



## THE CHANCELLOR

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#### AWARDS GALORE

University researchers triumphed in awards and funding announced during October and November.

Twenty-eight University researchers and research groups won \$15.2 million in the Marsden Fund round, amounting to 27.3 percent of the total awarded this year. Three of our top researchers were also among 12 New Zealanders elected Fellows of the Royal Society in October.

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#### DR TERRY O'NEILL TELLS HIS STORY

Prior to his appointment three years ago to the role of Director, Student Equity at the University of Auckland, Terry worked in a number of roles at the New Zealand Human Rights Commission; he has also managed the University of Auckland's Student Disability Service. Terry has a PhD in Sociology and Social Policy from Queens University Belfast and has a particular interest in rights-based approaches to disability issues.

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#### INEFFICIENT ENERGY

Coal is an inefficient source of energy argues Professor Alistair Woodward. "When it is burnt, coal releases large amounts of greenhouse gases and it causes local pollution.

"The soot and other pollutants from burning coal cause millions of deaths each year from respiratory diseases, cancer and cardiovascular events. Coal subsidies for home heating in the north of China may have cut the life expectancy of 500 million people by about five years."

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### SUMMER SHAKESPEARE

Summer Shakespeare opens on Valentine's Day 2015 with *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, directed by Michael Hurst. Billed as for "lovers everywhere, old and young", the audience is invited to bask in the charisma of some of Shakespeare's most enchanting, and enchanted, characters. Original music, dance, and of course the brilliance of Shakespeare's words, come together in a performance that is set to take us into an unpredictable dreamtime, where all expectations are likely to be reversed. Bookings are now open at the Maidment or see: [www.shakespeare.ac.nz](http://www.shakespeare.ac.nz)



### NANOGIRL

Dr Michelle Dickinson, who uses the popular twitter handle 'Nanogirl' (@medickinson), has been named Science Communicator for 2014 by the New Zealand Association of Scientists. Michelle is a senior lecturer in Chemical & Materials engineering. She is a regular guest and commentator in media. She is also a roving science ambassador, organising events aimed at making science fun for young and old alike. Recently she completed the "100 Days of Science" project with schoolchildren. Read more in the latest *Ingenio* where she is profiled.



### SHARKMAN

Riley Elliot is studying for his PhD in Marine Science at the University and is on a mission to get us (humans) to understand why sharks matter. In the last 20 years sharks have been over-exploited for their fins. Now one in five shark species is threatened with extinction. Riley features in an opinion piece in the latest *Ingenio* magazine and on a video made by the University's Media Productions which you can view at [www.ingenio-magazine.com](http://www.ingenio-magazine.com). His book *Shark Man* features on the Staff Intranet News.



### WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

Writer Rochelle Bright has been awarded the University of Auckland Residency at the Michael King Writers' Centre next year to write the libretto for an indie opera about Neil Roberts, the punk anarchist who blew himself up outside the country's first police computer in 1982. Rochelle writes crossover drama - theatre, cabaret, indie opera, circus or physical theatre that combines words or text and popular music. She is General Manager of Auckland's Massive Company and has a Masters in Creative and Performing Arts (Drama) from the University of Auckland.



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COVER PHOTO: Her Excellency, the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Dr Angela Merkel with students outside the Maidment Theatre.  
Photo by MFAT.

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## AWARDS AND FUNDING GALORE

University researchers triumphed in awards and funding announced during October and November. We were recognised in every category at this year's New Zealand Association of Scientists (NZAS) Awards with Professor Mick Clout (Science), pictured below, jointly awarded the Marsden Medal for his contribution to conservation biology and a lifetime's work dedicated to studying the ecology of mammals and birds, including critically endangered species such as kakapo.

The NZAS Research Medal, also jointly awarded this year, went to palliative care



and gerontology research specialist Professor Merryn Gott (Nursing), who has developed a unique programme of research investigating how to reduce suffering at the end of life within the context of a rapidly ageing population and constrained health budgets.

Professor Wei Gao, a leading researcher from the Faculty of Engineering, won this year's NZAS Shorland Medal for his research into nanostructured materials, light metals and alloys, electronic properties of materials and advanced coating and surface technologies. Nanogirl Dr Michelle Dickinson (Engineering) was named NZAS Science Communicator for 2014 for her work in making science accessible to a wide range of New Zealanders.

### Royal Society Fellows

Three of our top researchers were among 12 New Zealanders elected Fellows of the Royal Society in October. They are Professor Alan Merry (Anaesthesiology) who has researched patient safety and the influence of the law on medical practice; John Windsor (Surgery), who is a pre-eminent academic surgeon and research scientist and a pioneer in laparoscopic or keyhole surgery and Professor Peter Watts (Law) who has a high international standing in the general area of commercial law.

## A NEW ENROLMENT TOOL

On Monday 3 November, the University successfully launched Timetable Planner - a new enrolment tool to help streamline timetable selection and make enrolment easier for students.

Timetable Planner looks at a student's course choices and personal commitments and creates a number of clash-free timetables for the student to choose from.

Since Timetable Planner launched, there have been more than 45,000 log-ins from over 11,000 students. Enrolments have increased compared with this time last year. In 2013 we had 5,651 EFTS (equivalent full time students) versus 6,077 EFTS in 2014.

On enrolment opening day, calls to the student contact centre decreased by 37 percent compared with 2013. Student contact centre manager Bronwyne Hawkins notes: "It was great to see such an immediate decrease in the number of calls we were getting through the contact centre. More students seem to be getting through the enrolment process faster with fewer issues than previous years."

Engagement with student groups throughout the project was a key success factor for the design of Timetable Planner. Director of Administration Adrienne Cleland says, "Students have told us that we need to make the enrolment process simpler and this new functionality is doing just that. I am impressed with the way the initiative has been designed and implemented with the voice of the student integrated into the process from the planning stages to testing. Well done to everyone involved."



## MARSDEN WINS

Twenty-eight University researchers and research groups won \$15.2 million in the Marsden Fund round, amounting to 27.3 percent of the total awarded this year. The research supported by the fund ranges from getting inside the earthquake machine, to 8000 years of hunter-gatherer adaptation, and axioms and algorithms for multi-winner elections.

Twelve research groups led by investigators from Science have been awarded a total of \$7.3 million. Amongst them Dr Anna Santure will predict the adaptive potential of small populations: a case study in the endangered hihi.

Four researchers or teams from Arts received a total of \$2.7 million, including Professor Margaret Mutu who will research "What do the claimants say? Reconceptualising the treaty claims settlement process".

Dr Marama Muru-Lanning (James Henare Research Centre) was awarded \$300,000 to research "Intergenerational investments or selling ancestors? Māori perspectives of privatising New Zealand's electricity generating assets".

Four research teams led by academics from Medical and Health Sciences received a total of \$2.1 million, including Professor Bill Wilson whose personalised cancer medicine project will identify genes that make leukaemia cells sensitive to a new experimental drug.

Grants of \$600,000 were awarded to two research teams from the Faculty of Engineering, including Dr Andrew McDaid for robotic 'therapy and assessment' to understand the development of muscle function in children with cerebral palsy following botulinum toxin treatments. The Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI) was awarded \$1.5 million for two projects, including Dr Vinod Suresh who will undertake biophysical modelling of water and ion transport in the lungs.

Dr Helen Delaney (Business and Economics) received \$300,000 to research 'Power to the people? A comparative study of workplace reform in New Zealand' and Dr An Hertogen was awarded \$300,000 to research good neighbourliness in international law.

**For the full list of award winners see the Marsden story on the Staff Intranet**

## CONFLICT AND DISCORD



Academics and students from the Politics and International Relations in Art's School of Social Sciences are hosting the 2014 New Zealand Political Studies Association Conference from 1-3 December.

This year's conference theme "Conflict and discord in a time of crisis" has attracted more than 220 presentations from researchers around the world including 45 University of Auckland participants.

Conference organisers Dr Tom Gregory and Dr Julie MacArthur, both lecturers in Political Studies, say panels will address a range of issues including the recent general election in New Zealand, democratisation, climate policy, Māori affairs, terrorism, armed conflicts, and the evolution of political ideas. "And we are particularly pleased to welcome our keynote speaker, Professor David Schlosberg from the University of Sydney, who will present "Environmental Politics in a Time of Crisis: Climate Change and Insecurity," says Julie.

The conference will also feature innovative events including a public screening of Project Z (the latest film from Professor James Der Derian from the University of Sydney) a special panel on New Zealand's recent United Nations Security Council seat, and a practitioners' panel on the role of "Vote Compass" in the 2014 New Zealand election, featuring some of the University's academics who were involved in its development. See: [www.nzpsa2014.org.nz](http://www.nzpsa2014.org.nz)



### JONATHAN BLAKEMAN

A private farewell for Jonathan Blakeman, who has passed away, was held at Old Government House on Thursday 13 November. A graduate of this University he was our Director of Administration from 1999 to 2008. In that role he was responsible for setting up many of the administrative and budgeting systems that support our activities today, and for leading the development of the University's strategy for rebuilding our campuses. He was a passionate advocate not only for the University of Auckland but also for the entire New Zealand University system.

## MOOC AROUND THE WORLD



MOOC project team members (left to right): Vanda Ivanovic, Colleen Bright, Dr. Li Wang, Dr. Jason Stephens, Steph Cook, Steph Reid and Tricia Bingham

The University recently launched its second MOOC - Academic Integrity: Values, Skills, Action, in partnership with FutureLearn. The course opened on Monday, 10 November and runs for four weeks. Currently more than 6500 students from over 50 different countries are enrolled. In less than two days, more than 1300 posts were generated by learners. The course will be offered four times in 2015.

The development of the AI MOOC was a collaborative effort involving content redevelopment by the Learning Support Services team from Libraries and Learning Services and the ITS Media team. A Learning Adviser from Libraries and Learning Services' Student Learning Services team was involved in the development of a new module on study and writing skills. Dr Jason Stephens from the Faculty of Education, who has a research background in academic integrity, is the lead

educator.

Engagement and building a community of learners was a high priority in the development of the course. Careful consideration was given to provide ample discussion opportunities and the chance for students to share experiences.

During the first week students have been highly engaged in the course, commenting, responding and sharing actively. Examples of comments:

*As a new undergraduate, ... knowing how to aim to achieve that standard hopefully will put the foundations in place for life and not just for my degree duration. The next few weeks are I feel an essential part of my learning. I'm looking forward to gaining some valuable advice from the experts.*

*I liked the mini dramas among the students which added a light touch to the course.*

To find out more about the AI MOOC, visit: [www.futurelearn.com/courses/academic-integrity](http://www.futurelearn.com/courses/academic-integrity)

### UTAS EXPANDS IN 2015

2015 will see an expansion of the University's Undergraduate Targeted Admission Schemes (UTAS). UTAS reserves a number of places in our undergraduate programmes for eligible students who have met the University Entrance (UE) standard but have not met the guaranteed entry score for the programme of their choice.

From next year, while remaining open to eligible Māori students, Pacific students, and students with disabilities, UTAS is also open to eligible students from refugee backgrounds (SRB), and students from low socio-economic backgrounds (low SEB). For the purposes of UTAS, "low SEB" applicants are school leavers from decile 1, 2 or 3 schools. Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equity) Trudie McNaughton says the expansion of UTAS reflects the University's commitment to being a fair and inclusive place to study. "By including eligible students from low decile schools and from refugee backgrounds in UTAS, the University acknowledges that poverty, as well as challenges faced by students from refugee backgrounds, can be barriers to tertiary education. UTAS helps us support these students to make valuable contributions within and beyond New Zealand."

Find out more: [www.auckland.ac.nz/utas](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/utas)

## WILLKOMMEN TO A DISTINGUISHED RANGATIRA

“Freedom remains the driving force behind what people do. It opens up, time and again, new worlds, new horizons, new paths.”

These were the poignant words of Her Excellency, Dr Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany as she addressed an invited audience which filled the Maidment Theatre on Friday, 14 November.

As a young physicist growing up behind the Berlin Wall, Her Excellency told us: “the Wall’s fall remains the one crucial experience in my life.

“When this great change happened I was able to go into politics and I saw that freedom prevailed over lack of freedom.”

With only 24 hours in Auckland on her way to the G20 meeting in Brisbane, the Chancellor was the first German leader to visit New Zealand in 17 years. At the University it was a momentous occasion as she was led down the aisle by University Chancellor Dr Ian Parton, Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon and Science and Innovation Minister, the Hon. Stephen Joyce.

“We welcome you as a Rangatira,” Jeremy Hema told her during his Whakatau (Māori welcome). “May you experience peace, grace and warmth while you are here.”

Soon the German Chancellor was standing at the lectern, the rich blue hue of the Maidment curtain behind accentuating her blue jacket and eyes, the New Zealand and German flags visible to one side.

“I am delighted to address you at this venerable university,” she announced as her German was simultaneously translated and relayed to audience headsets. Only minutes before her arrival, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between the University’s Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI) and the Fraunhofer Institute in Stuttgart, Germany. (See box below.)

“We have great expectations for the MOU,” the woman considered to be among the most powerful in Europe told her audience. “More than ever before, scientists from all parts of the world depend on each other if they want to make progress. I gladly use this opportunity to thank you



Stuart McCutcheon and Angela Merkel.

here at the University of Auckland for this spirit of co-operation”.

The Chancellor, who has a doctorate in physical chemistry from the German Academy of Sciences, then spelt out some of the key research relationships between New Zealand and Germany: 200 German scientists currently working in New Zealand; five New Zealanders who have received the renowned Humboldt Research Prize; 95 German/NZ university co-operation agreements; and one in six NZ researchers working with German partners and pursuing common projects with them. “In a nutshell the bridge science has built between our two countries is as broad as it is stable.”

The Chancellor’s speech ranged over key issues facing the globe – climate changes and associated earthquakes and tsunamis, mobility, agriculture, and food production—concluding that “scientific excellence, innovative capacity and technological performance will be the most important raw materials for prosperity and growth in the future”. She outlined her own Government’s strategies. Since 2005, when she first became the leader of Germany “we have increased funding of research by 60 percent so that research is now nearly three percent of our GDP”.

She spoke of Germany’s need for digital development and to take on the “internet of things”. She also touched on the sovereign debt crisis in Europe, and the need to improve economic co-operation within the Eurozone and transform Europe into a high-performance research area. With this in mind she outlined the Horizon 2020 EU Research and Innovation programme, the biggest of its kind in the world with nearly €80 billion of funding available over seven years (2014 to 2020) to turn the EU into a globally competitive research powerhouse.

A more personal note came when the Chancellor - who is the first woman to lead Germany since it became a modern nation-state in 1871, and the first former citizen of the German Democratic Republic to lead the reunited Germany - mentioned the recent 25-year celebrations of the fall of the Berlin Wall. “My whole life changed [the day the Wall fell]. In socialist countries you are encouraged to think freely in your scientific institution but you are not able to think about the state of your own society freely and that was one of the reasons the whole system collapsed in the end.”

The Chancellor’s childhood growing up in East Germany was further underlined when during question time an audience member asked about her facility with the Russian language. “I grew up in a small town and as we had many Russian soldiers I practised my Russian on them,” she happily revealed. “At school I learnt English as a second language; it was relevant for the physics text books I had to read, but my spoken English was bad as I had no one to talk to.”

Another small insight into this impressive world leader came when a young German exchange student studying at Takapuna Grammar asked for advice on establishing a research career. The Chancellor’s face broke into a smile: “Be hard working,” she began.

### A JOINT PROJECT

The BIONIC JOINT project, which is the subject of the MOU between the Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI) and researchers at Germany’s Fraunhofer IPA integrates the latest wearable sensor technology with mechanisms that enable movement.

The ABI has spun out two wearable sensor companies in the last two years, StretchSense and IMeasureU. StretchSense makes “rubber bands with Bluetooth sensors” that accurately and comfortably measure human movement. IMeasureU designs and manufactures miniature inertial sensors for monitoring performance and reducing risk of injury. BIONIC JOINT will integrate both these technologies to produce a unique wearable sensing device to measure and monitor arm movements.

Fraunhofer’s expertise in actuators and motors will help to put the exoskeleton in motion and drive its movements. With advanced high-tech research and large-scale manufacturing capabilities, Germany will continue to be a key research partner.

# MY STORY

## STAFF QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



### DR TERRY O'NEILL

Prior to his appointment three years ago to the role of Director, Student Equity at the University of Auckland, Terry worked in a number of roles at the New Zealand Human Rights Commission; he has also managed the University of Auckland's Student Disability Service. Terry has a PhD in Sociology and Social Policy from Queens University Belfast and has a particular interest in rights-based ("the rights that we all have as reflected in various human rights conventions") approaches to disability issues.

#### WHAT DID YOU LOVE DOING WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD?

I am wondering what sort of words I can use about my childhood. My family's circumstances were quite bleak and often challenging. That's probably the best description of my early years. You move past it but you can't present it in any other light. My siblings and I grew up in Otorohanga first and later with my mother, my mother's mother and great grandmother in New Plymouth, and in a much more secure household.

Things got better but in those early years I learnt a lot, which I think has stayed with me: things like resilience and independence and even, when required, certain toughness. I think if you have the right attitude and the right skills you can get past most things.

People who work in equity are sometimes stereotyped as "soft and sensitive" types - "tree huggers" - but often they have overcome quite tough backgrounds.

#### WHAT DID YOU ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT IN YOUR EARLY LIFE?

I began to read a lot in New Plymouth. I remember we had an old set of encyclopaedias. Books were always a refuge. Lots of things interested me, and still do! I worked after school and in the school

holidays in my step-father's butcher shop making dripping and sausages. There was lots of learning there at the time, none of which is much use now apart from being able to make my own sausages! We weren't paid much. I was at my step-father's 90th recently and I said I'll be sending you an invoice for back pay!

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRST JOB

Once I had finished New Plymouth Boys High I didn't go to University because no one in my family had and because I had impaired eyesight. I can't drive a car for example. . It came from getting toxoplasmosis as a child. Anyway I was told, wrongly, that if I did go to university my eyesight would get worse. So I worked as a bank teller, in New Plymouth. It was pretty dull but for one exception: a half day each week, I was sent out as the sole-charge of a suburban branch of the bank. Unbelievably, I was given a revolver for "self-protection" which I kept in the bank brief case. It all seems quite mad now but, at 18, I thought it was great fun!

#### HOW AND WHEN DID YOU DECIDE WHAT YOUR FUTURE CAREER WOULD BE?

After the bank I worked in the freezing works at Waitara for two years, and later I lived in Europe doing caregiver roles in England and Spain. In my 30s, I thought no this was not satisfying and I decided I was going to go back to New Zealand to enrol in university. It was fairly unnerving. I started at 37 and then I just thrived. Loved it and went straight through a BA, MA, PhD. I knew I was in the right place. I was co-managing Student Disability Services here at the University during the PhD. Becoming a late stage tertiary student was, as I had hoped, a completely transformative experience on many levels and not least because it opened up a number of career options.

#### WHO WAS YOUR BEST TEACHER AT UNIVERSITY, AND WHY?

I did several Development Studies masters papers at this University and these were taught by Ivanica Vodanovich, a formidable intellect, and a remarkable teacher. She taught me many things which I still apply in my life, both personal and professional, years later. Social, cultural and economic development stuff which I used at the Human Rights commission. She gave me a theoretical framework around interpreting the world which I still use.

#### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR CURRENT POSITION?

To support every student with the potential to achieve the best possible chance of achieving that success. One my guiding principles is that diversity enriches the University's teaching and research.

#### WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT THE JOB?

Seeing students succeed. Some students overcome extraordinary difficulties and barriers.

#### DO YOU CHANGE LIVES?

Absolutely - I wouldn't come to work if I didn't believe that! One of the real privileges of working at the University is being able to see students reach their potential - and, along the way, to be reminded again and again of the potential for tertiary education, particularly at this University, to absolutely transform people and to provide them with the skills which will help them be independent thinkers, strong advocates for themselves and for others, and to leave with a better understanding of who they are - their identities - and their place in the world. For many Māori, and for students from equity groups, this journey, and this accomplishment, can be very challenging - so it makes their successes even more cause for celebration.

#### WHAT HAVE YOU ACHIEVED THAT YOU ARE VERY PLEASED ABOUT?

I think a real success of the last couple of years has been the establishment of the University's Lesbian, Gay, Transgender/Transexual and Intersex (LGBTI) Student and Staff Network. I'm pleased about the Network not only because it meets a need - and again demonstrates the University's commitment to safety and inclusion for all students and staff - but because it has been a strongly collaborative project between the Equity Office and the AUSA. I enjoy collaborative work and I think the LGBTI Network is a great example of how much, and how quickly, progress can be achieved.

Identities have always interested me, and identity was a primary focus of both my masters and doctoral research. We all have different identities which we can draw on, privilege or subordinate, in different contexts or at different times of our lives. Someone famous once said: "Identity is both constraining and enabling". Identity can be a complex matter for both individuals and institutions to work out, and work through. One of our objectives is to ensure that people feel secure in their identities. Identity is crucial for everyone... the feeling of being valued in that identity, being able to express it and to feel safe and secure. It's really what our work is about.

#### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING WHEN YOU'RE NOT WORKING?

I struggle along at the University gym, trying to convince myself I'm fitter than I actually am. Current affairs is an enduring interest, as is reading. I like the crime genre: Henning Mankell . Val McDermid  
When they're good, they're very good.

# DID YOU KNOW

...the University's Christmas Carol Choir is in full swing practising twice-weekly at McClaurin Chapel in preparation for its annual performance at the ClockTower at 12pm on Friday, 12 December.

The choir grew out of a smaller group about eight years ago and was organised by Academic Services staff: Glenda Haines, Neil Wright and Michelle Staff - all of whom are regulars and singing this year.

"The aim is to provide an opportunity for staff who like to sing to get together and practise Xmas carols," says Glenda.

"There are no auditions. It's about enjoyment and participation and we're here to have fun as much as anything. It's a wonderful release and gives staff a chance to step away from their computer for an hour for lunch time practice sessions."

While past choirs have mainly comprised staff from the ClockTower, this year the call for singers has gone out around campus.

Michelle Wong, who has a BMUs (Hons) and is an Academic Service Coordinator for NICAI, is conducting the choir for the third year in a row. "It's been a stressful year for many staff so it's great to see people enjoying the festive season and contributing to University life," she says.

So whether you can sing along to "Rudolf the Red Nose Reindeer" and "Oh Come all ye faithful" or not, head along to the ClockTower 12 December at 12 noon.



## WHAT'S ON CAMPUS

### **PUBLIC LECTURE BY SEEYLE FELLOW**

11 DECEMBER, 6.30PM  
GENERAL LIBRARY B2B LECTURE THEATRE

Professor Matthew Jackson is the Eberle Professor of Economics at Stanford University and a Senior Fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research. He asks: How does information diffuse through a society? Who are the most influential people in a society and how does one identify them from their position in a network? And how do we become aware of who the most important people in our community are?

### **ELAM INTERNATIONAL PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP AND EXHIBITION**

19 -30 JANUARY, ELAM SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS.

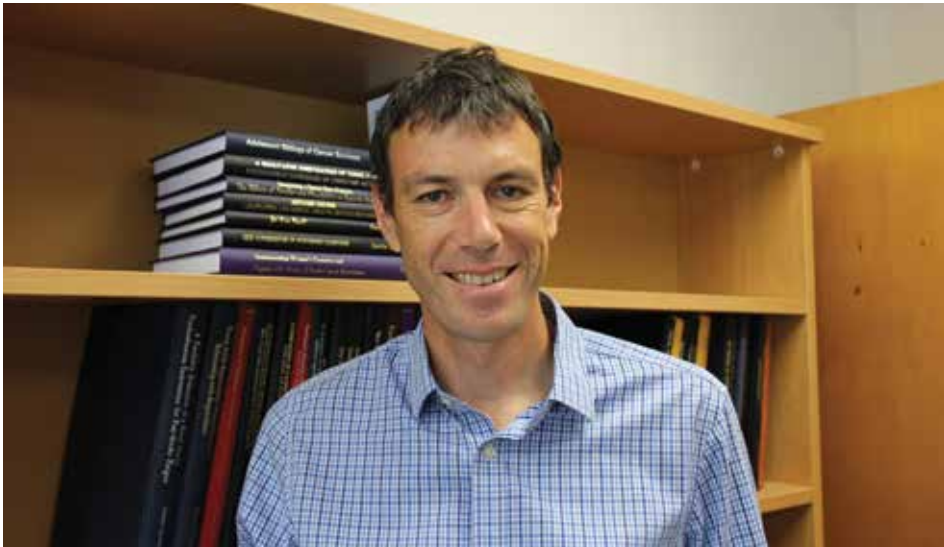
Artists representing nine countries and four continents will gather in Auckland over summer to produce and exhibit original works made using a diverse range of printmaking techniques. Hosted by Elam, postgraduate students will work alongside visiting artists as part of the NICAI Summer Scholarship programme. An exhibition of the work will be held from 30 January-28 February at the Gus Fisher Gallery.

### **"DREAM TREATMENT" AT SUMMER SHAKESPEARE**

17 FEBRUARY  
BEHIND THE CLOCKTOWER

The University of Auckland Society hosts a Society Summer Shakespeare "Dream Treatment" evening for Society Members and Auckland University alumni and staff interested in finding out more about joining the Society. The "Dream Treatment" includes discounted tickets, a drink voucher, preferential seating at the show, and a pre-show reception where Shakespeare authority, Professor Tom Bishop will give a brief introduction to the play. See [www.society.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.society.auckland.ac.nz)

### LOOK AT ME



#### Where do people look when they see faces and other complex objects?

This will be one of the lines of enquiry in the new laboratory, Professor Will Hayward, Head of the School of Psychology, is setting up.

Will, who specialises in visual cognition, the science of seeing and the way we perceive faces, says initial work suggests that there are cultural differences in eye-movement patterns when people look at faces; “people of European ethnicity tend to look at the eyes but Asians tend to avert the eyes, possibly for reasons of cultural appropriateness”.

“In the Lab, we design behavioural experiments to assess i) how well people can identify different types of faces and ii) what type of information they are using to perform these judgments,” explains Will. “One way to determine the way that people perceive faces is to perform eye-tracking, where we monitor participants’ eye position as they look at a stimulus. Over the last few years I’ve been a Partner Investigator with the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence on Cognition and Its Disorders, based at Macquarie University and the University of Western Australia, and we have conducted a number of studies looking at face perception among Hong Kong Chinese and White Australian observers.”

Will has focused his recent face perception work mainly around the “other-race effect”, which is the finding that people are generally better at recognising faces from individuals who share their ethnicity than those who come from different, less familiar ethnicities.

He recalls moving to Hong Kong in the late 1990s and how he loved the city and all its excitement but found one thing very hard to get used to.

“It sounds un-PC but I had great difficulty telling my Chinese students apart from one another,” he says. “I would often mistake one student for another.”

Appointed Head of Psychology at the University of Hong Kong, Will felt anxious about being unable to readily identify his students by name until he started talking to the students. They totally understood.

“They couldn’t figure out why I had trouble with them; they said all white people looked identical to each other.”

As a researcher in visual perception, he found this intriguing and it led to development of a research programme on face identification for people of different ethnicities.

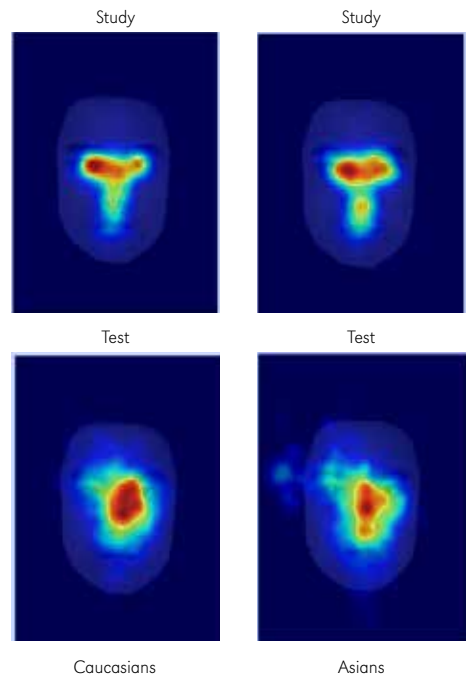
“For most of us, seeing is effortless. We open our eyes, and the world is instantly available to us. But the ease of the process belies its complexity, and we are only just beginning to understand how the brain creates our visual sense of the world.”

Will says the problem with faces is that we develop expertise for the precise differences between them but if those faces are from one ethnicity, then we become overspecialised. This is particularly noticeable when travelling to countries where the culture is unfamiliar.

“The key thing is that these new people aren’t actually more similar to each other than the ones we are used to, but our visual system doesn’t know what to pay attention to,” he says.

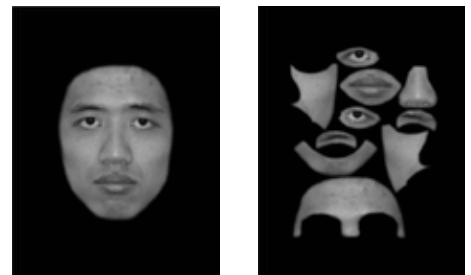
“Spending time in the new location definitely gives you more expertise at face identification, but it does require active practice.”

As well as face recognition, Will and a PHD student and Research Fellow he is supervising are looking at attention and visual consciousness



Shows patterns of eye movements. Caucasians shows that white people (Pakeha) tend to look directly at the eyes and mouth. The East Asians (Chinese) tend to look directly into the middle of the face.

generally. “How the things we pay attention to reach consciousness (as opposed to the sub-conscious) and when they do how they manifest?”



This slide shows that for most of us seeing the whole face is more than the sum of its parts.

Will’s work shows people are better at recognising people of their own ethnicity. Why is that and does it provide the scaffolding under which prejudice develops. “I think its important to realise that when we are trying to think nicely about other ethnic groups our brain may be working against us.

“This work is important for training programmes in recognising other racial groups.”



## KAUPAPA MĀORI SCIENCE EDUCATION

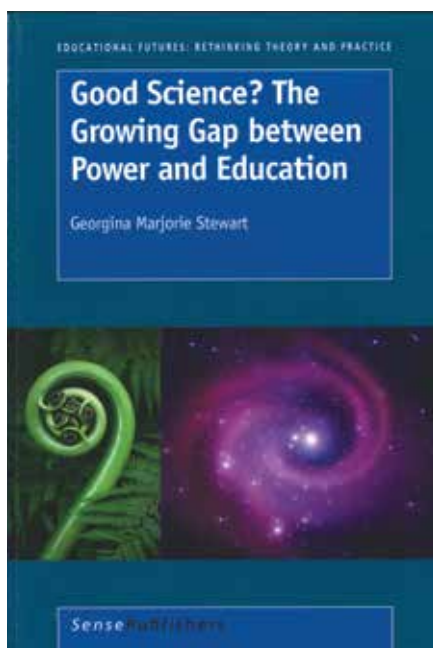


I am exploring the links between te reo Māori, science, and philosophy of education, in my Faculty Research Development Fund (FRDF) project titled Developing a Kaupapa Māori Philosophy of Education.

Philosophy of education is part of the discipline of Education, but although Kaupapa Māori education has (among other things) raised awareness about the importance of including Māori perspectives across the sectors from early childhood to tertiary, very few Māori scholars have become involved in philosophy of education scholarship (e.g. journals, learned societies). My FRDF project continues the efforts I have made to change this situation. I have been a member of PESA (the Philosophy of Education Society of Australasia) since 2007, and this year I have initiated a special interest group within PESA, called the Indigenous Philosophy Group. My conviction that philosophy of education is relevant to Māori scholars dates back to my doctoral research on the Māori science curriculum.

The title of my EdD thesis is Kaupapa Māori Science, a term I invented to combine “Māori science” with “Kaupapa Māori”. Māori science education is a deeply philosophical topic, able to encompass and challenge central concepts about knowledge, culture, language and education, and the nexus or theoretical “knot” that ties together these important concepts. Science is a good representative for “knowledge” in a wider sense – this was the original meaning of “science”, after all. To convey science through an indigenous language such as te reo Māori is a conundrum, because “science” in its full contemporary sense is based on, and promulgates, a philosophy that

is antithetical to that of indigenous cultures, including Māori. Kaupapa Māori science education is an aspiration to combine the best in contemporary science teaching with lessons from the history and philosophy of science, which demonstrate how science has contributed to oppression of non-Western languages and cultures, including Māori. The language of instruction is less important than this critical political awareness.



My EdD thesis was aimed at the Māori-medium community, but later, after graduating, I re-wrote the material to suit an international audience for my book, *Good Science? The Growing Gap between Power and Education*, which was published in 2010 by Sense Publishers. I would like to see the Kaupapa Māori Science approach applied in English-medium, Māori-medium or bilingual classrooms, since it aligns with the current Māori education strategy, Ka Hikitia, and its companion Māori language-in-education policy, Tau Mai Te Reo. It’s amazing to think about the wonderful people and fascinating projects I’ve been lucky enough to be involved with during the last 20-plus years, since I began teaching Māori-medium science. Looking backwards, it all seems to lead logically towards being extended into the domains of educational scholarship, enabled by my newly-awarded Marsden grant [Georgina has just won one of six Social Science Fast Start Marsden grants funded for three years from 2015].

Kia ora rā!

■ Dr Georgina Stewart  
Te Puna Wānanga, Faculty of Education,  
Tai Tokerau Campus

Highlighting some of the University’s news and commentary that have hit the headlines in the past month.

## MORALISING GODS

Professor Russell Gray (Psychology) was an author on a major new study that featured in both domestic and international news media recently including the *UK Guardian*, *UK Daily Mail*, *Washington Post* and *NZ Herald*. The study found humans living in harsh or difficult environments were more likely to believe in high, moralising gods. The research used historical, social and ecological data for 583 societies to illustrate the multifaceted relationship between belief in gods and external variables.

## SPEAKING OUT

Professor Shaun Hendy (Physics) features in *North & South* magazine discussing the issue of scientists speaking out in the media in a major story in the magazine about the increasing influence of PR in the wake of Nicky Hager’s book *Dirty Politics*. Shaun worries that scientists feel constrained about speaking out on major issues but says it’s vital that they engage in publiWill’s work shows people are better at recognising people of their own ethnicity. Why is that and does it provide the scaffolding under which prejudice develops. “I think its important to realise that when we are trying to think nicely about other ethnic groups our brain may be working against us. This work is important for training programmes in recognising other racial groups etc.

## MEDAL COVERAGE

Professor Mick Clout’s joint Marsden Medal award was covered by a number of online news sites with the *NZ Herald* picking up on his vision of a pest-free New Zealand. Professor Wei Gao and Senior Lecturer Dr Michelle Dickinson, awarded the Shorland Medal and Science Communicator of the year respectively, were also mentioned as the University dominated this year’s New Zealand Association of Scientists’ annual awards.

## THE LAW

Professional Teaching Fellow Bill Hodge has been a prominent commentator on the case of fugitive prisoner Phillip Smith who he believes should be deported from Brazil forthwith by having his visa revoked. Professor Jane Kelsey continues to voice her opposition to the secrecy of negotiations regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, which she believes is bad for New Zealand on a number of fronts. She also commented on the fall of the MANA movement.

# FROM THE COLLECTION

## ART COLLECTION

Turning the specific into the ordinary characterises a suite of works David Mealing painted while still a student at Elam School of Fine Arts (1966-69). Each one featured banal suburban environments with equally pedestrian titles such as *Freshly Mown Lawn* and *Painted Fence*. They were inspired by David's own commute to the city and back from Auckland's North Shore suburbs; this 1968 work was the view from the window at his flat.

High-definition imagery in play-school colours immediately draws our attention to the unnamed vista. David approaches a scene of recognisable homeliness – trees, houses, fences, backyards – with a mechanical, paint-by-numbers eye which serves to disconnect people and their environment. This distancing gives us fresh eyes to contemplate those symbols of domesticity which are drawn together form an archetype of middle New Zealand.

There is a notable absence here of the primary residents of suburbia – dogs, cats, birds, and people – creatures which give neighbourhoods character, a sense of place and sounds of life. This suburb is sterile and non-descript by comparison, emphasised by the houses receding into base geometric shapes.

Suburb is a far cry from the politicised installation projects for which David Mealing is now better known. After graduating with a Bachelor in Fine Arts majoring in painting he had a run of successful solo shows at Barry Lett Gallery in Auckland. From the mid-1970s his work became more heavily based around performance and installation projects such as *Jumble Sale* from 1975. This week-long garage sale was installed into the Auckland Art Gallery and consisted of trading tables hosted by non-profit community groups, clubs and organisations raising money for their causes and concerns. David curated the show so that opposing or unrelated groups were stationed next to one another in order to actively encourage



ARTWORK: David Mealing, *Suburb*, 1968  
Acrylic on board, 1100 x 830 mm

## WHAT'S COMING OUT

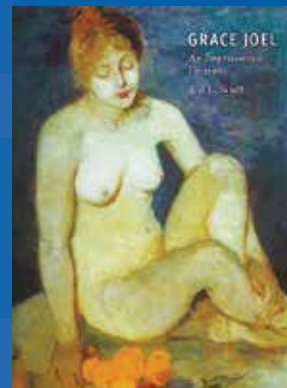
### VLADIMIR NABOKOV, LETTERS TO VERA



Vladimir Nabokov met Véra Slonim in 1923, married her in 1925, and dedicated his books to her until his death in 1977. Theirs was the most celebrated literary marriage of the twentieth century; both have been the subjects of prize-winning biographies. When they were apart, Vladimir wrote to Véra almost every day, in “some of the most rapturous love letters anyone has ever written” (*Spectator*). University Distinguished Professor Brian Boyd (English, Drama, and Writing Studies) and Dr Olga Voronina, of Bard College, NY, have edited Nabokov's

hitherto unpublished letters to his wife (she destroyed hers to him) and translated them from the Russian. Penguin put the 864-page hardback straight into its Penguin Classics series. Editions are forthcoming in the US, China, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and in the original Russian. “This admirable edition” (*London Review of Books*) has already had several 3000-word reviews, including in the *Times Literary Supplement*: “Copiously annotated and amply indexed, it is extremely user-friendly. . . . the richly textured, eminently readable translations by Boyd and Olga Voronina are admirably faithful.”

### GRACE JOEL: AN IMPRESSIONIST'S PORTRAIT



Dr Joel Schiff, a former long-time member of the Mathematics Department has just had a book published by Otago University Press on the New Zealand artist, Grace Joel. Dunedin-born artist Grace Joel (1864–1924) exhibited to acclaim in London and Paris, yet she and her art are relatively unknown today. Joel excelled at portraiture and mother and child studies, and was skilled in portraying the nude.

She received her artistic training in Melbourne, and lived for the mature years of her career in London, where her work appeared at the prestigious Royal Academy, as well as the Paris Salon and the Royal Scottish Academy. Today she is claimed by New Zealand, Australia and Britain. One possible reason why Joel's work has not remained visible is that few details of her personal life survive. Only three letters have been found, and they reveal little of the person who wrote them. Undaunted, Joel has pulled together from the words of her contemporaries, various newspaper accounts, scraps in other historical archives and close study of her extant paintings a portrayal of this talented woman that is as intimate and engaging as her work.

dialogue, the Family Planning Association next to the Foundation for the Protection of the Unborn Child for instance. Perhaps unsurprisingly the project caused a huge amount of controversy not least with Auckland councillors who termed it "a disgrace" and a desecration of the gallery building. The queue to enter the gallery snaked along the street-front of the building however and the show drew many people to the gallery who were otherwise underrepresented in general visitation numbers.

The appeal for David in staging such lavish projects was the open-endedness of their creative impact. The councillors' consternation confirmed for him the efficacy of performance-based work in generating political debate and in querying cultural tropes. This interest can be traced to David's early paintings which resist an art historical painting hierarchy reading. Suburb is neither a palatial home nor a pastoral landscape. It depicts the everyday, ordinary in a highly impersonal manner. Here a standard wooden fence and faceless homes are slammed up against the picture plane cajoling us to rethink our own suburban views.

■ By Alice Tyler, Assistant Curator,  
Gus Fisher Gallery

## WORLD WAR ONE ADVENTURE

Recently Bruce Harkness, a New York-born computer engineer who now lives in Tokyo, visited Auckland with this very attractive 564-page volume *A World War One Adventure: The life and times of RNAS bomber pilot Donald E Harkness*.

It tells the story of Donald Harkness (Snr) a New Zealander who returned from World War One and took a position in 1926 as a lecturer in Civil Engineering.

Still passionate about flying, which absorbed much of his spare time, he died in a tragic accident in 1929 when the flying boat he was testing crashed near Milford Beach. His widow, Lucetta, pregnant with her third child, returned to America with her two other children to join her parents in New York. The child born soon after she arrived was Donald, Bruce's father. The "New Zealand" branch of the Harkness family also has connections with the University of Auckland. Dr Phillip Harkness, one of Donald Snr's nephews, a former newspaper editor and publisher, graduated with a PhD in Political Studies in 2010 at the age of 76.

*A World War 1 Adventure* can be obtained by emailing [kmpresso3@yahoo.com](mailto:kmpresso3@yahoo.com) or [julia.w@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:julia.w@slingshot.co.nz)

## ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

**APARTMENTS FOR RENT.** Call us for your rental requirements; we offer city apartments furnished/unfurnished, all sizes and prices; great rental deals for long-term leases; call rentals (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)

**BIRKENHEAD:** 3-4 bedroom furnished home for rent, suitable for visiting staff member and family, available between 26 March and 14 Sept 2015. On bus route to University, Toyota Corolla also available. Rent negotiable. Call Professor Kerr Inkson on 09 480-2271, or email [k.inkson@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:k.inkson@auckland.ac.nz)

## ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

**FAMILY OF FOUR** looking for housing, either temporary or for the entirety of next year, beginning in February 2015. If anyone in the university community is looking to sublet or knows of any houses coming onto the rental market shortly, we would be very grateful to know! Please email Ryan at [ryan.jones@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:ryan.jones@auckland.ac.nz)

## HOUSE-SWAP, HOUSE-SIT OR RENTAL

**WANTED** for family visiting Auckland around Christmas. Dates flexible. Our house is in Island Bay, Wellington, is large with four bedrooms, has cats and hens to care for. Happy to care for any Auckland pets and garden. We are two adults and two grown children (17 and 20) so would need three bedrooms. Somewhere near Remuera would be ideal but anywhere considered. Contact Anna Jackson, email [anna.jackson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:anna.jackson@vuw.ac.nz)

## HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

**SOUTH OF FRANCE:** Between Provence and the Cevennes. Ancient chateau offers b&b. Wonderfully varied, historic area. Pretty villages and markets, great walking and reasonable rates. See [www.chateaudavejan.com](http://www.chateaudavejan.com)

**WAIHEKE BACH.** Charming family bach at Orapiu available over the Christmas holidays. Amazing views, close to the water and especially good for swimming at high tide, fishing and boating. Mooring available. Two bedrooms and refurbished sleep-out. Enquire to [jaldeng@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jaldeng@xtra.co.nz) and 6245422 evenings.

## PROPERTY FOR SALE

**HOUSE FOR SALE:** End-of-terrace house on two floors in the award-winning Domain Terraces precinct in George Street, Newmarket beside the Domain. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, mezzanine study and two large, private terraces plus a central parterre garden in the precinct. Secure, lock up and leave property. Walking distance to University, city centre, shops, cinemas, with ready access to motorways, bus and rail services. Secure parking for two cars plus a storage unit. 210 square metres not including terraces of 80 square metres. Current, full independent valuation available on request. Contact Gwyn Fox: [g.fox@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:g.fox@auckland.ac.nz) Tel. (09) 520 5360 or 021 292 1127.

**EXECUTIVE FAMILY HOME.** 9 Tuakura Way, The Gardens is exceptional value and one of the best kept secrets, until now. Easy access to motorway, airport, railway and yet private and secluded alongside the Botanic Gardens. This is a fabulous family home where you will feel on holiday, every day. View using Trademe reference 787649646 or email [damian@kookachoo.co.nz](mailto:damian@kookachoo.co.nz) for details.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**CINEMA GROUP:** This is a group for University staff and students interested in filmgoing to attend European movies on a regular basis at the Lido and Academy Cinemas. Meet for coffee. All welcome. Contact [aberens0021@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:aberens0021@hotmail.co.nz)

**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 600 0256 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)

## NEED HELP WRITING YOUR THESIS, JOURNAL

**ARTICLE OR BOOK?** I am an experienced writer, editor and proofreader with intimate knowledge of University of Auckland protocols and standards. Email me: [blinz@voxpoptd.co.nz](mailto:blinz@voxpoptd.co.nz) Call me: 021 637 298. Connect with me: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/belindarobinson>

## RELIABLE AND EXPERIENCED YOUNG MAN

**SEEKS WORK:** gardening, odd jobs, housework. Phone 6255322 or (027) 210 3613.

## RESEARCH/ADMIN/EDITING ASSISTANCE.

5th year UoA Law (Hons) student can help you with research/admin/editing over the summer. Experienced and reliable. Anything considered. Short or long-term. Contact Jack Wright on [jwri079@aucklanduni.ac.nz](mailto:jwri079@aucklanduni.ac.nz) or [jstawright@gmail.com](mailto:jstawright@gmail.com) or phone 0223183500.

## THEATREWORKS BIRKENHEAD

presents "The Sleeping Beauty", Friday 5 until Sunday 14 December. A beautiful princess is cursed by the wicked Carabosse and sleeps for a hundred years until awoken by a handsome prince. Featuring a court jester and his time machine, a the pantomime ingredients ensure fun for all. For bookings phone 419-0415 or email [bookings@mairangiplayers.co.nz](mailto:bookings@mairangiplayers.co.nz)

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# COAL INEFFICIENT

Governments on both sides of the Tasman are keen to dig up more coal, but this makes no sense given the direct costs to human health and the effects of coal on our environment.

Coal is an inefficient source of energy. When it is burnt, coal releases large amounts of greenhouse gases and it causes local pollution.

The soot and other pollutants from burning coal cause millions of deaths each year from respiratory diseases, cancer and cardiovascular events. Coal subsidies for home heating in the north of China may have cut the life expectancy of 500 million people by about five years.

Poor communities need access to affordable energy. Fossil fuels, especially coal, are an attractive source, but the experience in China and other developing countries shows that burning coal may subtract seriously from the health gains achieved from economic advances.

The biggest drawback to coal is its effect on the climate. If we keep to the present trajectory of greenhouse emissions, global temperatures in 2100 will be about four degrees greater, on average, than pre-industrial levels.

In theory, there are many routes that could be taken to de-carbonise the world economy, but it is hard to see that any of them includes a significant future for coal.

The 2013 Carbon Tracker Report estimates we should burn less than 20 percent of available fossil fuel reserves by 2050, if we want to hold global warming to two degrees by the end of

the century. If one assumes that the methods that are presently available to capture and store carbon are applied in full, this makes little difference to the arithmetic: the budget of burnable coal, oil and gas is enlarged by less than 15 percent.

Climate change and environmental protection in general may seem to be remote issues. Some say: “we can exploit available resources, or we sacrifice jobs and welfare in communities that desperately need employment. Better to be a bit wealthier now and possibly a little warmer in the distant future than the other way round.”

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But this is misleading. The stakes are too high: the environment cannot be traded against health and welfare. Tony Juniper, formerly Director of Friends of the Earth, writes: “No matter how clever our financial systems, impressive our rates of economic growth or sophisticated our technology, there is no place to move to should

we degrade our biosphere to the point where it can no longer meet our needs and sustain our economies”.

Coal is indeed a “fossil fuel”. It played an important part in economic development in the past. But coal is no longer fit for purpose on a crowded and over-heated planet.

Rich countries such as Australia and New Zealand have already spent their share of the global carbon budget. We inherited from coal a legacy of economic advantage, and we should draw on this inheritance to advance alternative clean, safe and affordable sources of energy that are available to everyone.

■ \*Professor Alistair Woodward is Professor of Epidemiology and Statistics at the University of Auckland and a former head of the School of Population Health.

Alistair recently had the attached editorial printed in top medical journal *The Lancet*. This is the reference: Haines A, Ebi KL, Smith KR, Woodward A, Health risks of climate change: act now or pay later, *Lancet*, 20 September 2014 384(9948):1073-75 DOI: 10.1016/s0140-6736(14)61659-7

Photo by Suzi Phillips