreach activities.

Continuing Education manages every aspect of the course delivery including registration, finance, venue management and marketing, leaving the presenter to focus on course delivery on the day.

Operating on a cost recovery model, Richard has already this year overseen the distribution of over $35,000 back to departments and teaching staff to support research, teaching, and scholarships as a direct result of these courses and seminars.

Planning for Semester Two is well underway and Continuing Education is now seeking content from members of the University who may wish to contribute to this programme with formats including public seminars, courses, field trips and study tours.

“We have an extensive and engaged community of adult learners and interest groups who enjoy the opportunity to learn about the University’s teaching and research, listen to new ideas, engage in discussion and ask questions,” he says.

For more information contact Richard directly on ext. 82707, email r.harvey@auckland.ac.nz or visit www.cce.auckland.ac.nz/contribute to submit your topic or idea.

ONZ for Emeritus Professor

Albert Wendt (āiga Sa-Tuaopepe of Lefaga and āiga Sa-Patu of Vaiala), Emeritus Professor of English at The University of Auckland and acclaimed writer, painter and poet, has been made a member of the Order of New Zealand in this year’s Queen’s Birthday Honours List.

The Order of New Zealand is the country’s highest honour. Only 20 people can be members of the order at any one time.

The 73-year-old said this latest award is for his family. “The honour is really for them. They are the ones that got me where I am now because if you don’t have the support of your family and friends, you can continue to write, but who is it for?”

In 1988 he took up a professorship of New Zealand Literature in the English Department, becoming one of the first Samoan and Pacific Island professors in New Zealand.

In November 2012 he was awarded New Zealand’s highest literary award – the 2012 Prime Minister’s Award for Literary Achievement for Fiction at Premier House in Wellington.

Albert first came to New Zealand from Samoa on a government scholarship in 1952 and studied at New Plymouth Boys’ High School. “Without that scholarship I don’t know where I would be now. I came from a very modest and poor family. My parents really believed that education was a way out of that,” he says. “I never dreamt that I would be here now.”

After graduating with his masters degree from Victoria University, Albert returned home to Samoa in 1965 to teach at Samoa College before becoming principal in 1969. In 1974 he moved to Suva and became a lecturer at the University of the South Pacific. Albert has written several novels, collections of short stories and poetry. Two of his books, Sons for the Return Home and Flying Fox in a Freedom Tree – have both been made into feature films. Leaves of the Banyan Tree, his third novel, won the prestigious New Zealand Wattie Book of the Year Award in 1980.

Also honoured on Queen’s Birthday was Emeritus Professor John Butcher of the Department of Mathematics, who was named as an Officer of the Order of New Zealand for his services to mathematics.

John is recognised as a leader in the development of mathematical sciences in New Zealand. His primary area of research is numerical analysis – also known as computational mathematics which studies how to use computers to solve scientific problems.

In January, many eminent mathematicians from around the world attended the ANODE 2013 Conference at The University of Auckland, honouring John Butcher for his 80th birthday, 31 March.

John is the inaugural recipient of New Zealand’s Jones Medal for lifetime achievement in mathematical sciences and winner of the Hector Memorial Medal, the New Zealand Mathematical Society Award for Mathematical Research, and the international Van Wijngaarden Award.

Among other staff who received honours were Dr Simon Stables (Molecular Medicine and Pathology) who was named an MNZM for services to disaster victim identification, and Judge Roderick Joyce QC (Law), who received a QSO.
Science to dollars

Thirty fortunate PhD students interested in turning science into dollars and creating commercial value from research have been given the opportunity to learn how to do it in a new two-day intensive course designed to explore how science will impact on, and create new career paths for, research graduates.

Hosted by the Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (CEFL), the “PhD research innovation and commercialisation course” will run twice this year; on 18 and 19 July, and 12 and 13 August.

Professor for Innovation and Research Management and Co-Director of CEFL, Kenneth Husted, says “PhD students and their supervisors are the source of many great new ideas and valuable knowledge but these are rarely transferred outside the research lab and the academic publications.”

“The course intends to address both the inventive and commercialisation aspects of turning ideas from postgraduate research into valuable outcomes. The learning outcomes will apply not only to the postgraduate work but also in subsequent careers either in academia or business.”

Joining Kenneth in the teaching team are Professor Rod McNaughton and Dr Peter Lee who have an excellent blend of academic and practical experience as entrepreneurs, commercialisation experts, consultants or directors as well as academics.

Guest speakers will also share their practical experience in research commercialisation. The course is funded by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) as part of the project, Improving Commercialisation Outcomes from TEOs.

For more information, visit the Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning website.

Calling creative writers

Staff, alumni and friends, and students are invited to take part in the 2013 Ingenio Short Story competition.

Here’s your chance to put your creative writing skills to the test, regardless of how much or how little experience you have.

Full details of the competition, including terms and conditions and the entry form are on the Ingenio website: www.ingenio-magazine.com/terms

The maximum number of words is 1500 and the closing date is 15 July 2013. Shortlisted entrants will be notified by 19 August, with the winners notified by 16 September.

Judges:

1. Dr Selina Tusitala Marsh, Distinguished Professor Brian Boyd and Charlotte Grimshaw

1st prize:

• A personalised two-hour coaching session with New Zealand author and Distinguished Alumnus Emeritus Professor C K Stead
• $150 book voucher from Auckland University Press

2nd prize:

• $100 book voucher from Auckland University Press
• $100 book voucher from the University Bookshop
• Story published on the Ingenio website
• $250 book voucher from the University Bookshop
• 1/2 case of Goldie Wines valued at $150
• Story published in Ingenio magazine (distribution 114,000) and on the Ingenio website

The University of Auckland
Distinguished Visitor Awards

University Research Committee awards of up to $10,000 each are to enable scholars and researchers who have made very significant contributions to their disciplines to visit the University and to participate in its intellectual life. Visitors are expected to contribute substantially to research activity in the nominated department and to give seminars, lectures, and engage in informal discussions with staff and students in that department. University deadline in the Research Funding Module is Wednesday 31 July. Contact Mandy Brown, International Fund Specialist, Research Office, mandy.brown@auckland.ac.nz ext. 82735.

Rutherford Foundation
New Zealand Postdoctoral Fellowships

These aim to build human capability in science, technology, engineering and mathematics by providing early career support for New Zealand’s brightest and most promising researchers. The two-year fellowships will enable recipients to undertake full-time research programmes within New Zealand in any area of science, technology, engineering or mathematics. Outstanding recent PhD graduates are encouraged to apply – both those within New Zealand and those who are living overseas and would use the fellowship to return to continue their research careers. Each fellowship is worth around $95,000 per year and a call for applications is expected in early to mid-June, with an anticipated closing date of 1 August 2013. Full details will be circulated via Faculty/LSRI research offices or contact Chris Tews, c.tews@auckland.ac.nz ext 88301.

EU FP7
‘Marie Curie’ Fellowships

Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowships (IOF) provide an opportunity to host an EU-funded research fellow for one to two years, followed by a 12-month reintegration period in an EU member state (including New Caledonia and French Polynesia) or an “associated country”. Applicants should have a PhD or four years full-time research experience and demonstrate actual or potential research leadership, the training should benefit the EU. University deadline is Wednesday 7 August. Contact David Saunders, International Fund Specialist, Research Office, d.saunders@ auckland.ac.nz, ext 84886.
The Lifeguard

Ian Wedde, senior lecturer in Art History, is one of New Zealand’s most distinguished poets. His poet laureate collection, The Lifeguard, published by Auckland University Press, brings together work which shows Ian at his thoughtful, surprising best.

The collection opens with a major new series of poems, “The Lifeguard” and finished with another long sequence, “Shadow Stands Up”, in which a world of Platonic memory and tidal recurrence is observed from a window seat in one of Auckland’s Link buses.

Ian has published fiction, art history, criticism and more than 14 collections of poetry. He worked for a decade at Te Papa Tongarewa and has held many writing fellowships. He was made Arts Foundation Laureate in 2006 and in 2011 was appointed to a two-year term as New Zealand Poet Laureate.

12 (from “Shadow Stands Up”) 

Through spring-green leaves on the tree outside our place I can see the green Link bus putter past Cartune Auto, in Albert Park graduates are blooming in their extravagant silks, Cook Island faafine bedecked with flowers are singing outside the student food-court at the university, my spring-time cough is yelping like an excited young pup – likening, get over it, I can’t, 1969, the year I packed up and went in search of the life I was just going to go on having the time of my life with, and here I am having it now, just look at those flowers the way I remember them.
**What's on**

**THURSDAY 13 JUNE**

Combining parenting and a career seminar
Assoc Prof Susan Morton, Research Director, Growing Up in New Zealand
Parental leave and the return to employment: Findings from Growing Up in New Zealand. 1pm, Presentation Rm, ClockTower Bldg 105, Princes St. There will be a question and answer session, followed by a networking opportunity and light refreshments. RSVP to r.mcgrinder@auckland.ac.nz

For more information visit www.fmhcs.auckland.ac.nz/soph/centres/clr/default.aspx

**Student Performance Concert**
6.30pm, Studio One, Kenneth Myers Centre, 74 Shortland St. Free.
Popular Music students completing their final-year of undergraduate study perform original works prepared over one semester.
Queries to concerts@auckland.ac.nz

**Inaugural Lecture**
By new professors at the University. Prof John Morgan: Schooling the crisis: Education in the aftermath of the financial crash? 7pm, J1 Lecture Theatre, Epsom Campus.
RSVP to Kate Backler, rsvp@auckland.ac.nz or 623 8899 ext 48693. All welcome.

**SATURDAY 15 JUNE**

**Gallery events**
Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. 1pm - Tai Moaro discusses his Triennial work.
Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

Visit www.aucklandtriennial.com

**Exhibition event**
Yangang Group. 2-3pm, George Fraser Gallery, 25a Princes St. Free
A Chinese tea ceremony will be performed in the gallery.
Queries to jay.hollows@auckland.ac.nz

Visit www.georgefraser.auckland.ac.nz

**TUESDAY 18 JUNE**

**Tōmaiora seminar**
Jenna Clarke: Growing our own: Using a sector partnership approach to develop the Māori and Pacific health workforce in Aotearoa NZ. 12.30-1.30pm, Function Rm 720, Bldg 730, Tāmaki Innovation Campus.

**Exhibition event**
Yangang Group. 2-3pm, George Fraser Gallery, 25a Princes St. Free
A Chinese tea ceremony will be performed in the gallery.
Queries to jay.hollows@auckland.ac.nz

Visit www.georgefraser.auckland.ac.nz

**Exposition event**
Yangang Group. 2-3pm, George Fraser Gallery, 25a Princes St. Free
A Chinese tea ceremony will be performed in the gallery.
Queries to jay.hollows@auckland.ac.nz

Visit www.georgefraser.auckland.ac.nz

**FRIDAY 21 JUNE**

**Concert**
The NZ Symphony Orchestra presents The Planets, Music for Matariki: 7pm, Great Hall, Auckland Town Hall.

For more information and to book visit www.the-edge.co.nz/Event-Pages/P/The-Planets.aspx

**SATURDAY 22 JUNE**

**Exhibition event**
Yangang Group. 2-3pm, George Fraser Gallery, 25a Princes St. Free
A Chinese tea ceremony will be performed in the gallery.
Queries to jay.hollows@auckland.ac.nz

Visit www.georgefraser.auckland.ac.nz

**TUESDAY 25 JUNE**

**Centre of Pacific Studies seminar**
Assoc Prof Ty P. Kawika Tengan, University of Hawai’i at Mānoa: Mana Kāne: Transformations of indigenous men’s knowledge, power, and potency in Hawai’i and Oceania. 12.30pm, Function Rm 220, Bldg 730, School of Population Health, Glen Innes, 261 Morrīn Rd.

**Exhibition event**
Yangang Group. 2-3pm, George Fraser Gallery, 25a Princes St. Free
A Chinese tea ceremony will be performed in the gallery.
Queries to jay.hollows@auckland.ac.nz

Visit www.georgefraser.auckland.ac.nz

**Bioengineering research seminar**
Dr Barbara Breen, Research Fellow, ABI: Modelling passive and active mechanics in a five-layer finite-element simulation of the human airway. 4-5pm, Seminar Rm 2 (G10), Ground Floor, UniServices House, 70 Symonds St.

**Recital Concert**
John Chen: 7.30pm, Music Theatre, School of Music, 6 Symonds St. Free.

**Centre for Biodiversity and Biosecurity seminar**
Dr Alan Mark, University of Otago: Appeal for a wise political response to our deteriorating world. 3.30-4.30pm, Rm 201, Bldg 730, Tāmaki Campus.

For more information and to book visit www.aucklandtriennial.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 Nicola Christie on 09 301 6888 or email nchristie@rainey.co.nz

Visit www.rainey.co.nz

**MedEntry UMAT Prep**
Government accredited and internationally trained 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

**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 available costs and are tailor-made to your requirements. Contact Karen on karen.embreton@mondotravel.co.nz or 0940 0064 (wk) or 021 188 7781.

**SATURDAY 15 JUNE**

**Pacific Maternal and Infant Health Conference**
8.30am-4pm, Holiday Inn, 2 Ascot Rd, Epsom. Register at http://whystudentscheat.com/survet/umatradingday-20-21-june

**THURSDAY 20 JUNE**

**Centre for Medical and Health Sciences education research seminars**
12.30-1.30pm, Seminar Rm 503-024, Bldg 503, 85 Park Rd, Grafton.
1) Dr Wayne de Beer: Learning needs of the post-registration, preovacational house officer in NZ: A qualitative study of junior doctors perceived training needs.
2) Dr Dale Sheehan: What do we understand by the term “workplace learning environment”? RSVP to cmhseadinn@auckland.ac.nz

**TUESDAY 25 JUNE**

**Centre of Pacific Studies seminar**
Assoc Prof Ty P. Kawika Tengan, University of Hawai’i at Mānoa: Mana Kāne: Transformations of indigenous men’s knowledge, power, and potency in Hawai’i and Oceania. 12.30pm, Function Rm 220, Bldg 730, School of Population Health, Glen Innes, 261 Morrīn Rd.

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For more information and to book visit www.aucklandtriennial.com

**Classifieds**

**ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE**

**Apartments for rent.** Call us for your rental requirements; we offer city apartments furnished/unfurnished, all sizes and prices, great rental deals for long-term lessors, 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

**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 bthrs, quiet and sunny. Balcony, green outlook, garage and outdoor area. Suit mature couple. No letting fee. $585 pw. Available now. Phone 0211 832 654 or email marham@xtra.co.nz

**Furnished room available.** Seeking a non-smoking, quiet female or couple to rent furnished master bedroom with ensuite in fully furnished house in Farm Cave (convenient to bus and Half Moon Bay ferry). Sharing four-bedroom house with one mature female. References requested. Ideal for visiting scholar. Email lisardson@gmail.com

**Northcate.** Spacious character villa, ten minutes from CBD. Lounge and dining areas open to an expansive deck with park views. Modern kitchen, bathroom with spa bath. Two bdrms downstairs. Upstairs, open plan, bdrm, sitting room, and office space options, with views of harbour and back to city. Off street parking. $650 pw includes water. Phone Barbara on 418 0109.

**Professional staff member** seeking a non-smoking, quiet living space to rent to a sunny, furnished master bedroom with French doors/door 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 awright@gmail.com

**Two-bedroom town house in Kingsland, share with owner.** Only 2.5 km from University. Easy walk or bus ride. Fully furnished, quiet, warm, secure. Short or long term. Prefer non-smoker, female. Rent negotiable depending on length of stay. Phone Helen on 021 301 6888 or helenpow@gmail.com

**For a full list of The University of Auckland events see www.auckland.ac.nz/events Please email classified ads to unisnewadvertising@auckland.ac.nz nine days before publication. Cost $20 (incl GST).**
The current debate surrounding the Auckland Council’s draft Unitary Plan has gained a great deal of currency in the media and within Aucklanders’ minds, which at one level is a sign of a strong and functioning democratic society.

However, at another level it is very concerning how this debate has now been framed and narrowed down to the point where in most Aucklanders’ minds it seems to be solely about housing provision and affordability and the suggestion that more residentially-zoned land will somehow solve Auckland’s growth issues. It seems as if the debate is now about a simple question: do you want “high rise towers” in your local town centre or to keep the traditional 600m² suburban section, reinforcing the status quo of Auckland’s sprawling nature without any real consideration to the costs these choices may impose on future generations of Aucklanders.

I would argue that this debate should not be about this apparently simple choice but far more encompassing. It’s not just about housing (while a critical element); it’s about the future form Aucklanders want for their city and for their children to inherit. The Unitary Plan, when finally adapted, will set out the future framework for the city, providing the development rights and opportunities which will set the urban direction for the next 30 to 50 years. These are critical issues, which require an active, strong, informed, and robust debate about the city’s future direction as well as their cost implications. We all need to have an informed say over what scale and form we want Auckland to have in 30 years’ time and, just as importantly, how we are going to pay for it. Unfortunately, infrastructure costs (including their on-going maintenance) are not at the forefront of many Aucklanders’ minds except when the Council’s rates bill arrives in our letterboxes. What we can afford, what we are willing to pay for, and how these costs will be shared between the community and future generations are vital questions that must also form part of this debate.

This debate should be about the wider urban planning picture, addressing employment options, reducing travel demand, providing travel choices (not everyone owns, or can afford a car), the quality of the public realm, the quality and design of our buildings, the provision of open space, shopping and entertainment opportunities. It’s not surprising that some of Auckland, most expensive and desirable suburbs are located in close proximity to working, shopping and entertainment opportunities, with established and frequent (maybe not as much as we would like, but far more convenient than in the outer suburbs) public transport options. These residents can enjoy, and do value, all these opportunities without enduring the need for long travel distances; they have the ability to walk to their local services and interact with their neighbours; their children can play with each other in their local parks for instance, developing a strong sense of community and place.

While the issue of affordable housing is rightly raised in these areas, the question is also how do we create a strong sense of community and place, which provides all these services for our future residents (including employment options), reducing their travel demand in the areas we want to develop and accommodating Auckland’s future urban growth? This should be our overarching consideration and should frame the media debate around the draft Unitary Plan.

I would argue that we are not going to address Auckland’s growth issues simply by concentrating on housing supply through zoning more residential land in peripheral locations without thinking about the communities we are actually creating. In many of our existing peripheral suburban areas the nearest shop can be over three kilometres away, and low densities make public transport problematic. Moreover, how does this form of development provide housing choice to meet the needs of all our community? A “one size fits all” option does not give choice, and will not meet the needs of all our future residents, let alone taking into account the infrastructure costs these types of residential developments place on the existing services at the periphery. An example is the impact on the existing roading networks, and on extending them, with the important question of who is going to pay for these upgrades, let alone the cost of travel for future residents to their employment opportunities. We need to consider a balanced approach that provides for a range of housing options in appropriate locations where we can leverage off the existing infrastructure – and well-designed housing options with associated services. This will reduce infrastructure cost and travel demand and increase the vitality of a number of existing town centres, provide a range of housing options for all our residents and provide for future urban growth.

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