

# Uni NEWS

May 2018



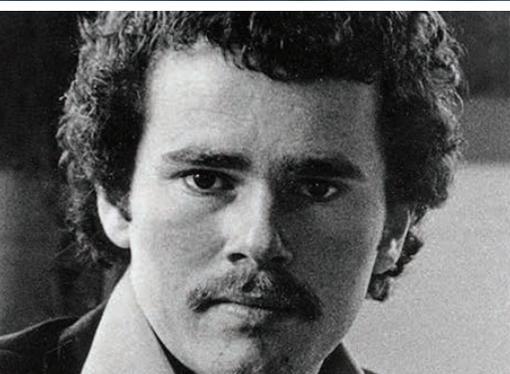
THE UNIVERSITY OF  
AUCKLAND  
Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau  
NEW ZEALAND

## BREAKING THE BARS

Imagining a world without prisons

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### GUESS WHO THIS IS?

It's none other than a slightly younger version of Media Productions producer Richard Smith, who is this month's My Story.

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### VOLCANIC VISIONS

Doctoral candidate Ben Simons has been on location researching Yasur volcano on Tanna Island, Vanuatu; one of the most frequently erupting volcanoes on earth.

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### DAME ANNE HOSTS EPIC SERIES

Distinguished Professor Dame Anne Salmond hosts *Artefact*, a six-part series screening from 7 May on Māori Television.

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# SNAPSHOTS

## INTERNATIONAL HONOUR FOR MERRYN

Professor Merryn Tawhai, deputy director of the Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI), has been inducted into the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), one of the highest honours in the field. This recognises her outstanding contribution to the development and use of computational models for the diagnosis and prognostic assessment of lung disease. Her lung models help in the understanding of both physiologically normal lungs and the pathological changes that can occur in disease.

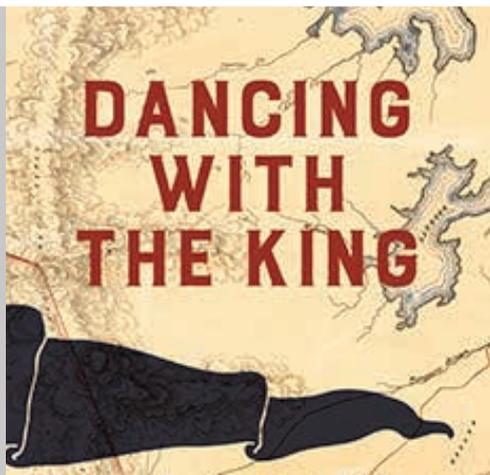


## STAFF GARDEN FLOURISHES

Staff working on a shared garden based at the Business School have just had their first harvest. Made up of academic and professional staff, the UABS Garden Group has planted out two boxes so far with herbs, vegetables and flowers. Group member Dinah Towle says the project allows staff to work the land next to the school and provides both physical and social benefits. "Our garden aims to develop and maintain a place of peace and recreation, build a community of like-minded folks and just generally contribute to the health and wellbeing of those involved."

## AUP CELEBRATES TOP PRIZE

Auckland University Press author Michael Belgrave has won the 2018 Ernest Scott Prize for history for his book *Dancing with the King: The Rise and Fall of the King Country, 1864-1885*. The \$13,000 prize is awarded annually to a work based on original research that contributes to the history of Australia or New Zealand or to the history of colonisation. The prize is presented by the University of Melbourne's Faculty of Arts, in conjunction with the Australian Historical Association.



## 2019 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Nominations are now open for the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Awards. The awards honour alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their professions, their communities and globally. To see photos and videos from past events and to submit nominations, visit [www.auckland.ac.nz/daa](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/daa). Nominations close 22 June, 2018.

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# DANCE GRADUATE A WORLD FIRST

**When Dance Studies PhD student Suzanne Cowan graduates this month, she will be the first wheelchair user in the world to complete this course of study.**

As part of her creative practice component, Suzanne devised dance works set in locations that were traditionally inaccessible for her.

“I want society to move away from definitions like disabled and non-disabled,” says Suzanne.

“Through my performance, I’m reimagining and reconstructing how we use space, and specifically our response to disability.”

An unusual performance entitled *Pt Chev*

*Hanging*, in which she hangs from a tree, suspended by ropes and dressed as Supergirl, is one of a series Suzanne has completed as part of her PhD.

She has also performed in the bush at Piha and under the skirt of a Morton Bay fig tree in a park in Mt Roskill.

Suzanne sees her desire to push her physical boundaries as a metaphor for challenging the cultural constraints connected to disability. She has been a contemporary dancer for almost two decades, touring to dozens of countries.

*Above: ‘Pt Chev Hanging’. Photo: Bronwyn Evans*

## WHAT’S NEW



### DAME ANNE HOSTS EPIC TV SERIES

**Using a range of iconic Māori objects to tell a story of New Zealand’s past, Distinguished Professor Dame Anne Salmond hosts an “ambitious and wide-ranging” TV history series entitled *Artefacts*.**

Funded by NZ on Air, the six one-hour programmes screen on Māori Television at 8.30pm from Monday 7 May to Monday 11 June.

Each episode features different artefact or taonga, both famous and obscure.

Throughout the series, Dame Anne is in conversation with a wide range of people about how each taonga’s story has shaped our history and culture.

Dame Anne and the crew from Auckland production company Greenstone TV travelled to New York, London and Europe during filming.

One of the series’ lead researchers was Dr Billie Lythberg from the Mira Szaszy Research Centre.

Among those featured are: Professor Deidre Brown; Associate Professor Manuka Henare; Senior Research Fellow Professor Dilys Johns; Dr Saeid Baroutian; Dr Kiri Dell; Philomena Pai and Te Awatea Rangiuia.

Some scenes were filmed at Grafton Campus, Waipapa Marae and Tu Tahī Tonu Marae at Epsom Campus. *Photo: © 2017 Greenstone TV Ltd*

### Autumn graduation by the numbers

A total of 6602 students will be graduating this autumn, 4942 in person and 1543 *in absentia*.

Of these, 133 people are gaining more than one qualification, and of those, 126 are gaining two, six are receiving three and one is gaining four.

The oldest graduand is 88 and the youngest are 11 aged 20. Women graduands outnumber men, with 3608 female and 2461 males.

Graduation ceremonies will be held on 7, 9 and 11 May, with speakers in order of ceremony being: Amelia Linzey, the technical director of Beca, 2018 Distinguished Alumni Robert McLeod, Former Reserve Bank Governor Graeme Wheeler and Dr Russell Wills, former Children’s Commissioner.

### Māori graduation

*Ka tohaina nga kaimahi ki te Whakaakoranga Māori*

University staff are invited to attend the Semester One 2018 Māori Graduation at the Waipapa Marae on 12 May. A student initiative, organised by Ngā Tauria Māori and supported by the University, it’s an opportunity for staff to celebrate the achievements of our Māori students with their whānau. It will start with a pōwhiri at 9am which will be followed by presentations and a celebratory meal/hākari. Academic dress is welcomed but not compulsory. To attend or help in some way, RSVP to [s.houpapa@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:s.houpapa@auckland.ac.nz) or [mso@ausa.org.nz](mailto:mso@ausa.org.nz) by Wednesday 9 May.



# WHAT'S NEW



## SELINA MEETS OBAMA

**New Zealand Poet Laureate Selina Tusitala Marsh was honoured to MC a private banquet for former US President Barak Obama during his visit to New Zealand in late March.**

An associate professor in the Faculty of Arts, Selina says she began by introducing herself to Obama, to which he replied, "I know who you are. The Arts are extremely important, and we

definitely need more poetry!" Her response: "Well, you've got more. I've signed three of my poetry books to Michelle, Malia and Sacha," with Obama replying, "Yes I know, I've been reading."

The event, held at the Viaduct Events Centre in Auckland, featured Obama in conversation with veteran Kiwi actor Sam Neill in front of 1000 guests, many of whom were prominent New Zealanders in a variety of fields.

Guests dined on a menu designed by celebrity chef Peter Gordon.

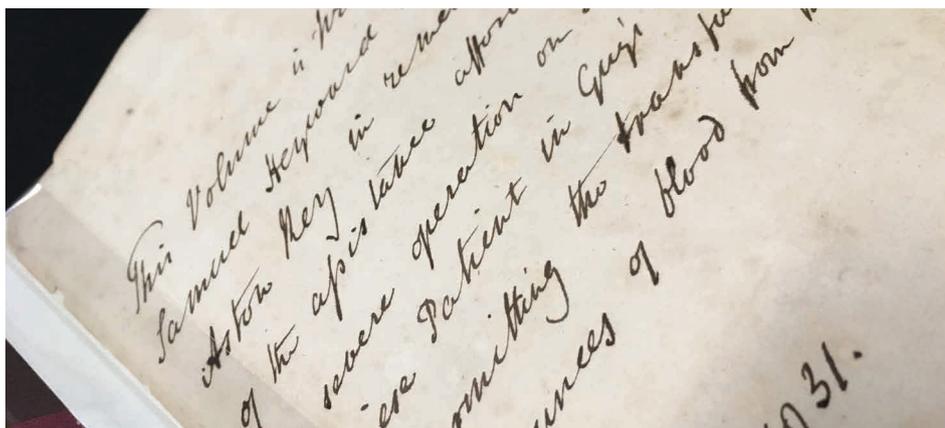
Meanwhile, Selina's uniquely carved tokotoko, which symbolises the authority and status of each New Zealand Poet Laureate, has now been officially presented to her by Haumoana carver Jacob Scott, his iwi, and the National Library at Matahiwi Marae in Hawkes Bay.

Left: Selina Tusitala Marsh at the event for Obama at the Viaduct Events Centre

## NEILL EDITION SET TEXT IN FRANCE

Emeritus Professor Michael Neill's edition of John Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi* (New York: Norton, 2015), has been prescribed as a set text for the Agrégation — the high-level public exam that all would-be university and senior high-school teachers are expected to sit in France. As a result he has been invited to address two conferences, one in Montpellier and the other in Lyon, at the end of the year.

The universities of Montpellier and Toulouse, which are collaborating on the Montpellier conference, will be flying him to France.



## RARE MEDICAL BOOK ON DISPLAY

An inscribed medical rare book offering a unique insight into a dramatic operation and blood transfusion at Guy's Hospital in London in 1831 features in the latest Special Collections display *Under circumstances of doubt and difficulty: 19th century British medical training.*

The display explores aspects of nineteenth century medical knowledge and training by delving into the books students read at the time, including some that once belonged to New Zealand's early colonial doctors.

These choice rare books from the Philson Historical Collection can be viewed outside Special Collections, General Library Level G, from 8 May until 19 June.



## ELAM GRADUATE NOMINATED FOR TURNER PRIZE

**University of Auckland Young Alumnus of the Year 2018, Luke Willis Thompson has been nominated for one of the world's most prestigious art awards, the Turner Prize.**

The nominated work *Autoportrait 2017*, was commissioned by and first shown at Chisenhale Gallery, London.

Established in the United Kingdom in 1984, the Turner prize is judged by an independent panel and worth £25,000 to the winning artist.

Each year, four artists are nominated, who are British or predominantly working in the UK, for their outstanding exhibition or contribution from the previous year.

New Zealander of Fijian and European heritage, Luke is the first artist from the Pacific region since Boyd Webb in 1988, to be nominated for the prize.

The winner will be announced on 4 December 2018.

Above: Luke Willis Thompson at the Distinguished Alumni Dinner earlier this year.

## NEED TO KNOW

### LAUNCH OF IRIS

After three years of hard work, the first phase of the University's Improving Research Support Programme (IRIS) went live in April.

Among its key aims is to provide more face-to-face, consistent and equitable support to our researchers; provide clarity as to where researchers should go for different kinds of support and reduce duplication of administrative activities.

It will also create more permanent positions and enhance career development for research support staff.

# BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS

**We're refusing bail and locking more people up for longer periods of time, hence the current blow out in the country's prison population, which stands at over 10,000.**

And with plans previously approved by the last government for a new prison costing \$1.5 billion, is there any hope of a different conversation about criminal justice?

Yes, says Professor Tracey McIntosh, and it's already happening.

"We're now talking about decarceration from a broad range of perspectives, whereas as a concept or as strategy it was, until recently, largely unknown," she says.

A longtime advocate for prison abolition through decarceration strategies, she has taught a weekly creative writing programme at the Auckland Regional Women's Correction Facility at Wiri every Friday for nine years. She's also been on a range of advisory committees, including the most recent; the Department of Corrections Academic Advisory Committee with senior Corrections staff.

"We see a move in Corrections from training staff to lock people up to training then to unlock them," she says.

"But it has to happen from the flax roots up. You can't just tear down the prison walls without addressing critical structural issues. We have to have a movement towards it; we have a duty of care for all people."

A problem for someone on parole or probation for example, is the incredible difficulty of finding housing.

"Homelessness is a huge issue; solving it needs to be a strategy of decarceration. People can't be released if there's no suitable address. Often they have conditions like non-association, or they can't be released back to their former community or communities will not accept them being released into their community. They've done their time but they're still being punished."

Besides homelessness, structural issues which lead to social harm — a term she prefers over crime — like poverty, racism and marginalisation must be addressed.

One of the biggest barriers to prison alternatives is how established the idea of locking people up has become in people's minds, says Tracey.

"Why is it so difficult, even preposterous, to imagine a world without prisons? Why do we take them for granted? All societies have social regulations and forms of social control. But prisons as the most dominant form of punishment, as *the* punishment is relatively new." She says the invisibility of prison life conveniently allows us to forget about the fate of the people



in them, and having spent a lot of time teaching inside prisons, she's struck by how noticeably the population fits a particular demographic.

"There is an incredibly homogenous element to prison; poor, Māori, disadvantaged. There are the occasional white, middle-class exceptions, but overwhelmingly the prison population is made up of people who have experienced cumulative disadvantage over their lifetimes."

## *We have to get away from the idea that locking people up is acceptable*

You ask the question of people from more privileged backgrounds 'what can I expect from my life?' and they might say they'll go to university or get a job, but either way, they have confidence that things will work out alright, she says.

"But for others, many of whom I see in prisons, they have a much stronger sense of social realism, a lack of hope, which can manifest in a number of ways. For example, 75% of the women in prison

have a diagnosed mental health disorder."

We have to do something better, she believes.

"Something that allows people to flourish, that reduces social harm and addresses the drivers of crime."

"New Zealand must show global leadership in this area. Prison abolition brings a broad range of perspectives, from the radical direct-action activist to those operating from a faith-based perspective. Many big social upheavals seemed overly idealistic before they happened; the end of slavery, votes for women, same sex marriage, but now they're the norm."

She doesn't believe we should replace our current system with a more enlightened version of the same thing.

"We have to get away from the idea that locking people up is acceptable. A new prison is estimated to cost \$1.5 billion. If we spent that money on health or education, what outcome would we get? We would expect it to make a positive difference. If you ask people if they expect a larger prison to make a positive difference, they can't really say yes."

Creating a world where prisons are a thing of the past, and where we have a greater sense of community safety, won't happen overnight. We have to take the longer view, says Tracey.

"For me as Māori, one of our greatest strengths comes to a commitment to mokopunatanga: a recognition that our focus must be on the lives of our grandchildren and their grandchildren. We have to work with conviction towards a future where the shadow of the prison no longer distorts and corrupts one's life chances, or where the inter-generational reach is so long."

■ Julianne Evans

*Tracey McIntosh is the Co-Head of School at Te Wananga o Waipapa, Māori Studies and Pacific Studies, in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Auckland.*



Left: Professor Tracey McIntosh

# MY STORY

## STAFF PROFILE



Richard Smith is a producer in Media Productions

### Tell us a bit about your family

“Splat!” and out I popped. Well that was my birth, as I imagine it might have been, some 60-odd years ago. I was ten pounds when born and my mother’s fourth child. She was 40 when I unexpectedly arrived, forcing her to immediately take up smoking and thereafter giving her cause to blame me for her subsequent addiction. Coming as I did some ten years after my older sister, I had to grow up fast to be in any way noticed by the rest of the family and achieve a ranking slightly higher than Sooty the dog. I was shaving at age two, got my first grey hair at three and was attempting to date Charmaine Fenton, the local kindergarten siren, by age four.

### How was student life?

After a largely undistinguished academic career at Westlake Boys, other than being quite good at drama, I decided to attend the University of Auckland, becoming the first in my family to do so. I was drawn more to arts than STEM subjects after my sixth form maths teacher became apoplectic with rage whenever anyone asked a question.

I enrolled in a BA majoring in psychology in a naive attempt to find myself. It was 1973 and that was a popular fad, although most other students simply crossed the road to the Kiwi Tavern, took up drinking, student politics, socialism, feminism, or retreated to their own pharmacological research lab in their bedrooms in an attempt to produce LSD. These were the days of \$5 food and \$5 rent with

a \$1 Budgie meal available at the café if you were desperate or brave.

### What happened after graduation?

On graduating BA with marks slightly to the left of the bell shaped curve, and not having found a version of myself that entirely satisfied, I decided that I might be better suited to drama than psychology.

I became one of the foundation students of the Diploma in Drama with the late, great Mervyn Thompson. These were the heady days when capping stunts abounded, pub crawls, protest marches, haka parties, toga parties and the University Capping Revue which was wildly popular with 400 drunken students a night filling the Maidment Theatre during capping week.

You know you’re getting old when, having performed in the very first Maidment production, you live long enough to see the building demolished.

I performed in some ten years of these alongside Nick Tarling, David Kirkpatrick (now Judge Kirkpatrick), Jan-Marie Doogue, (now Chief Judge of the District Court), *Outrageous Fortune* creator James Griffin and many others.

Moving into filmmaking and photography, I recorded one of the few television interviews with Frank Sargeson, sipping from his half gallon flagon of ‘Lemora’ in his Esmonde Road bach among the piles of newspapers. A private man when it came to being captured on camera, but very funny in the flesh, with an intensely irreverent and extremely naughty sense of humour.

### You’ve had a few interesting jobs?

Yes, after graduating with my newly minted drama diploma and ‘Smith and Caughey’ actor’s accent, I spent a brief time dabbling as a singing telegram man, a puppeteer, radio actor, narrator, comedian and then, after attending a TVNZ news directors’ course, I took up my final position at the University.

### So you’ve worked here for how long?

I am informed that this will be my 40th year of employment here (which gives rise to the question, ‘where is my gold watch Stuart?’) though over the years I have freelanced and done consultancy work in a variety of roles. After so long within the cloistered walls and drip line of the ClockTower, many of my friends regard me with pity as having become institutionalised. Others less charitably consider this unbroken record of employment within the University proving that in fact I *need* to be institutionalised.

### What do you value most about the job?

Forty years have seen many changes in technology, but what I do remains essentially the

same. I’m a story teller, in collaboration with others, about research; informing the public what makes the university and its knowledge worthy, unique and good.

### What does a ‘normal day’ here look like?

My job involves such diversity. I might be telling stories of surgical knot tying or earthquake engineering one day and dealing with people suffering from depression, recording a jazz concert, interviewing pre-schoolers about their dreams or kuia about their whakapapa the next. I have come to know a little about a lot and have had the privilege of seeing things others will never see; people who had only days left to live, mothers giving birth, pathologists trying to identify skeletal remains of victims who have brutally died years earlier.

I’ve also taught many students, including the Diploma of Broadcast Communication, which when it started, was the only practical television course available in New Zealand. Many of those students have gone on to do fantastic things in the world of broadcasting and film.

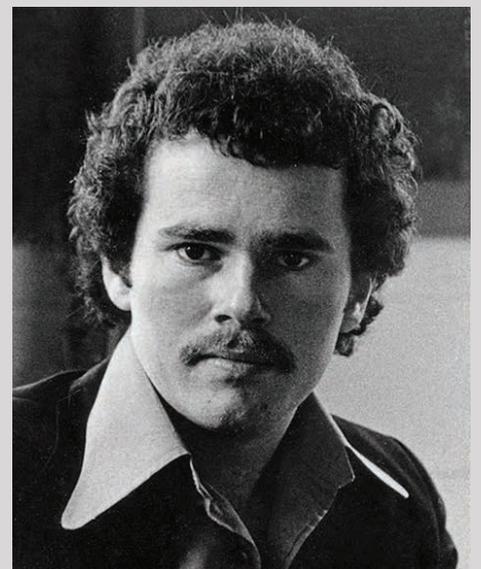
I also do media training; of staff, students, organisations, including two prime ministers and a variety of cabinet ministers, enabling them to become more relaxed, human and accessible.

### Looking back, has it been fun?

It’s been a busy time and I hope that those who have worked with me have had as much fun as I’ve had working with them.

### Does the future worry you?

I do have longer term concerns about where we might be heading as a society, with the advent of AI and robots. I take some comfort in the knowledge that there will likely still be a need for storytellers, if only to recall a time when being human and flawed made us all rather special and gave us the capacity to still have compassion and love for each other.



## IMPACT OF INCOME ON BODY WEIGHT



**National income and income inequality impacts on body size of children and adolescents, according to new research from the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.**

A study of over 200,000 children in 36 countries including New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom, has found rates of obesity can be affected by income levels, with adolescent girls showing higher rates of obesity in wealthier countries.

Associate Professor Rinki Murphy of the University's School of Medicine led the study that included the University of Otago and the Medical Research Institute of New Zealand.

The study looked at the proportion of obese and underweight young people, and also at the entire bell-shaped curve of the body weight distribution in different populations around the world.

"We found that the shapes of body weight distribution didn't differ by national income – but rather that the whole curve shifted across to the heavier end," says Rinki.

The study investigated the prevalence of underweight and obesity among female and male children and adolescents from different countries, and whether it differed by either gross national index (GNI), an estimate of national income or the Gini index, a measure of income inequality.

They analysed height and weight data from over 77,000 children aged six and seven and over 205,000 adolescents aged 13-14 from 19 and 36 different countries respectively.

They found that children and adolescents from 'lower' GNI countries had more underweight children at 6 per cent, than just 3 per cent in 'higher' GNI countries, but the rate of obesity was not different.

The BMI of participants from 'higher' GNI countries had a higher median compared to 'lower' GNI countries. Adolescent girls from higher income inequality countries had a greater median

BMI and a less skewed BMI distribution.

Low nutrition is the likely explanation for seeing greater numbers of underweight children in lower national income countries, but obesity is not confined to those living in higher national income countries.

Increased availability of calorie-dense foods and less necessity for physical activity are likely to be common in both higher and lower income countries, but could potentially affect young people from both high and low GNI countries.

***While childhood obesity is recognised as a global health problem, childhood underweight also remains a major public health concern, as both are linked with increased morbidity and***

Rinki says the results are important because while childhood obesity is recognised as a global health problem, childhood underweight also remains a major public health concern as both are linked with increased morbidity and mortality.

"Differences in the entire BMI distribution of populations from different countries may have biological and environmental explanations, which are important to examine in the context of the economic wealth of the nation and income inequality," she says.

"In wealthier nations, increased BMI can be linked to increasing sales of products like food and energy-saving devices like cars, and electronic entertainment such as television and video games, which in turn is associated with overconsumption of food and increased sedentary behaviour. These in turn could promote increases in BMI of the population. Income inequality of a nation also could influence this relationship."

Dr Murphy says more research needs to be done to find out why greater income inequality within societies was linked with greater body mass index of adolescent girls.

The next steps will be to investigate whether BMI distribution of people living in New Zealand differs with gender, socioeconomic status and/or ethnicity.

*The study, 'Obesity, underweight and BMI distribution characteristics of children by gross national income and income inequality: results from an international survey' was published in April 2018 by the Journal of Obesity Science and Practice.*

*Above: Associate Professor Rinki Murphy, of the School of Medicine*

UNINEWS highlights some of the University's people and stories that have made the headlines in the past month.

### UNHEALTHY FOOD AND DRINK MARKETING

Professor Boyd Swinburn (Population Health, FMHS) was widely quoted across broadcast and print media on his new research with 5th-Year medical student Apurva Kasture. It looked at 25 food and drink suppliers and revealed that some of them need to be doing more to fight the obesity problem in New Zealand. It also concluded that young people need to be better protected from unhealthy food marketing.

### TOKOTOKO PRESENTED

Associate Professor Selina Tusitala Marsh (English, Drama and Writing Studies) was presented with her own tokotoko (carved 'talking stick'), created for her Poet Laureateship, in front of around 100 people at Hawke's Bay's Matahiwi Marae; a story reported in *Hawkes Bay Today*.

### WEET-A-BIX WORRIES

Associate Professor Alex Sims (Commercial Law) was quoted in the *Sunday Star-Times* saying she believes Sanitarium is within its rights to try and keep its brand name from becoming generic, as the cereal-maker seeks to block the import of Weet-a-bix by a specialist British goods retailer.

### HIGHER RATES FOR ENVIRONMENT

Associate Professor Margaret Stanley (Biological Sciences) was interviewed on Radio NZ's *Morning Report* advocating for a higher targeted rate levied on households to better protect Auckland's natural environment.

### Margo Buchanan-Oliver

Professor Margo Buchanan-Oliver (20/3/1952 - 25/4/2018) has sadly passed away following a lengthy illness.

Margo was the Head of the Department of Marketing before stepping down last year. She joined the department in 1981 and served as a co-director for the Centre of Digital Enterprise (CODE) at the Business School for several years. She published prolifically in the areas of marketing, advertising, consumers and culture. An exceptional and passionate educator who strived to deliver the highest quality education, Margo has made a significant difference to many lives. She will be missed by many.

# DID YOU KNOW

## GOODBYE AFTER 46 YEARS

**Chris Thoreau retired from the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences in April after 46 years of service.**

She is one of our University's longest serving members of staff and has been an integral part of the University's medical science faculty since she started as a laboratory technician in



Biochemistry in 1972.

Back then she was based at 23 Symonds Street, but she soon became a fixture of Grafton life at what is now the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. She credits former Head of Biochemistry, the late Professor Alistair Renwick, as her mentor during her time in biochemistry until 1986. Then Ian Houston and Linda Stubbs at FMHS. She was departmental manager of Pharmacology, Clinical Pharmacology and Anaesthetics from 1986 until 1997.

Back then, the department, which was initially set up to teach medical students, had only had three technicians and just 16 science students. By 1997 it was a thriving department with a second-year, and two third-year science papers and about 70 students taking labs in streams. Technical highlights include establishing a second-year biochemistry laboratory practical course from scratch in 1985 and running it for 1986.

Then in 1995, it established the first toxicology laboratory practical course, again set up from scratch. This was later transferred to the now demolished Wallace Block at Auckland Hospital where it ran for several more years before returning to the Grafton Campus MDL teaching labs.

In her 46 years of service to the faculty, Chris has worked under all six deans. She even remembers the current dean, Professor John Fraser, arriving in biochemistry as a young man in 1980 to do his PhD. She's been Facilities and Services team leader since 2001, but when asked for a parting message, she went back to her teaching roots.

"Everyone is very focused on research which is fine, but we can't lose sight of the fact that the students need resources to learn first.

"Before they can graduate and start research it's really important that the teaching labs are adequately funded, that they are up to date and give relevant teaching experience."

Chris will be greatly missed at Grafton, not only for her wit and humour, but for her encyclopaedic knowledge of the faculty's resources and history. She's planning a busy retirement including being the team owner, manager, boss and chief mechanic of the CTR Sidecar Team (Chris Thoreau Racing), racing two different sidecars at tracks around New Zealand.

*Photo left: Chris Thoreau around the time she started working at FMHS in the early 1970s.*



## FORMER DEAN RETIRES

**Professor Barry Spicer has retired from the University after a 29-year outstanding academic and leadership career.**

Now an Emeritus Professor, Barry's most enduring legacy will probably be his leadership and service as the Dean of the Business School from 1996 to mid-2008. His achievements include a campaign that raised approximately NZ\$72 million in cash and commitments from the New Zealand Government and the private sector to support the development of the Business School – unheard of here at the time; the

accreditation of the School by the AACSB, EQUIS, and AMBA; and leading the School through the design and construction of the iconic and state-of-the-art Owen G Glenn Building, opened in February 2008. Barry also published in the top accounting journals and is the co-author of several influential books on governance, especially SOEs.

A popular teacher, he influenced change and development not only in his home Department of Accounting and Finance curriculum, but also in the Business School's curriculum. A Business School function will be held for him on 10 May, 2018.

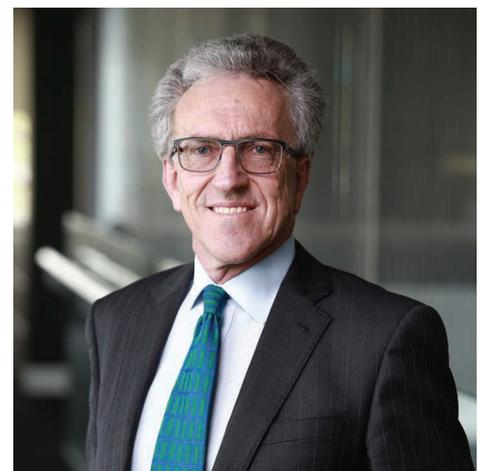
## FAREWELL TO MIKE GEDYE

**At age 61, Commercial Law Professor Mike Gedye is retiring relatively early so he can enjoy his other passion, the outdoors, starting with a lengthy holiday in Europe.**

He will be missed. In his 27 years in the Department of Commercial Law at the Business School, Mike published and consulted widely in the fields of finance law and insolvency law. He established himself as a leading international scholar in the field of personal property securities.

In 1994, he co-authored with Justice Sir Peter Blanchard a seminal text book on company receivership in New Zealand and Australia, which won the Northey Award for best legal text in New Zealand, and later co-authored with Canadian colleagues the leading New Zealand text on personal property securities law.

He worked with many law reform agencies and says the opportunity to help shape new laws here and overseas was a career highlight, alongside student contact and his close association with the professions and the judiciary.



# VOLCANIC VISIONS

**Doctoral candidate Ben Simons (Faculty of Science) has been researching active Yasur volcano on Tanna Island, Vanuatu to understand its behaviour and thereby help the local people living nearby be better prepared.**

I've been to Vanuatu many times over the last three years, with the main body of my team's research comprising a three-month period of uninterrupted monitoring at the summit of Yasur. While there, we ran our own small-scale volcanic observatory and lived right at the base, which meant we accessed the volcano almost every day. We deployed multiple instruments and collection techniques, including thermal cameras, sulphur dioxide spectrometers and an array of seismometers aimed at evaluating the relationships between gas output, magma eruption rate, explosion energy and hazard potential.

One of the perks of working on one of the world's most active volcanoes is the sheer number of explosions you get to witness, an estimated ~20,000 in my case.

I've also been lucky enough to see a number of spectacular volcanic phenomena up close such as volcanic lightning, blast waves and gas (smoke) rings.

Yasur exists in a near-continuous state of eruption which it's believed has continued for the last 1,500 years. It's also one of the most frequently erupting volcanoes on Earth, with explosions occurring almost every minute from a number of summit vents.

These 'Strombolian'-style explosions violently



eject a mixture of hot volcanic gasses, ash and lava fragments up to 500 metres into the air at speeds exceeding 400 metres per second. The regular display of spectacular showers of hot lava, as well as easy access to the summit, has turned Yasur into one of the most important tourist destinations of the Republic of Vanuatu, with visitor numbers steadily climbing. The surrounds of the volcano are heavily populated with rural Ni-Vanuatu communities who can become normalised to the regular volcanic activity, and are unprepared when potential sudden upsurges in volcanism occur. For Tanna Island, where volcanic tourism has become a major revenue source, any upsurges can have serious implications for the local economy. It's therefore important to get a clear understanding of the natural variability of these volcanoes and understand the processes that control both the style and the power of eruptive activity.

With my research, I hope to bring together an understanding of the deep internal dynamics with shallow-level processes that control

explosive eruption behaviour at Yasur. The ultimate goal is to identify potential precursory signals that may herald periods of heightened volcanic activity to help the local community build resilience to the negative effects of the volcano, as well as provide important knowledge to the agencies charged with keeping safe the many visitors that gather at the summit each night.

■ Ben Simons

Volcanoes on social media

Twitter has become a natural habitat for scientists who are increasingly interested in communicating their research to the wider public. The volcano 'World Cup' running under the hashtag #VolcanoCup is an excellent example of real time sharing of scientific fervour. This knock-out-style tournament pitted volcano against volcano, with volcanologists battling it out for votes from the Twitter geoscience community and the public.

After a series of rounds featuring competition from the famous and powerful including Vesuvius, Etna and Mt St Helens, the final of this year's Volcano Cup saw our mighty Taupo pitted against Indonesia's Krakatau. A strong cohort of New Zealand volcanologists rallied around Taupo, but Krakatau won on the day and our North Island landmark was knocked into second place.

*This story first appeared in Newsroom.co.nz*

*Photo of Ben Simons: Geoffrey Lerner*

## WHAT'S ON CAMPUS

### CHAMBER CHOIR CONCERT

**What:** *Petite messe solennelle* by the Auckland Chamber Choir

**When:** 26 May, 4.30pm

**Venue:** St Matthew's in the City, 187 Federal Street.

Marking the 150th anniversary of composer Rossini's death, the choir celebrates his work with a special free community performance of his *Petite messe solennelle*. Among the celebrated soloists performing are Dr Morag Atchison, Catrin Johnsson, Bonaventure Allan-Moetaua, James Harrison, and Eddie Giffney. The soloists and choir are joined by Dance Studies lecturer Sarah Knox to direct movement for this unique performance. Queries to [creative@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:creative@auckland.ac.nz)

### OUR STORIES SO FAR

**What:** Engineering Science – A degree of diversity: Our stories so far

**When:** 18 May 2018, 5.30 to 9pm

**Venue:** The Conference Centre, 24 Symonds Street, City Campus. Register to attend.

The Department of Engineering Science is celebrating 50 years of success with a series of stories.

Join them on Friday 18 May to hear from a number of speakers, all of whom have connections to the Department, who will showcase the unique creativity, passion and breadth of knowledge shared by their people.

### VISIONS OF THE FUTURE

**What:** Visions of Future Success. MYOB Futurist-in-Residence Keran McKenzie

**When:** Wednesday 23 May 2018, 6 to 7.30pm

**Venue:** Unleash Space, 20 Symonds Street, City Campus. Registration essential

In this Unleash Your Potential Speaker Series, the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship hosts Melbourne-based Keran McKenzie who will address fears that technology will take over our jobs and even our lives. By contrast, Keran believes the future is much more likely to see these developments support and enhance everything we do.

## NARRATIVES FROM THE PACIFIC

**A new exhibition of works with a Pacific theme from the University's Art Collection will go on show at Old Government House from 1 May.**

What separates us from our island neighbours is the great body of the Pacific Ocean.

Yet it's this water that has also brought us together. The wind and the waves have landed great voyagers here, making Aotearoa home to the largest Pacific Island population in the world.

At the end of the southern ocean, the diaspora of the Pacific congregates in a land where cultural threads weave together, representing, blending and mending the moth-eaten fabric of knowledge and tradition.

Distributed identities are an important feature of the cultural landscape in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

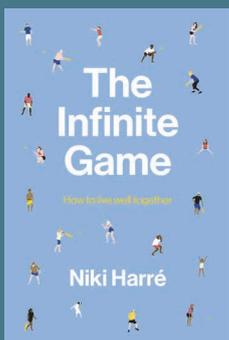
The Auckland University Art Collection holds over 1400 pieces of modern and contemporary art that trace many of the existential and identity problems confronting contemporary multicultural and neoliberal nations like ours.

Cultures float, ghosts of the past hover and ancestors watch as their modern descendants navigate and constantly renegotiate their identity in a fluid, slippery, ever-changing world.

For people to survive, cultural memory — stories, language, ways of doing and being — must be passed



## WHAT'S COMING OUT



### An invitation to play

Psychology Professor Niki Harré, associate dean (sustainability) in the Faculty of Science has not one, but two books

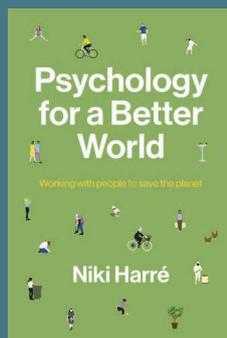
being published by Auckland University press this month.

In *The Infinite Game: How to live well together*, Niki addresses some profound and provocative questions about what our lives mean and what is important to us.

As we build our CVs or property portfolios, or help our children grow and develop, we are most often following rules, aiming for goals, trying to win: we are playing society's finite games.

But what if life is not a test match but is more like a game of beach cricket—one in which playing matters more than winning, a game that anyone can join and that people can play well together?

Informed by psychological research, this intriguing book, published this year by University Press, teaches readers how to play the infinite game. It is available as an eBook as well as in print.



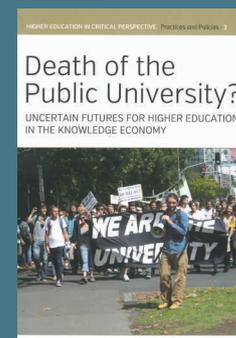
### Psychology to save our earth

Here's a guide for those who are doing what they can to save the world in their own way.

Niki Harré's book,

*Psychology for a Better World: Working*

*with people to save the planet*, is aimed at the office manager who buys Free Trade coffee, the teacher who updates her class on the latest climate change negotiations or the city councillor who lobbies for cycle lanes. It is based on the latest research and theory in psychology. Drawing on positive emotions, role-modelling and social identity, Niki Harré shows which strategies work, which don't and why.



### Uncertain future for higher education

Since the 1990s, universities have been subjected to continuous government reforms, with the

aims of making them "entrepreneurial",

on and shared. In order for a people to thrive, cultural memory must be challenged; history reread and rewritten.

Cultural identities are by nature, configurations. Artists interweave both personal and social narratives that reflect the complexities of identity constructions. The artists selected for this exhibition challenge and question social norms and commonly held beliefs expressed by mainstream media and education, reinterpreting narratives that have come to be embedded in New Zealand culture.

The search for identity has been a common theme in New Zealand art and the artists presented in this exhibition have built practices exploring their own personal and cultural identities, shedding new light on the past and creating new visions for the future. They represent an emerging trend in contemporary New Zealand art in which intercultural interactions and influences are explored.

■ Sam Melser and Lara Thomas  
Auckland University Art Collection assistants

FLUID IDENTITIES: *Narratives from the Pacific*  
An exhibition of works from the Auckland University Art Collection will be on show in the Old Government House lounge from 1 May until 7 June 2018.

Image left: Graham Fletcher,  
*Untitled (Lounge Room*  
*Tribalism)*, 2010 Oil on canvas,  
1500 x 1200mm

“efficient” and aligned with the predicted needs of a global knowledge economy. Under increasing pressure to pursue “excellence” and “innovation”, many universities are struggling to maintain their traditional mission to be inclusive, improve social equality and act as the “critic and conscience” of society.

This collection, *Death of the Public University? Uncertain futures for higher education in the knowledge economy, analyses the new landscapes of public universities emerging across Europe and the Asia-Pacific.*

It is edited by Cris Shore, professor of anthropology at the University of Auckland and Professor Susan Wright from Aarhus University in Denmark.

Many of the contributing authors are from the University of Auckland.

## ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

**HOUSE SWAP, BIRMINGHAM UK:** 12-13 months from November 2018. Large 4/5 bed family home in Kings Heath, friendly Birmingham suburb within easy commute of University of Birmingham, Queen Elizabeth hospital and city centre. Kings Heath has a great community feel, ideal for young families. Great schools in the vicinity as well as nurseries and play groups. Well set up for young children and all mod cons. We’re looking for a home in Auckland for our family of five, commutable to Middlemore Hospital. Email: ruthdonnelly151@gmail.com

**TWO BEDROOM, TWO BATHROOM FURNISHED HOME IN REMUERA/ MEADOWBANK:** Spacious feel with high ceilings and patio garden. Walk to bus stop for direct bus to Medical School or University or park car in the driveway. Suitable for visiting academics or professional couple. Available late May through November. Email: john@metronz.co.nz or text 021308800.

**PARIS APARTMENT TO RENT:** Located on the Left Bank, near the Latin Quarter, the apartment is light, quiet, on the fifth floor with a lift and an open view over Paris. It is fully equipped with TV with over 100 channels, Wi-Fi, kitchen with fridge/freezer, oven, microwave, bathroom with bath and shower. The apartment sleeps 3, is near a Metro station and several buses, providing easy access to the main tourist attractions. It is rented by the week. November to March, \$900, April to October, \$1200. Email: kotlar@ihug.co.nz

**FULLY-FURNISHED CHARACTER BUNGALOW:** 2 bedrooms, open plan kitchen/lounge/dining. Central heating, quiet, private north-facing deck. Sub-tropical gardens, 10 min. bus to University, one min walk to shopping mall. \$850 p.w. incl. water, internet, excl. electricity/gas. Available for 7-10 months. Email: anita@levering.co.nz

**WAIHEKE ISLAND:** Characterful, sunny and compact cottage. Perfect for sabbatical, writing retreat or holiday. Coastal views and walks to beaches. Bus stop right outside property. Fully-equipped kitchen. WiFi provided. Maximum four guests. Minimum one week. Shorter stays by arrangement. For information, rates and photos email: pat.neuwelt@gmail.com

**SIX-MONTH RENTAL:** 4 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom home on 3 levels, available mid-July 2018 to mid-January 2019. Quiet, private, spacious, & located in St Heliers/Glendowie (5-10 minutes to Tamaki, 25+ minutes to city/Grafton). Negotiable furnished or unfurnished, & with or without car. \$980 week. Email: j.wiles@auckland.ac.nz

**BRIGHTON ROAD, PARNELL, LARGE 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT:** in elegant heritage building. Recently redecorated including new kitchen. Secure garage, sea views, all day sun, and deck. Ultra fast broadband and Sky connection available by arrangement. Suit visiting academics close to University and Medical school. Contact by text: 021 415 770.

**PARNELL - FULLY FURNISHED TWO BEDROOM HOUSE.** Available 15 May to 25 October. Short, easy walk to University and city. \$285 per week. Contact: jmgee1@gmail.com, phone or text: 021 0409 499.

**FULLY-FURNISHED HOUSE IN BELMONT, NORTH SHORE:** 3-bedrooms, 1-bathroom, sunny, nice outlook, private back and front gardens. Close to schools, parks and beaches. Ferry or bus to University. Available from May-June till mid-November. \$600 per week. Contact: j.laurie@auckland.ac.nz

## SERVICES

**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 call our senior solicitor Nichola Christie on 600 0256 to discuss your needs, or email: nchristie@rainey.co.nz. Visit www.rainey.co.nz

**NOTARIAL SERVICES:** I am a Notary Public with many years experience and can notarise documents to be sent overseas and provide my Notarial Certificate. I am situated on the ground floor, Princes Court, 2 Princes Street, Auckland, next to the Pullman Hotel. Phone Stewart Germann on (09) 308 9925 to make an appointment or email: secretary@germann.co.nz

**DIGITAL PRINTING:** Course books, presentation and display prints, conference printing, pull up banners, posters and flyers. Barry Hards is our specialist university print adviser. Contact him at barny@newcomb.co.nz. Newcomb Digital, 2A Augustus Terrace, Parnell. Phone 303 2878. Approved ‘preferred supplier’ to the University of Auckland.

**EDITORIAL AND PROOFREADING SERVICES:** Providing excellence in assistance with all aspects of thesis preparation, abstract, formatting, editing. Conference papers and getting your abstract accepted. I am interested in providing support to energetic students in all academic fields. Published author and graduate. Contact: Editorial0021@gmail.com 022 090 1513

**VEHICLE FOR SALE:** 1998 Nissan Sentra S/W 87024kms. Ex UoA fleet car. Manual. White. Inviting offers until 23 May. Email Jonathan for info on: j.walter@auckland.ac.nz



## LEST WE FORGET

**Dr Maria Armoudian, senior lecturer in Politics and International Relations, and freelance journalist James Robins remember the heroic efforts of New Zealand newspapers and citizens that helped persecuted Armenians.**

'The Horrors of Armenia, Unspeakable Cruelties,' was a headline in the *New Zealand Herald* in 1895.

*"The Turkish government has determined upon the obliteration of the Armenian race by the most frightful campaign of murder, wholesale massacre, forced starvation and unspeakable tortures ever conceived in the history of the world."*

This was one example of the tens of thousands of articles published by New Zealand newspapers before, during, and after the official date of the Armenian Genocide, 24 April, 1915. Through their papers, New Zealanders learnt about Armenians' long suffering under Ottoman Turkey's decades-long pogroms against the Armenian people.

They read about massacres, murders, rapes, pillaging and attempted annihilations for decades before what we now acknowledge as the Armenian Genocide, which resumed again after the conclusion of the First World War. They were told about the struggle to survive under constant repression, discrimination, extortion and regular human rights violations.

Political communication scholars debate the effects of media coverage. But in the case of New Zealand, the reporting of these atrocities prompted New Zealand humanitarians to take action. From across the country, leaders such as James Adam, Reverend Wright and poet, writer and suffragette Jessie Mackay organised relief efforts and humanitarian aid to alleviate the survivors' suffering. New Zealanders contributed from their own pockets to help an indigenous people killed in their own lands.

These great humanitarians of our small, remote country could not have acted had they not known about those atrocities, thanks to a dedicated newspaper corps covering the story. This is a proud part of New Zealand history that should not be forgotten.

The intertwining fates of Kiwis and the Armenians converged more intimately in 1915. On 24 April, 1915, the evening before the Gallipoli invasion, the Turkish government of the Ottoman Empire began implementing a plan to annihilate the Armenians once and for all. They rounded them up and slaughtered, drowned, crucified, burned alive and deported them to concentration camps in the deserts.

Anzac soldiers witnessed parts of the executions, writing in their diaries and letters back home about "Armenian homes smashed in and corpses half-covered with soil or flung down a hollow, where the Turk had passed". Some New Zealand soldiers fought to rescue Armenians and Assyrians. At least one died in the process.

Within two weeks, the news of mass annihilation reached New Zealand again. At least eight newspapers reported in late April, 1915 that "Mahommedans are massacring Armenians wholesale. The inhabitants of ten villages were slaughtered." Again New Zealand citizens responded. The *Herald* published appeals by one of the Armenian relief organisers, Dr L.L. Wirt, to support the thousands of surviving Armenians, including around 100,000 orphans.

Kiwis again donated from their own pockets, and one Christchurch couple, Lydia and John Knudsen, dedicated their efforts to help build the Australasian orphanage for the Armenian children whose parents perished in the genocide.

Sadly, today, the intertwined history, the deep connection between New Zealanders and Armenians has been lost, even while Armenians have become part of the country's fabric. This is partly because Gallipoli, and perhaps World War One itself, has been reframed as a fraction of the reality that it was, a reframing that fails to recognise either the heroic efforts of New Zealand citizens, soldiers and journalists, or Turkey's genocide of its indigenous Christian populations — Armenians, Assyrians and Pontic Greeks. The shrouding of these realities also arises from the New Zealand government's diplomatic aid to Turkey, the country responsible for the genocide, by erecting monuments to Turkish leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

This masks Ataturk's continuation of genocidal policies of the region's indigenous populations, the Armenians, after World War 1, and robs New Zealand of its rich and generous history.

As we have passed the 103rd anniversary of the two events, we can revisit the connection between New Zealand and the Armenians by recalling heroic efforts by New Zealand newspapers, soldiers and civic leaders to rescue and support Armenians targeted for genocide.

This gives us a richer, more truthful understanding of the First World War, one in which New Zealanders, as they often have, acted with a strong sense of ethics and compassion for suffering people. It simultaneously gives substance to the credo of "Never Again," by refusing to enable genocide denial, all while supporting the healing of our fellow Armenians.

*Dr Maria Armoudian, pictured above, is senior lecturer in Politics and International Relations at the University of Auckland, and the author of two books: Reporting from the Danger Zone: Frontline Journalists, Their Jobs and an Increasingly Perilous Future, and Kill the Messenger: The Media's Role in the Fate of the World. James Robins is a freelance journalist finishing a book about New Zealand and the Armenian Genocide.*

*Photo left: An Armenian refugee camp in 1915. Courtesy of the National Library of New Zealand.*

