



TOWER TAKES SHAPE

STAFF SURVEY

Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon encouraged staff to stay engaged with the Staff Survey when he made his presentations about what we (a record 68 percent of us) had to say about our experience of working at the University. Stuart gave a summary of the results of the survey, which allows us to track our progress over time and compare ourselves with local and international organisations and external benchmark groups.

NEW GRADUATE SCHOOL

The University of Auckland will lead the establishment of an Information and Communications (ICT) graduate school in Auckland, in collaboration with the University of Waikato. The new school will have satellite locations in Hamilton and Tauranga. The Government has committed \$28.6 million over four years for the development and delivery of ICT graduate schools in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington.

ADVANCING BI-LITERACY

A member of staff in the Faculty of Education and Social Work writes of the success of a Ministry of Education pilot programme which is focused on supporting teachers and parents of Samoan five-year-olds to use dual-language texts with their children. The programme has been successful in helping teachers, parents and children to develop strong connections between home and school languages and knowledge.

DANCE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS

The 2015 Gavin and Susan Walker Postgraduate Scholarship in Dance has been awarded to Jonny Almario, an Honours student in Dance Studies. Jonny has a bachelors degree with a triple major in psychology, sociology and Japanese. The 25-year-old will use the \$5,000 scholarship to undertake research into ways dance can be used to solve problems. Through workshops Jonny hopes to analyse different approaches to problem-solving in dance, before comparing their use across other disciplines.



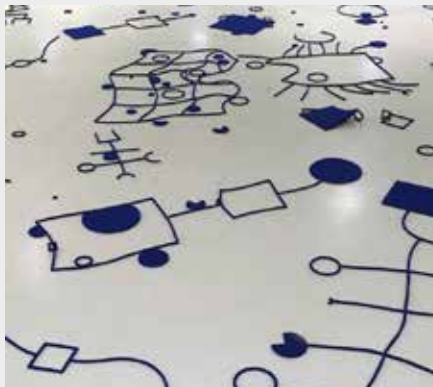
LBGTI EVENT A FIRST FOR ENGINEERING

The Rainbow branch of the Faculty of Engineering launched this month with a special event that included rainbow cupcakes, balloons and specially-made T-shirts. There was a strong turn-out for the launch. Speaking at the event, Deputy Dean Professor Margaret Hyland said the establishment of the Rainbow network was a milestone for the faculty and she was happy and proud of the initiative. The Rainbow network was evidence of a culture change within Engineering which welcomed diversity in all its forms.



ARTWORK BLURS DISTINCTIONS

Associate Professor Peter Robinson (Elam School of Fine Arts) has recently completed a commissioned work for the Centre Pompidou in Paris. Entitled *Recreation Centre*, the work was part of the Nouveau Festival. Created for children to engage with, the work was designed to blur the distinction between artist and audience. The installation comprised all kinds of cut felt forms and viewers were invited to make drawings and sculptures with the pieces, thereby becoming co-authors of the work. Pictured is a detail from *Recreation Centre*.



EFFICIENCY SAVES THOUSANDS

Efficiencies in computer cooling has brought thousands of dollars of energy savings by ITS. The University operates three main data centres – at the Owen G Glen building at the City Campus, at Grafton Campus and at Tāmaki. In recent years ITS staff focused on the virtualisation of servers in the data centres, resulting in retirement of a lot of physical hardware. They have also redesigned cooling systems in the data centres to optimise air-flow and reduce the cooling required. Pictured is Andrew Stoakes, Data Centre Manager from ITS.



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COVER PHOTO: The Science Tower brings a bit of magic to the corner of Symonds and Wellesley Streets.

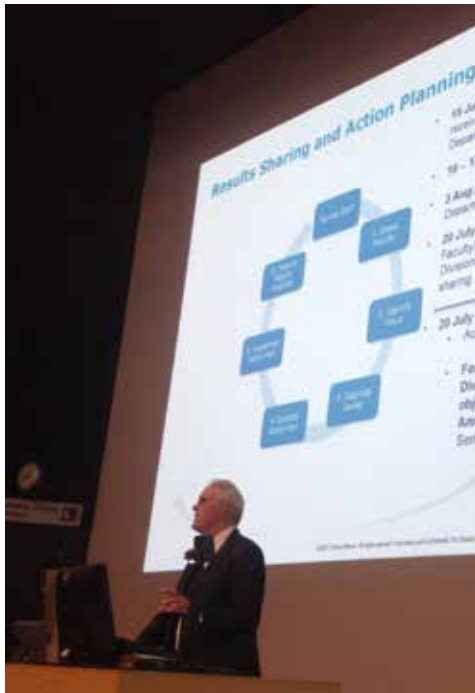
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'STAY ENGAGED WITH THE STAFF SURVEY'



These were the encouraging words of Vice Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon, in presenting what a record 68 percent of staff had to say about their experience of working at the University.

This was the fifth time the University has run the confidential biennial survey through external provider and global experts Towers Watson. The survey allows us to track our progress over time and compare ourselves with local and international organisations in the external benchmark group.

Overall results at the University level reflected a trend of stability. Views in the Immediate Manager category showed continued improvement overtime and a significant two percent increase on the 2103 result of 71 percent.

"I congratulate these managers said Stuart, as he recognised the significant investment in capability development made by the University each year. Other improvements from 2013 and against the benchmark were category scores for Career Development and Satisfaction with the Work. Reward and Recognition also remained stable, as did Leadership and Innovation and Empowerment, though continued to trend a few percentage points under the benchmark group.

The Engagement and Retention categories indicated general stability although Retention was significantly below the benchmark. In reality, "actual turnover of staff remains low," says Andrew Phipps, Director of Human Resources, but the survey provides insights into where improvements could be made.

While there is still work to be done to understand the results and how these apply to

groups assessed in the survey, initial focus areas highlighted in the University-level presentation included 1) Communication which, while just one percent below the benchmark, showed a significant decline of four percent on 2013; 2) Work Organisation and Operating Efficiency - also the most commented on area in the survey; and 3) Image and Reputation, which had dipped significantly below the benchmark group.

Staff in mid-career/hierarchy academic roles also reported less favourably across a number of categories. We intend to "understand more about what can be done to make improvements in these areas," says Stuart.

By 30 August, Staff Survey results are expected to be shared at all levels throughout the University. University level results and an Action Planning Kit are available on the Staff Survey intranet site to help inform improvements particularly those included in Faculty/Service Divisions Annual Plans. A thematic analysis of the qualitative responses will also be available on the site in August to assist with the action planning processes.



ACHIEVE THE AMAZING

The University has released its first major advertising campaign for 2015, in conjunction with our new advertising agency, JWT.

"Small is Amazing" focuses on the work of Associate Professor Cather Simpson and her team of staff and students at the Faculty of Science's Photon Factory. The word "Amazing" was etched into a strand of hair donated by Professor of English Tom Bishop and features on a series of billboards around the country.

The image shows the science behind laser technology, and how it is advancing our biggest export earner - the dairy industry.

The accompanying website (www.achievetheamazing.ac.nz/en/amazing) features background information and a video produced by University Media Productions

TRIUMPH FOR TANIWHA



The University's human-powered submarine, *Taniwha*, outdid expectations at this year's 13th International Submarine Races.

Taniwha finished first in its class (non-propeller single pilot), reaching 3.65 knots, meaning that with a smaller hull and improved fins, the team believes a world record is in sight.

For *Taniwha*, designed and built by students and staff from Auckland Bioengineering Institute, this is its second international outing, competing against teams from the US, Europe and Australia. This year's race was held in a 6m basin at a Naval centre at Carderock, Maryland, USA.

"We did really well and we got an Honourable Mention for innovation," said Associate Professor

Iain Anderson, who has been heavily involved in the design and engineering of the sub.

"We completed ten of 11 races so the team did a fantastic job, giving the propeller teams a run for their money and proving fin propulsion underwater is reliable and fast - just as it is for fish."

The human-powered 3m-long submarine is made of fibreglass and weighs just 60 kilograms without scuba tank and water. It is driven by a pilot using scuba gear who remains submerged while using pedals to power fins to drive the sub through the water.

Photo, Left to right are Koray Atalag (Diver), Gerrit Becker (Diver), Ben Pocock (Diver, Engineer), Sanjay Surendran (Diver), Chris Walker (Pilot), Iain Anderson (Diver)

PROSCI CHANGE MANAGEMENT

Melanie Moorcroft, Associate Director, People and Organisational Development, received her accreditation as a Prosci Certified Instructor at the end of last year. In May Melanie facilitated her second Prosci Change Management Certification Course for 16 staff enrolled from across the University.

The Prosci methodology has become one of the most widely used approaches to managing the people side of change in business and government. It is used by 80 percent of Fortune 100 companies.

The three-day residential programme

facilitated by Melanie enables leaders from across the University involved in change management to successfully manage the people side of change. The programme has been very well received.

The next certification workshop will take place on 3-5 November. Expressions of interest will be called for prior to each programme via the Directors. Should you wish to express interest in attending this programme beforehand please access leadershipprogrammes@auckland.ac.nz after discussion with your Director/Director of Faculty Operations.

MUSICAL JOURNEY ON FILM

Business School Digital Media Producer Lyn Collie says she's really proud to have been associated with a "beautiful film" that she co-produced and that had its world premiere early in July at the New Zealand International Film Festival in Auckland.

The documentary *Crossing Rachmaninoff* tells the story of Italian-born concert pianist Flavio Villani as he returns to Italy for his concert debut, performing Rachmaninoff's second piano concerto. Flavio arrived in Auckland at the age of 26 to study performance at the University of Auckland.

Lyn was the principal producer on Briar March's 2010 film *There Once Was a Island* and post-production supervisor on Professor Annie Goldson's *Elgar's Enigma*. She was approached by director Rebecca Tansley, a graduate of the University of Auckland, to work on *Crossing Rachmaninoff*. The film was made incredibly

quickly between September and December last year, with help from a funding campaign via crowd-sourcing site Boosted.

"It's the quickest film I've ever heard of," says Lyn. "It shows what you can do if you have funding and you're following a story that is happening right now."

Lyn says the film has wide appeal – music lovers, performers, students, teachers and anyone who likes Italian cuisine.

"It's for everyone who has a dream."

Crossing Rachmaninoff starts four months before the big night and incorporates Flavio's backstory in the countdown to show time. It follows him rehearsing, performing and taking notes from his mentor, then follows him as he returns to Italy a mere ten days ahead of the performance.



TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Applications are being called for The University of Auckland Teaching Excellence Awards.

There are six available in the following categories: Sustained Excellence in Teaching (2 awards), Early Career Excellence in Teaching (1 award), Excellence in Postgraduate Research Supervision (1 award), Innovation in Teaching (1 award), Leadership in Teaching (1 award, new in 2015).

The Awards are contestable across the University and carry a medal and a monetary prize or grant. They are linked to the national Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards and selected awardees will usually be the University's nominees for the national awards.

The Procedures and Guidelines and nomination forms are available on the University's Teaching and Learning website (www.auckland.ac.nz/uoae/excellence-innovation). Potential applicants may contact the Centre for Learning and Research in Higher Education for advice about teaching portfolios.

The closing date for applications is Friday 11 September 2015 with the Teaching Excellence Awards Secretary, Susan McDowell-Watts (s.mcdowell-watts@auckland.ac.nz). For enquiries contact Claire Walters on c.walters@auckland.ac.nz

ACADEMIC IN TV SERIES

Psychology Associate Professor Ian Lambie has been regularly appearing on prime time television last month, having taken part in the excellent three-part Prime TV series, *Bullies*, produced by the Gibson Group and examining the impact of bullying in New Zealand. Ian is also taking part now in another Prime series, this time a documentary inspired by the book, *Little Criminals*, which looks at the treatment of children in state care from the 1960s to the 1990s.

LOUNGE AND LISTEN

Jamie Trower, a third-year English and Drama student, will read from his newly launched poetry debut *Anatomy* at LOUNGE Poetry at Old Government House on 12 August. Jamie suffered a major brain injury after a skiing accident when he was nine years old and *Anatomy* is his way of "signing off now" from all the years of struggle and difficulty.

GETTING READY FOR LIFT-OFF



As the wintry days start to grow a little longer so the University's magnificent new 58 metre tall Science Tower on the corner of Symonds and Wellesley Streets is taking shape.

According to the Property Services project manager, Grant Johnstone the 13-storey building, with impressive aluminium fins on the lower podium level façade, will be largely closed in by mid to late-September which will allow the interior fit-out to progress on the upper levels.

Fletchers have set up a site office in the old Science Student Centre and some 323 subcontractors are working on site daily.

The building, which is being erected by the tallest freestanding crane in the Southern

Hemisphere, is the first in New Zealand to use Buckling Restraint Braces. The braces were designed and fabricated in the US to extremely strict specifications and form part of the structural seismic system; this system is a response to the Christchurch Earthquakes and the ability of the building to function following a major earthquake. As well as 110 buckling braces, the tower consists of 960 kilometres of steel reinforcing bars, 2,600 tons of steel, 24,000 square metres of gross floor area and 4,900 cubic metres of concrete.

According to Grant the building is within its approved budget of a little over \$200 million.



NEW GRADUATE SCHOOL

A new information and communications technology graduate school will be the first of its kind in New Zealand and the University of Auckland is pleased to be leading the project, says Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon.

Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment Minister Steven Joyce has announced that the University of Auckland will lead the establishment of an Information and Communications Technology (ICT) graduate school in Auckland in collaboration with the University of Waikato.

The new school will have satellite locations in Hamilton and Tauranga.

The Government has committed \$28.6 million over four years for the development and delivery of ICT graduate schools in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington. The schools will accept not only computer science graduates but students who have studied in non-ICT

subjects who show strong critical thinking, communications or business planning skills.

Industry and businesses in the ICT sector will have significant interaction with the school, including providing guest presenters and workshop facilitators and helping connect students with industry through networking and internships.

Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor John Hosking, says the graduate school will produce additional graduates in information and communications technologies to help meet industry demand.

"A significant feature of the new school is the way it allows students who did not initially consider an ICT career to complement their initial degree with an industry-focused postgraduate programme, making them highly attractive to potential employers," he says.

Head of the Department of Computer Science,

Professor Gill Dobbie, says she hopes that collaboration with industry will extend "beyond the teaching programme and internship into our research activities".



Gill Dobbie

MY STORY

STAFF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



TROY TUHOU

Troy Tuhou is Kaitiaki Māori (Assistant Librarian Māori) in the Arts, Māori and Pacific team in the General Library. He spends part of the week as a subject librarian at Epsom Campus.

WHERE WERE YOU BORN AND WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?

I was born in Gisborne – both my mum and dad are Māori and that's where both sides of my family are from – but I grew up all over New Zealand. My father worked for the railways and every promotion for him meant a move for us: from Gisborne to Rotorua and then to Otira in the Southern Alps where I started school – then on to Hamilton for seven years. I began high school at Upper Hutt and finished at Te Kauwhata. For us, moving was normal. It seemed strange to meet other children who had spent their whole lives in one place.

WHAT DID YOU LOVE DOING WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD?

I loved reading. That was a big part of our lives. Mum had a routine where every weekend we would walk to the public library and choose our books. Then in summer I would play outside with my two younger brothers – or in winter we would come home for hot soup and homemade bread. I remember an old apple tree in our back yard that would miraculously turn into a rocket ship or a plane or a castle, influenced by what we were reading. We had a baby sister born when I was nine who passed away when I was 25. She also loved to read.

WHAT DID YOU ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT AS A CHILD?

Not just one particular thing, but everything. I loved to learn new things and have new experiences. At one point I wanted to be a primary teacher, because my teachers encouraged the learning process and I became very interested in that.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRST JOB EVER?

My first job was blueberry picking at the age of about ten, which I did with my brothers and a few other friends. We got fired – the owner had seen a couple of the boys throwing blueberries at each other. The only two he allowed to stay on were my brother and my cousin. They were good at the job, and quick, but were also quite mischievous. I think they were probably the ring-leaders in throwing the berries, though the owner didn't know that.

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR BEST TEACHER?

At primary school all of my teachers were good. Considering how much we moved around, I was very lucky. On the whole they encouraged a curiosity and a desire to learn, and that is what has got me to where I am.

High school was not as good as primary school, but it gave me a chance to learn some life lessons. Though I always excelled in my school work there was a career counsellor in my senior years who convinced me that I wouldn't do well at university and should go to polytech instead. That shook my confidence so I took her advice and completed a travel consultancy course. Later, when I realised she

was wrong in her judgment, I enrolled to study Arts at the University of Auckland. Looking back I understand that I learned one important lesson through this: to value everything you learn and see how it can be useful in different ways. As a travel consultancy student I advanced my customer service skills and also learned to absorb essential information from complex documents (about travel law and visa requirements). All highly transferable skills I use today.

WHEN DID YOU DECIDE WHAT YOUR CAREER WOULD BE?

When I started at the library 11 years ago I was really just looking for a job that was centred on customer service. I had a BA with a double major in Māori Studies and Education. Some of the senior staff encouraged me to do a masters in library and information studies but I wasn't sure about that. The following year I had the chance to attend the annual Hui ā Tau [conference] of Te Rōpū Whaka Hau for Māori Information Professionals. One of the speakers was a woman from the East Coast who collected and taught oral histories for the National Library – her job was to chat with people about their lives. I thought: "Wow, what a wonderful job." I had never thought that someone could be paid to do that. Another speaker told us of the work he had done in Niue, helping to save and preserve public documents after a cyclone. Their stories made me think I really could make a career as an information professional, so I applied for a scholarship to do a Master of Information Studies in Library Science. I completed this by distance from Victoria University while working at the University of Auckland. I don't know why I should be surprised to end up in information services. I always belonged to libraries throughout my childhood and my life – but I never thought of that as a career path.

IN JUST ONE SENTENCE DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PRESENT POSITION?

To encourage effective use of the University's resources for personal or professional research.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THE JOB?

I love the variety – the people I meet, my workmates, the academics, the students (who seem to be getting younger every year). I love the different collections at Epsom and in the city, including the digital collections that are interesting and fun to work with and are growing and developing all the time. I love having the chance to consult with students, to help them develop their library skills and information skills. It satisfies the desire to teach that I had when I was at school.

DID YOU KNOW

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU'VE ACHIEVED THAT YOU FELT REALLY PROUD OF?

Yes, I'm proud of having been a councillor on the Library and Information Association of New Zealand, Aotearoa (LIANZA) where I co-sponsored a working group on Emerging Leadership which led directly to the development of Kōtuku: LIANZA Emerging Leaders Programme. I'm also proud of having been chosen with a colleague from the University of Auckland to lead the graduation procession in Wellington (the first students from the School of Information Management ever to have done so) when I graduated with my MIS (Libs).

DO YOU THINK WHAT YOU DO CHANGES PEOPLE'S LIVES?

Absolutely. One of the things I love, when I'm talking to a class or a person, is to see that "lightbulb moment" when I give them a tip or show them something in the collection and they realise they've discovered something of value that they didn't know about before. The resources of the library are essential for their study, and their learning depends on being able to find what they need.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING WHEN YOU ARE NOT WORKING?

I like travelling. I love to cook. Cooking is a passion for all my family. It's not just about eating but also about sharing, and caring for people. I like to play the guitar and sing – though I haven't been doing so much of it lately. And [he smiles] I'm a real *haututu*, which in Māori means I like to manipulate and play with things – gadgets and apps on mobile devices. It's that curiosity thing: What does it do? How does it work? And is there anything else it can do?

... that last year an estimated 1,000 of our students graduated with an international education experience. The goal is to grow that number three-fold by 2020.

It's well known that international students play an important role in the University's strategic plan. At 15 percent of our student population, they enrich our vibrant learning community in many ways. Nationwide, they are New Zealand's fifth-largest export industry and support 30,000 jobs.

But international student recruitment is just one aspect of a broader vision for internationalisation at the University. Offshore partnerships, international research collaboration and opportunities for our students to gain overseas experience during their study all contribute to the larger picture.

From the International Office, here are 13 facts about the University's international education profile:

1. *Times Higher Education* ranks the University of Auckland 25th in the world for international outlook. This is based on the international diversity of students and staff and the proportion of research involving international collaboration.
2. Of the 6,010 international students enrolled at the University last year, 2,397 were from China, 525 from the United States, and 424 from Malaysia. These are our three biggest recruitment markets.
3. One in four international students at NZ universities are at the University of Auckland.
4. In 1972, the International Office appointed Brian Lythe as an International Student Adviser: the first role of its kind in the country. Brian continues to serve our international students in this role, alongside two team members.
5. Each year we exchange approximately 300 students in each direction with our 114 exchange partner institutions around the world.

6. Seven hundred students in 2014 undertook short-term learning experiences abroad, such as field trips, winter or summer schools, internships, medical electives and so on.

7. In 2014 the International Office awarded \$300,000 in scholarships to our students for study offshore. The 257 scholarships ranged from \$700 to \$1,400 each.

8. Each faculty now has a dedicated International manager working within the International Office to support its internationalisation strategies.

9. In 2015 the newly-expanded International Office Business Development team will embark on 48 international outreach programmes, meeting with prospective students, partner agents and offshore universities. This is almost double last year's activities.

10. The International Student Information Centre is certified by Immigration NZ to provide an on-campus facility for processing student visa applications. Last year the centre processed 2,975 visa applications, 30 percent of these in the first three weeks in March.

11. The International Office manages our relationship with three major international university networks that we belong to: Universitas 21, the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) and the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN). Each of these provides opportunities for students and staff to collaborate internationally.

12. Over the semester break, the International Office hosted the Universitas 21 Undergraduate Research Conference. Fifty-two students from 11 countries presented their research over the five-day event.

13. Each semester around 1,000 new international students are greeted at the airport by a University of Auckland representative and driven to their new homes to settle in before International Orientation the week prior to the start of semester.

CHAPMAN LECTURE

5 August, 5.30 for 6pm

Maidment Theatre

Professor Melissa Lane of Princeton University will give an ancient take on a modern dilemma in the 2015 Chapman Lecture in Politics: "The Politics of Unsustainability: Plato on the Logic of Constitutional Change". She will discuss the ways in which Plato shows us how our commitments to ideals underlie both how we understand political change, and the politics of sustainability. Melissa's work is in political theory, with her principal expertise in ancient Greek political thought and its modern reception.

WOMEN IN IT

31 August, 9am-5pm

Owen G Glenn Building, 12 Grafton Road

Women in IT will have the chance to hear from respected speakers from the industry about their careers and about support for women in IT at a conference to be held at the University next month. They will look at the possibilities of a career in IT across numerous disciplines, and will have the chance to engage with other women working in IT to build a supportive community. Workshops on leadership and mentoring will form part of the conference. For more information see www.auckland.ac.nz/womeninit.

WINTER LECTURES 2015

1 September, 5-6.30pm

Old Government House (Free event)

The Society Salon Series is based on the old idea of the French literary and philosophical movements of the 17th and 18th centuries where intellectuals and artists gathered to discuss books and ideas. The theme of this event is "Beauty". Our panel - historian Associate Professor Caroline Daley, writer Dr Paula Morris, and scientist Travis Badenhorst, - will explore the concept of beauty from a variety of perspectives. Come and join in. Visit www.society.auckland.ac.nz for information and to register. (by 26 August).

TAXES CAN SAVE LIVES



New research from the Universities of Auckland and Otago, in collaboration with Oxford University, shows that health-related food taxes and subsidies could improve diets and reduce deaths from diet-related disease in New Zealand.

Māori and low-income New Zealanders are most likely to benefit from these policies, because they experience a greater burden of diet-related disease and are more responsive to changes in food prices.

The study team, led by Professor Cliona Ni Mhurchu from the University's National Institute for Health Innovation, estimated effects of five different tax and subsidy scenarios. The results were published recently in the journal *PLOS ONE*.

"We found that taxes on unhealthy foods and subsidies on healthy foods, and a combination of the two, could prevent or postpone a considerable number of early deaths in New Zealand in the long-term," says Cliona.

"We also wanted to address gaps in the existing evidence on food taxes and subsidies that have hindered their uptake in many

countries. We needed to know if there would be compensatory purchasing of non-targeted food items, and impacts on different socioeconomic groups."

The effects of these economic policies were tested in a computer "macro-simulation" model based on household food expenditure, price elasticity (change in consumer demand in response to change in price), population mortality rates, and known links between diet and disease risk factors.

The research showed that a 20 percent subsidy on fruit and vegetables could prevent or postpone about 560 deaths each year in the future, while a 20 percent tax on major dietary sources of saturated fat could prevent or postpone 1,500 deaths per year. The same tax on major sources of dietary salt would see about 2,000 deaths prevented or postponed each year in the future.

A 20 percent tax on major food group contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, such as dairy, meat and poultry, could prevent 1200 deaths annually, while combining taxes on saturated fat and salt with a fruit and vegetable subsidy could prevent or postpone about 2,400 deaths each year in the future.

Previous studies, for example in Australia, have estimated that taxes on unhealthy food and drink would be cost-saving and more cost effective than weight reduction programmes or education programmes.

In New Zealand almost a third of adults and one in ten children are obese and poor diets and obesity combined account for more death and disability than tobacco smoking.

Obesity rates are highest among Pacific (68 percent) and Māori (48 percent) adults, while those living in the most deprived areas are one and a half times more likely to be obese than those living in the least deprived areas.



CUTTING DOWN ON ENERGY COSTS

Professor of Engineering Mohammed Farid and his team from Chemical & Materials Engineering have published research showing that adding cutting-edge thermal technology to building materials could reduce energy costs for home owners of up to 16 percent each day.

Published in the journal *Energy*, the team's study shows "phase change materials" capable of storing and releasing large amounts of energy can substantially increase the thermal mass of building materials without increasing their actual size. PCMs are usually paraffin or fatty acid esters which melt or solidify at a given temperature.

The research team used two small huts – one lined with PCM technology and one without – which were monitored for indoor temperatures. The research found the temperature of the PCM-lined hut took between three and five hours longer to get cooler because heat that had been absorbed earlier in the day was released more slowly than the non-PCM-lined hut.

The research also demonstrated that a freezer fitted with energy storage trays containing a solution of ammonium chloride was more energy-efficient.

Mohammed says the technology could eventually help householders shift electricity use to off-peak times, saving on costs by using electricity at cheaper times of the day.

But there was some way to go before the technology would become widely accessible.

"The cost of PCM needs to be reduced and we need to investigate how best to use it to make it economical," he says.

BI-LITERACY IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS



Over the last year, I have been one of a team of language and bi-literacy specialists from the Faculty of Education and Social Work leading a Ministry of Education pilot project focused on supporting teachers and parents of Samoan five-year-olds to utilise dual language (bilingual) texts with their children.

Additionally the Samoan children's English reading achievement was for the most part, accelerated: 94 of the 114 children (82 percent) improved from two to 15 reading levels on their Ready to Read book levels over a three-month period (August-November 2014).

One of the exciting effects of the pilot was seeing non-Pasifika (palagi) teachers willing to share power in the classroom with their five-year-old students (who usually had more knowledge of the Samoan language than their teachers). For example, they created opportunities for the children to demonstrate correct pronunciation, or to share the meaning of Samoan words:

Teacher: What is the word that we use for "in front"?

Student: Mua.

Teacher: "Mua" so the word for "in front" is mua?

Student: Yes... and uma means finished!

Teacher: Mua means "in front", okay, and uma means "finished". Thank you. Mrs B and all of us learn something new every day.

Parents of the Samoan children were receptive to, and excited about reading books with their children in their own language. For some, it was a new experience to see their family language being valued, and viewed by the school as central to their children's success. The responsibility for supporting children to connect home knowledge (often encoded in a language other than English) with school knowledge has traditionally been the domain of parents and

their children. This pilot demonstrated that when schools take responsibility for making stronger connections with children's linguistic resources, it has consequential benefits not only for children's first language maintenance and identity, but also for their school language and literacy development.

A strategy during one of the professional learning sessions was to put teachers in the position of the language learner. For many, this was a turning point in helping them to understand the daily classroom experiences of their bilingual students. We discovered that in order for teachers to be willing to read Samoan texts and engage in subsequent bilingual activities with their students (in effect making themselves vulnerable), we needed to take a co-constructed approach, giving them the power to choose the degree to which they would incorporate new practices into existing repertoires. Also they needed tools to scaffold the process: synchronised digital texts and sound files, and models of bilingual tasks that they could develop in their own ways. Supporting monolingual teachers to work bilingually in English-medium classrooms meant that Samoan five-year-olds were able to see themselves, their families, their language and their culture validated and included in the valued knowledge of school.

*Dr Rae Si'ilata is a Lecturer in Bilinguality-Pasifika, in the School of Curriculum and Pedagogy, Faculty of Education and Social Work. Her thesis, "Va'a Tele: Pasifika learners riding the success wave on linguistically and culturally responsive pedagogies," was one of five to be awarded a Vice-Chancellor's Prize for Best Doctoral Thesis in 2014.*¹

UNINews highlights some of the University research milestones that have hit the headlines in the past month.

DRINKING WHILE PREGNANT

New Zealand women often drink during pregnancy despite the advice of health professionals, according to the latest research from Professor Lesley McCowan (Obstetrics and Gynaecology) who had good media coverage of this new study that revealed 56 percent of women drank alcohol during their pregnancy's first trimester. This was covered on Prime and TV3, on *RadioLive* News and in several regional daily newspapers.

OBESITY DEBATE CONTINUES

The comments of Professor Boyd Swinburn (Epidemiology and Biostatistics) on the obesity debate, marketing of junk food to children and particularly Māori children, has had sustained media attention on Radio NZ's Morning Report and news bulletins and on Radio 531pi, Radio Waatea and in *NZ Doctor*. His colleague, Dr Stefanie Vandevijvere (Epidemiology and Biostatistics) also published research last week showing the need for drastic restrictions on food marketing, ingredients and prices to fight rising global obesity. This was covered in the *Dominion Post* and regional newspapers, as well as in an interview on TV3's Paul Henry Show, with summaries on TV3 news bulletins

ADVANCING BRAIN POWER

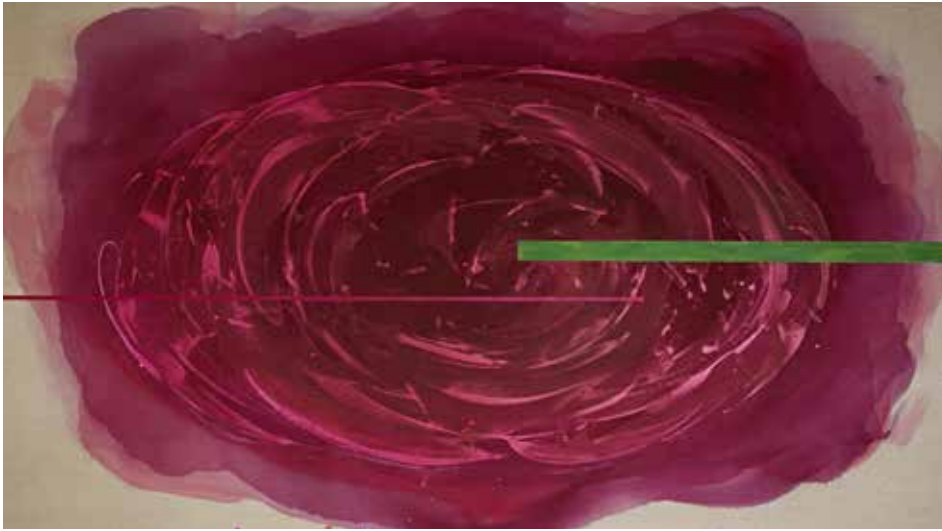
The story, "Powering the brain", featuring the work of Dr Melanie Cheung and her team in the Centre for Brain Research and first published in the Autumn issue of *Ingenio*, has been reprinted (with permission) in the June issue of *Headlines*, the magazine of the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand. Permission has also been requested and granted for the same feature article and photos to be reprinted in the August newsletter of the Huntington's Disease Association. The research team has reported that the article has resulted in numerous enquiries about their research.

COLONISING MICE

Research from the School of Biological Sciences also featured on the BBC this week with masters student Helen Nathan's study on how quickly two mice were able to colonise an island, covered in the "Earth" section of BBC Online.

FROM THE COLLECTION

ART COLLECTION



ARTWORK: Gretchen Albrecht (born 1943), *Rosa - Plum*, acrylic and oil on Belgian linen, 1400 x 2500mm

Dedicated to her late daughter-in-law, the devoted rose gardener Christine Taylor, Gretchen Albrecht's 2010 dealer gallery exhibition *Roses in the Snow* was an explosion of colour during a cold and rainy midwinter in Auckland.

This painting of a trophy flower is based on a hybrid tea rose, transplanted from Christine's rose bed to Gretchen's Grey Lynn garden. This variant of the subgenus *Rosa* is known for its ample blooms of 25 petals or more, and strong, fruity fragrance.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Albrecht became known for painting luminous arcs of saturated colour over two joined quadrant-shaped canvases. These half-moons resulted from special stretchers made for her by father, Reuben Albrecht, and later morphed into ovals, the artist having rejected the full circle as too masculine a geometry.

This 2010 work sees the artist returning to the rectangle shape with which she began her painting career, now turned from portrait into landscape format, and playing off its four straight

edges with a balanced oval shape within. The dominant mass of rose at the centre of this work is overlaid with filmy petal-like strokes that transform the solid colour into a flattened flower form containing a spiralling vortex. In that inner core, Albrecht has dribbled pale paint. This underpainting shows as slivers of bent, springy, wire-like line that introduce a tautness to the soft scrubbed forms on top.

The greyish-brown Belgian linen support also brings its own sombre tonal quality to the paintwork, and gives texture to the surface as the tooth of the fabric shows where the poured and soaked-in colour thins out. A conspicuously bright green horizontal line provides a locking point for the eye to rest on before diving into the swirling tangle of chromatic veils, and balancing a thinner pink line that edges across from the opposite side. This is regenerating life in the face of death: Dylan Thomas's "The force that drives the green fuse through the flower". Roses that spend the harsh winter months as a dormant tangle of thorns reward judicious pruning by springing back into life and blooming bounteously throughout the warmer parts of the year.

Rose plum is also the name for an artist's colour, described as "variable, averaging a greyish purplish red that is bluer and paler than Aztec maroon and bluer and duller than tourmaline pink or daphne pink". Albrecht exploits the range of crimson colour effects

WHAT'S COMING OUT

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN NEW ZEALAND

Environmental Law in New Zealand, just published by Thomson Reuters New Zealand, is a significant new and in-depth commentary on the range of distinct but often interconnected areas of law that comprise the field of environmental law. Editors Hon Peter Salmon



QC and Associate Professor David Grinlinton from the Faculty of Law lead a team of New Zealand's most highly regarded academics and practitioners, all of whom provide expert commentary on different aspects

of this diverse area of law and policy. These authors have collectively created a work of high quality scholarship that is both groundbreaking and which makes a substantial contribution to the jurisprudence on this important and multifaceted area of the Law.

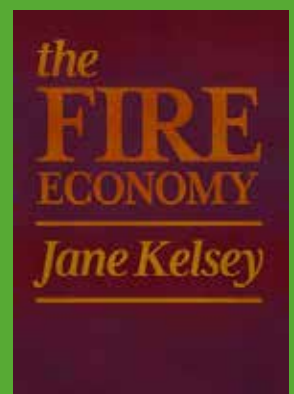
PROFESSOR ON FIRE

Law Professor Jane Kelsey's new book *The Fire Economy* was launched in Wellington to a "standing room only" crowd on 15 July. The following night, which included a lecture and a book-signing by Jane, attracted a capacity crowd to the lecture theatre at Old Government House.

In 1995 Jane Kelsey set out a groundbreaking account of the neoliberal revolution in *The New Zealand Experiment*. Now she marshals an exceptional range of evidence to show how this transfer of wealth and power has been systematically embedded over three decades. In *The FIRE Economy* identifies the risks posed by FIRE – the economy built on finance,

insurance and real estate – now the world's principal source of wealth creation and the barriers embedded neoliberalism presents to a progressive, post-neoliberal transformation. She urges us to act.

The FIRE economy has transformed our political, economic and social landscapes, supported by a neoliberal regime that celebrates markets, profit and risk. From rising inequality and ballooning household debt to a global financial crisis and fiscal austerity, the neoliberal "orthodoxy" has brought instability and empowered the few. Yet it remains remarkably resilient, even resurgent, in New Zealand and abroad.



available through varying the thickness of paint which convey the energy of their application. The splashy, watery nature of the edges of the rose spreading out to the edges of the rectangular stretcher carry the sense of abandoned control, but this is illusory. Just as surface plays off against depth in this work, so is chaos kept in check by structure and composition.

Gretchen Albrecht is a 1963 DipFA(Hons) graduate of the Elam School of Fine Arts where she also briefly taught. She was the Frances Hodgkins Fellow at the University of Otago in 1981, and became a Distinguished Alumna of the University of Auckland in 1999. She was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for Services to Painting in 2000 and has exhibited in New Zealand and internationally for more than 40 years. A survey of some of the dozen art works owned by the University is on show at Old Government House until Friday 11 September.

- Linda Tyler



THE A LIST

Pianist Kevin Field recently traveled to New York to collaborate with some of the top jazz artists in the world and create his new album *The A List*. The album features Sony recording artist Nir Felder - described by *NPR* as "the next big jazz guitarist", bassist Matt Penman, one of the first call bass players in New York who has featured on over 100 major label recordings, and drummer Obed Calvaire who holds the drum chair with the crème of jazz and R&B/pop artists including Wynton Marsalis, Mary J. Blige and Musiq Soulchild. The album also features the distinctive talents of vocalists Clo Chaperon and Marjan Gorgani.

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A FINNISH FAMILY WITH TWO CHILDREN (9 and 11 years) is looking for a furnished home with 2-3 bedrooms in or near Parnell during a research visit to the university of Auckland in December, January and February. Contact katja.a.p.makinen@juu.fi

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MISCELLANEOUS

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SAFE SOLUTION?

“A cigarette is the perfect type of a perfect pleasure. It is exquisite, and it leaves one unsatisfied. What more can one want?” – Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Most people who smoke tobacco know it isn't good for their health and is an increasingly expensive and socially undesirable behaviour, but a love affair with cigarettes is a powerful thing.

Despite several decades of progressively intensifying efforts to reduce tobacco smoking in New Zealand – taxation, health warnings on tobacco packs, mass media campaigns, a ban on advertising and sponsorship, smokefree workplaces, and the wide availability of support to quit – more than half a million New Zealanders still smoke.

Almost 5000 of them die as a result each year. Smoking is the most important preventable cause of premature death and of ethnic and socioeconomic health inequalities in New Zealand.

If smoking is so bad for them, why don't people simply stop? A key reason is dependence on nicotine. Nicotine is an alkaloid insecticide found in the plant *nicotiana tabacum*, the source of the tobacco leaves used in cigarettes. Within seconds of puffing on a cigarette, a smoker receives a dose of nicotine via the lungs, into the bloodstream and the brain.

Deep in the brain, nicotine mimics the action of the neurotransmitter acetylcholine, triggering the release of dopamine followed swiftly by a pleasurable feeling that helps maintain dependence.

Once hooked on nicotine, a smoker typically begins to experience unpleasant withdrawal symptoms and cravings for a cigarette within hours of the last puff. The next puff provides near-instantaneous relief. In this way, smoking behaviour is sustained, and reinforced further by the association of pleasure and relief with other

sensory aspects of smoking, and behaviours, such as drinking alcohol, that often accompany smoking.

While nicotine induces and maintains dependence on tobacco, it is not the real villain of the smoking story. Nicotine has often been blamed for the harms of smoking, but it is tobacco smoke – by far the most common vehicle for nicotine – that is responsible. Tobacco smoke in cigarettes, cigars, pipes and shisha (waterpipes) is a toxic cocktail of carcinogens and other chemicals that trigger a cascade of harm in every organ system.

Without tobacco smoke, nicotine is itself relatively harmless. Indeed, nicotine is so safe it is available over the counter in supermarkets as nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) – patches, gum, lozenges, inhaler and so on. In such “clean vehicles”, nicotine is part of the solution to the tobacco smoking problem: using NRT doubles an individual's chances of successfully quitting long-term. NRT helps people who have quit smoking to handle withdrawal symptoms until these feelings diminish over time.

But despite its availability and moderate effectiveness, most smokers don't use NRT to support their quit attempts. Most try to quit “cold turkey” and most relapse time and again to smoking.

In recent years, a new nicotine-delivery product has emerged, not from the usual pharmaceutical industry sources, but as a consumer product developed in China.

Widely known as “electronic” cigarettes, these battery-powered devices aerosolise a solution of propylene glycol that in most cases includes nicotine. In New Zealand, electronic cigarette nicotine solution is not legally allowed to be sold, although it can be imported for personal use. Users activate the device to generate and inhale the aerosol. Electronic cigarettes are now so popular in the UK they are used by more people

than use NRT to help quit smoking.

We undertook the largest yet clinical trial of these devices a few years ago and found them to be as effective at helping people quit and just as safe as nicotine patches over six months. Since then, product evolution has been rapid. New electronic cigarettes have been developed that deliver nicotine in doses equivalent to that from tobacco smoking. It is possible these newer products may be more effective at helping people quit smoking than NRT. We aim to find out if this is the case in a study funded by the Health Research Council, commencing in 2016.

Current smoking trends suggest New Zealand's ambitious goal of being a “smokefree nation” by 2025 will not be reached unless we step up evidence-based measures such as ongoing tobacco tax increases, introduce standardised tobacco packaging (as Australia has done) and embrace innovation.

Priced to compete favourably with tobacco, with regulation to ensure quality and prevent marketing and sales to minors, products such as electronic cigarettes could be effective cigarette substitutes. In such a “harm reduction” scenario, many smokers who have tried unsuccessfully to quit smoking may at last have an opportunity to enjoy longer, healthier lives.

- **Professor Chris Bullen is the Director of the National Institute for Health Innovation at the School of Population Health. He researches tobacco control and smoking cessation, population health education, health in low and middle income countries, evaluating public health interventions, and housing and health. He teaches population health education, largely undertaken via “exposure” to leading thinkers and practitioners, for Year 5 medical students in Auckland, Waikato and Whangarei. He also lectures in courses on tobacco control, clinical trials and general public health.**