

Uni NEWS

December 2018



GOOD CHEER

Roy Good retrospective

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SUMMER WINE AT GOLDIE

Just in time for Christmas parties, the University's Goldie Estate Vineyard is celebrating the success of its new rosé.

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TRUCKING ALONG

Ahead of her retirement from the University in January, former *UniNews* editor and longtime staff member Judy Wilford reflects on her many adventures thus far.

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REMEMBERING IAIN

We pay tribute to internationally renowned art historian and Faculty of Arts staff member Iain Bell Buchanan who died suddenly in November.

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Main cover image: Roy Good (b. 1945),
An Episode of Events, 1971,
 PVA on canvas, 1218 x 1218mm

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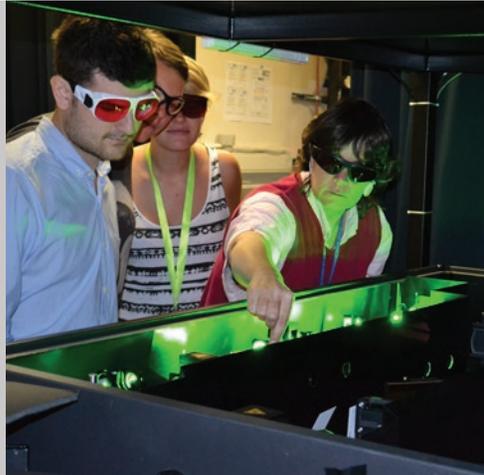
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NEW ROYAL SOCIETY FELLOWS

University of Auckland academics made up nearly half of the 20 new Fellows elected to New Zealand Royal Society Te Apārangi in November. Bioengineers Merryn Tawhai and Simon Malpas; scientist Cather Simpson; philosopher Gillian Brock; Professor of Indigenous Studies Linda Waimarie Nikora and Professor of Law David Williams; ophthalmologist Charles McGhee and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Cynthia Farquhar were elected to the Academy for their international distinction in research, scholarship and the advancement of knowledge.



HONOUR FOR SIMON HOLDAWAY

The Australian Academy of the Humanities has elected University archaeologist Professor Simon Holdaway as Corresponding Fellow to the Academy, one of the highest honours for achievement in the humanities in Australia. Head of the School of Social Sciences, Simon was chosen for his international leadership in Australian, Egyptian and New Zealand archaeology, and stone artefact analysis. The University is ranked 10th in the world for Archaeology in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2018.



TOP SCIENCE AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to Faculty of Science Professors John Montgomery and Jadranka Travas-Sejdic who were both honoured at this year's New Zealand Association of Scientists awards held in November. John, *right*, was (jointly) awarded the Marsden Medal for his significant contribution to the field of research into fish biology and behaviour. Jadranka was awarded the Shorland Medal for her work in advanced polymeric and nanomaterials and their application in biomedicine and bioelectronics.



LAW LECTURER TO JOIN COMMISSION

Dr Andrew Erueti, a senior lecturer in the Auckland Law School, will be joining the Royal Commission into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-Based Institutions. Andrew specialises in the human rights of the child, indigenous rights, international human rights law and Ngā Tikanga Māori. The inquiry recently expanded its scope to include faith-based institutions and hopes to "confront a dark chapter of our national history...and learn the lessons for the future," said Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on announcing the expansion.



MARSDEN SUCCESS

The University was awarded more than \$18 million in the latest Marsden Fund round, supporting 29 significant research projects across five faculties and a research institute.

Fifteen research projects from the Faculty of Science received a total of \$9,158,000.

Among these, Dr Paul Harris will be looking at a project titled: *Sweetening biological therapeutics-chemical synthesis of glycoprotein mimics*.

Grants of \$3,585,000 were awarded to five research projects from the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, including Professor Julian Paton's work on *The Forgotten Circulation*.

Grants worth a total of \$2,197,000 were awarded to three projects from the Faculty of Engineering, including for Associate Professor Peng Cao's project *Locking up oxygen in titanium to achieve strength-ductility synergy*.

The Auckland Bioengineering Institute was awarded two grants totalling \$1,254,000, including Dr Alys Clark's international project to build the world's first virtual pregnant uterus. Five projects from the Faculty of Arts were awarded a total of \$1,822,000. These include one led by Waitangi Tribunal historian Dr Aroha Harris titled: *Whanau Ora With, Against, and Beyond the State* and four Fast Start projects for early career researchers.

Outstanding teachers



Congratulations to the 2018 University of Auckland Teaching Excellence Awards winners who were: for Sustained Excellence in Teaching, Associate Professor Andrew Luxton-Reilly, Department of Computer Science,

and Dr Ngarino Ellis, Art History, School of Humanities. The Early Career Excellence in Teaching awards went to Dr Claire Meehan, *above*, Sociology and Criminology, and Teri Ko, Te Kupenga Hauora Māori, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. Andrew Eberhard, Department of Information Systems and Operations Management, received the Leadership in Teaching and Learning award.

DAMON SALESA – OUR FIRST PRO VICE-CHANCELLOR PACIFIC

Associate Professor Toeolesulusulu Damon Salesa has been appointed to the inaugural position of Pro Vice-Chancellor (Pacific).

Previously called the Director of Pacific Strategy and Engagement, the role changed on 5 November and will involve building on the leadership Damon already provides to Pacific staff and students as well as developing the University's strategy for engagement with Pacific communities, both in New Zealand and throughout the region.

Home to the country's largest collection of Pacific scholars and staff, the University is a global leader in Pacific research and teaching and currently has around 3,500 students of Pacific descent, the largest number studying for degrees at any university in New Zealand.

Dr Jemaima Tiatia-Seath, Co-Head of School and Head of Pacific Studies (Acting), says this is a unique role "clearly demonstrating the university's commitment to our growing Pacific student population, as well as to their families

and communities.

"It's a shift in the right direction with excellent leadership found in our very own Pacific taonga, Associate Professor Salesa, at the helm."

Of Samoan descent on his father's side, Damon grew up the fourth of five children in Glen Innes in a family that placed a lot of importance on education.

The first person of Pacific descent to become a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, where he studied Pacific history and empire, he has published widely on race, empire and colonialism, with a special focus on Samoa.

After taking up a one-year fellowship at the National Library of Wellington, where he met his wife Hon Jenny Salesa, the Labour MP for Manukau East, he taught Pacific, British imperial and American history for ten years at the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor), where his two daughters were born. He will be based mostly in the Vice-Chancellor's office, but will also have responsibility for management of the Fale Pasifika.

BUILDING LEADERSHIP

Exemplary leadership skills and an "open and honest approach" won the University's Associate Director of Property Services Colleen Seth the outstanding leader of the year award from the Property Council of New Zealand last month. In her previous position as Planning and Development Manager, she was responsible for master planning, town planning and asset and resource planning for five major campuses

and several smaller sites. Director of Property Services Peter Fehl says Colleen has brought "a fine sense of architecture and urban planning to the University's masterplanning processes".

Colleen was responsible for the design and construction of a wide range of projects including: seismic upgrades of several buildings, B303 Maths and Physics building strengthening and upgrade, the new chemistry building B302, Alfred Nathan House, the ClockTower and many others.

Peter Fehl says Colleen is highly respected throughout the industry, and within the University, for her "strong and empathetic leadership as well as her exceptional skills and where necessary, dogged perseverance".



Award-winner Colleen Seth, centre, surrounded by members of the Property Services team.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY VELOCITY

Celebrating its 15th year, Velocity – formerly called Spark – was born of a big idea: to transform New Zealand into a growing and prosperous country by reshaping its economy.

It's now New Zealand's leading programme of its kind and its flagship event, the annual Velocity \$100k Challenge, is a competition for emerging entrepreneurs open to students, staff and alumni.

Since 2003, alumni have launched more than 120 ventures, attracted over \$220 million in investment, created more than 700 jobs and sold products and services into 37 countries.

Among the success stories: wireless power technology company PowerbyProxi, earthquake protection innovator Tectonus and Greenspot Technologies, which makes nutrient-rich alternative flours from vegetable and fruit waste.

Velocity is delivered in partnership with the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE), which is based at the Business School.

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE LAUNCHED AT PEMBRIDGE HOUSE

With dancing lions and a mission to enhance the knowledge of Chinese language and culture in New Zealand, the Model Confucius Institute was launched at historic Pembridge House last month.

The Institute's main focus is Chinese education in schools, support for tertiary Chinese language programmes and China

studies through connections with Chinese universities and academics. The Chinese-in-schools programme alone has offered Chinese language teaching to more than 130,000 New Zealand students. A joint study centre with Shanghai's Fudan University will also be based at Pembridge House. The University is a founding partner of the Auckland Institute.

NEW BACHELOR OF DESIGN FOR 2020

The Faculty of Creative Arts and Industries will be offering a new Bachelor of Design in 2020. The programme will be based at Elam School of Fine Arts and headed by Associate Professor Debra Polson, *below*, who is currently based at Queensland University of Technology. She will be joining the University in January 2019. A Master of Design degree will be added in 2021. For expressions of interest visit: www.design.auckland.ac.nz



GIVING OUR NURSING STUDENTS A HAND UP

Next year around 100 University of Auckland students will start their nursing training, but overcoming the financial barriers to studying will be a large problem for some.

To help address this, the Alumni Relations and Development team has put out a special appeal to 5,000 alumni seeking their help to support nursing scholarships.

Offering kindness when people need it most has been a rewarding career for the University's Head of Nursing Professor Sandie McCarthy, *right*.

Sandie remembers sewing a quilt while listening to a cancer patient's struggles, an activity which she says allowed the patient to feel more comfortable in her final days.

"This act of solidarity and compassion seemed to bring her peace and she was able to open up to me about the emotional turmoil she was experiencing", says Sandie.

"She told me the quilt would be her memorial, and it was. She died shortly after I finished it and her story is woven into its fabric." The quilt has



been on Sandie's bed ever since.

"It acts as a reminder of the importance of patiently listening and the personal acts that make this job life-changing."

The appeal is part of a wider Christmas alumni appeal. To find out more or make a donation visit: www.giving.auckland.ac.nz/Christmas.



JUDY WILFORD

Judy Wilford is a senior publications editor in Communications and Marketing

What was your childhood like?

I had a sort of free-range childhood. I remember swinging happily on the fragile top-most branches of trees so high they would have horrified some of today's protective parents. I grew up in Hawke's Bay and loved the climate there – long, warm dry summers and crisp sharp winter mornings with ice on the puddles to jump on and break. And the landscape really sank into my psyche so that even after decades away, I still have the feeling of coming home when I turn into the Esk Valley and head towards the sea.

But you left soon after you finished school?

Yes, I had a yen to wander, and indulged it as soon as I had a chance. My first big journey was to Italy, where I stayed for a couple of years before deciding I'd better come home and carry on with my education – which I've been doing off and on ever since, compulsively returning every few years as a more and more mature student.

You've had a long history with education and universities?

I've managed to make it gloriously self-indulgent, driven much more by my interests and impulses than by any sensible economic and career plans. I must hold some kind of record for being a student at the most universities – the University of Auckland is the eighth – the ninth if you count Unitec, where I did a short CELTA course for teaching English to adults. And now I'm really excited because I'll be coming back to this University as a student in the second half of next year to continue with a Master of Conflict and Terrorism that I've already started.

What was your first job?

I did a few orchard and factory jobs to fund my studies in the early days but I think my favourite was a few months as a truck driver for my father, who had a carrying business. It was quite exhilarating being in charge of a big machine that lumbered around from one farm to another picking up loads of sheep or cattle or hay or wool. I loved the feeling of living in my father's world, which was very much a man's world at that time.

What sort of work have you done at the University?

It's always been about telling stories and putting together publications like *UniNews* for many years, and later *Ingenio*, the alumni magazine. The first story I ever wrote here was about statisticians and it made me realise they had just as much fun with numbers as writers have with words. The next I remember was about a visiting artist who was specialising in making prints inspired by urine stains left by dogs on the footpaths of Paris. You couldn't get much more variety than that.

What do you like most about it?

It means you can step for an hour or two into someone else's life with a licence to ask questions. Then you often step out on a high from learning about another world. Over the years I've interviewed people I'd never have dreamed of meeting: like the professor of intellectual property at Oxford, the politician in charge of all the research institutes in China, one of the judges from South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and famous writers like Bryan Sykes, Marina Warner and John Conway, author of books on popular mathematics.

I love the buzz of the University, which is a rich and creative place that I've been happy to work at for nearly 20 years. I love the fact that new knowledge is being created all the time. I've learned such a lot from people on the staff like Distinguished Professor Richard Faull, whom I particularly admire because he's shown me that some types of research depend for their success not only on intellectual prowess but also on a genuine love and respect for people.

You like to travel. Have you got any favourite countries?

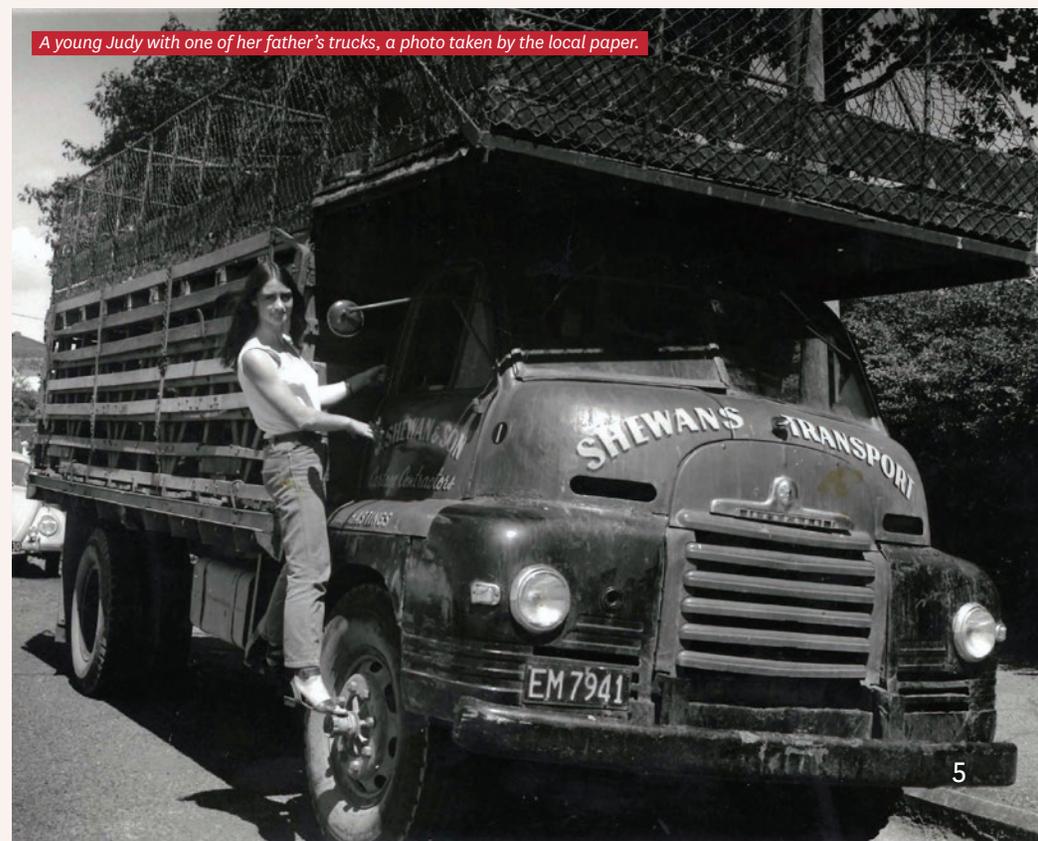
Italy, Turkey, Syria (in more peaceful times), Georgia, where absolutely everybody loves the arts, and Bolivia, where I looked after a small puma and taught a hawk to fly. And Australia, which is my second home.

What are you planning to do next?

I've made the decision to retire from the University at the end of January 2019, then I'll do some travel. Cuba and Italy are both on the horizon. I also plan to do some freelance work. And of course, I'll be studying here, so I really don't have to say any final goodbyes. In fact, I believe the Staff Common Room Club has made me a life member.

Any reflections on life so far?

Just that mine has been very privileged. I grew up in a loving family, have had chances for travel and education, marriage and children. I no longer have my husband but I have two wonderful sons. I've also had interesting jobs and have friends who enrich my life greatly, including my brother and sister. There's not much more I could ask for.





GOLDEN WEATHER WINE

UniNews caught up with the Goldie Estate winemaker Heinrich Storm ahead of the busy summer season.



How did the vineyard come to be owned by the University?

Early wine industry pioneers Kim and Jeanette Goldwater founded the Goldwater brand on Waiheke in 1978, creating a number of international award-winning wines over many years. In 2011, the Goldwaters generously made a gift to the University as part of a development that saw the vineyard and winemaking operation become a new centre for the University's Wine Science programme.

Goldwater then became Goldie Estate?

Yes in 2009, by which time they had operations in Hawkes Bay and Marlborough, the Goldwaters sold the brand to a US wine investor but retained their original Waiheke vineyard. With the University in mind, daughter Gretchen Goldwater and her husband Ken Christie set up a small commercial wine company called Goldie Wines to preserve the vineyard's history.

What does the estate consist of?

It's 13.9 hectares in Ostend which includes winery buildings, a function room, a cellar door and deli, two residences and seven hectares of vines in cabernet sauvignon, merlot, cabernet franc, syrah, chardonnay and viognier. These are bottled under the Goldie Estate and Reserve labels, producing a total of about 2,000 to 3,000 cases per year.

Where do the students come in?

The vineyard and winery operates two parallel streams, with a team continuing to produce wines commercially under the Goldie Estate brand, while Wine Science students produce their own wines for learning and research purposes.

What does a typical working day look like?

Being a small boutique producer means no day is ever the same. It could include anything from tending vines and barrel tastings to cleaning tanks and, during vintage, being thigh-deep in a syrah ferment or assessing fruit ripeness in the vineyard.

What motivated you to become a winemaker?

When I was studying I was fortunate enough to have MW Cameron Douglas (New Zealand master sommelier) as one of my tutors. It was his passion for wine which really struck a chord with me.

Tell us about your latest release

Just in time for summer parties, we've just released our 2018 Waiheke Island Goldie Estate Rosé which recently picked up a silver medal at the New Zealand International Wine Show.

Do University staff get a discount on Goldie wine?

Yes all University staff are entitled to a 25 percent discount on Goldie Estate wines. Visit the staff intranet page, under 'staff benefits'.

To place an order go to: www.goldieestate.co.nz

COCKTAILS AND KHRUSHCHEV

Law lecturer, poet, writer and raconteur, Bernard Brown has been a popular and recognisable identity around the University since 1962, when he famously arrived in Auckland and “slept under a banana palm off Bowen Avenue for four nights”.

“It was very comfortable,” he says, “and it wasn’t Darwin (too hot) or Brisbane (too grey) on the day I saw it, both of which places I’d stopped over on my way to Whenuapai Airport.”

Known for his nimble way with words and irreverent humour, Bernard’s latest book *Cocktails with Molotov and Tea with Mr Lee*, (Atuanui Press, 2018) is a combined humorous-verse-and-prose volume, a follow up to *Sensible Sinning* (2012).

It features a colourful cast of world figures including Margaret Thatcher, former premier of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew, and *A Clockwork Orange* author Anthony Burgess, with all of whom Bernard has had either real or imagined connections.

Broadly autobiographical, it’s in three parts, the first starting in 1945 with Bernard, aged ten, attending the British Labour Party’s Conference in Bournemouth with his politically active father.

It then traces Cold War events, mostly through his father’s recollections of the Molotov-Khrushchev tensions in the former USSR, in which he writes as Khrushchev in the first person.

He says he enjoyed “occupying” the Khrushchev persona.

“My rustic English background predisposed me to his rough peasant humour.”

A second section, *Spyglasses*, covers real and imagined espionage in England and the Middle East, through the war years and the Cold War.

As an RAF officer, Bernard was “accidentally caught up” in the Soviet spy Kim Philby’s hasty exit to Moscow from Beirut.

This segment was first written in the 1950s but due to its sensitive content, says Bernard, was gagged by a Whitehall D-Notice, an official request to news editors not to publish or broadcast items on specified subjects for reasons of national security.

He first encountered Margaret Thatcher, then Margaret Roberts, in a Suffolk chemical laboratory and later at the height of her power

at London’s Mansion House. He records his first impression in the poem *The Magic of Thatcher*:

Margaret Hilda Roberts
just down from Oxford
with a third in Chemistry
was introduced to me, 16,
in her boss’s mean laboratory.
“Pleased to meet ya Miss.” But
she, with slate blue eyes and
concrete hairdo, looked straight
through me. I gave up Chem.
and, like the nation, never
did recover from her brand of s.& m.
(*Cocktails with Molotov, Tea with Mr Lee*, p.63)

Bernard met Lee Kuan Yew, whom he describes as “brilliant and ruthless” at a university afternoon tea event in the dying days of colonial Singapore in the 1950s when he was teaching in the law faculty at Singapore University.

“To my nervous complaint about legislation providing for indefinite detention without trial, Mr Lee swiftly replied that, given a choice, 99.9 percent of his citizens would opt for a full bowl of rice per day over repeal of the legislation. Not long after tea, I found myself on an aeroplane to New Zealand,” he writes.

His poem *Tea with Mr Lee* neatly sums up the exchange:

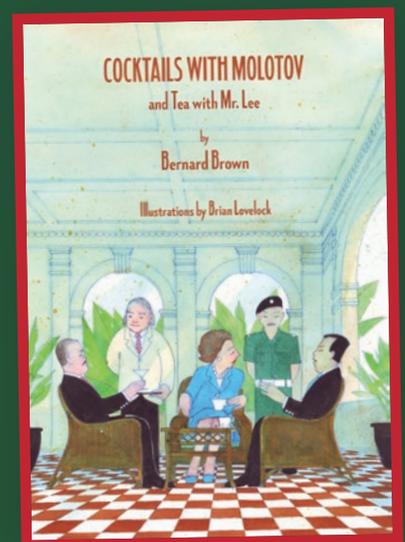
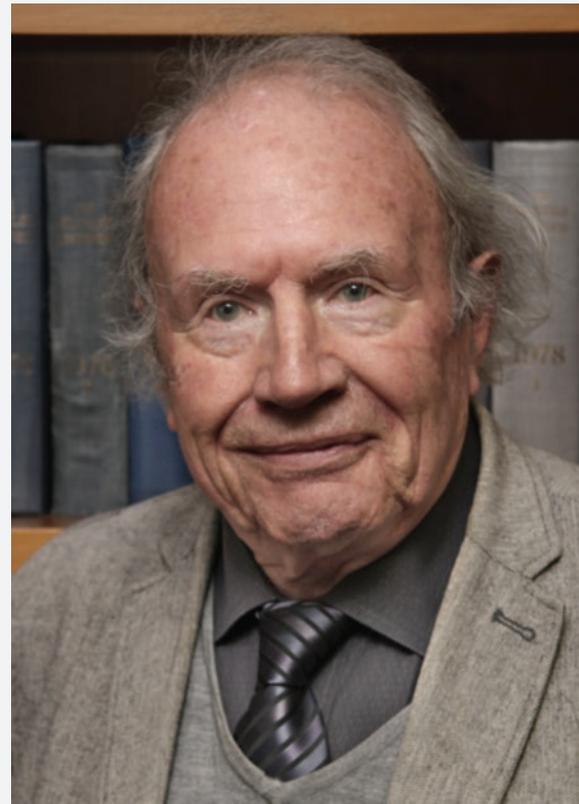
On tea with Mr. Lee
I will not dwell.
Suffice to say it
Did not go too well.
(*Cocktails with Molotov, Tea with Mr Lee*, p.86)

Later in Auckland at the Law School, Bernard taught the young David Lange (“his Masters thesis was awarded the highest mark of any student before or possibly since”) and records “some comedic verbal tussles” between the then Prime Minister Lange and Lee Kuan Yew, in which he notes that “Lange was not invariably the winner”.

By way of an excuse for his ribald take on 20th century affairs, Bernard says it can all be summed up in his final poem:

And I?
one has to keep on asking Why
An only child
the only thing that made my mother wild
was when my father took me to the swings
and came home with a different child
(*Cocktails with Molotov, Tea with Mr Lee* p.113)

■ Julianne Evans



A Professional Teaching Fellow in the Auckland Law School, Associate Professor Bernard Brown has taught criminal law and legal history and introduced criminology as a subject. In 2000, he was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to legal education. Cocktails with Molotov and Tea with Mr Lee is his tenth book and features a cover image and illustrations by geothermal scientist and children’s book illustrator Brian Lovelock. It’s available at Ubiq.

VIRTUAL PREGNANCY A WORLD FIRST

An international project to create the world's first virtual pregnant uterus has won the Auckland Bioengineering Institute top Marsden funding and made national media headlines.

Bioengineer Dr Alys Clark and biomedical scientist Dr Jo James were awarded \$954,000 over three years to research the anatomy and physiology of the blood vessels in the uterus so they can create a computational anatomic atlas of its structure and function in pregnancy.

"While other projects around the world are researching and making models of the individual parts of the uterus, we're trying to understand how it works as a whole system," says Alys.

Working internationally with researchers from Oxford and Cambridge Universities, the Auckland team (co-led out of Bioengineering and the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences) will use the virtual model to study how blood vessels in the uterus contribute to blood flow to the placenta.

"The placenta acts as a life support system for a growing fetus during pregnancy by delivering



From left: Dr Alys Clark and Dr Jo James will make history with the first virtual pregnant uterus.

oxygen and nutrients from mum's blood and eliminating waste," says Jo.

It does this by actively modifying the blood vessels in the uterus to increase blood flow to the developing baby. However, this process fails in 10 percent of pregnancies, leading to fetal growth restriction (FGR) where babies are born abnormally small.

"We are very poor at predicting this disorder," says Jo. "We have no way to predict which babies will be affected at an early stage of the pregnancy, and around half of pregnancies affected by FGR are not diagnosed until delivery, even with modern medical imaging."

"Our inability to effectively predict FGR is partly because we have a very poor understanding of how the uterus delivers blood to the placenta,

even in normal pregnancy," she says.

The Auckland team will investigate how changes in blood flow could affect a mother's ability to nourish her baby. Past research has focused on small blood vessels between the uterus and the placenta. However, computational models the team has already built suggest that larger blood vessels also play an important role in regulating blood flow to the placenta. The 'virtual uterus' will mimic dynamic changes in blood vessel structure and simulate interactions between the blood circulations of the uterus and placenta during pregnancy.

The team hope it will help them to better understand how mothers deliver effective nutrition to the developing fetus and lead to improved early detection and diagnosis of FGR.



THE GIG TRAP

The first-ever study to track thousands of people through different work arrangements over time has revealed that the gig track can quickly become a gig trap.

For all the hype about the choice and flexibility of the 'gig economy' – think Uber drivers – University of Auckland research suggests most people prefer a regular nine-to-five-style job, but when people start out in nonstandard or 'gig' jobs, their chances of switching to a conventional job later are surprisingly low.

Nonstandard is defined as any paid work that doesn't involve a full-time 'permanent' employment contract – including casual, contract, temporary, or part-time jobs.

Professor Elizabeth George, from the Graduate School of Management in the Business School, and her collaborators mined rich data from a long-range French survey that followed the work lives of 10,000 young people who finished their education in 1998.

"We wanted to know if the gig economy delivered on its promise of choice and flexibility for workers," she says. "Do individuals want nonstandard gig-style jobs? And can they easily switch between standard and nonstandard jobs?"

"We were also curious to see if educational levels shaped preferences and outcomes. We found that people who started out in nonstandard work arrangements had a low likelihood of changing to a standard job," she

says. However, people who started in standard employment were more likely to be in this kind of job at any given point months or years later.

The difference was more dramatic for people with high and low levels of education. Possible reasons have to do with the investment – like training – businesses make in permanent staff, but not temporary or casual staff, she says.

The researchers also found that compared to those in nonstandard jobs people in standard employment were more satisfied with their pay, reported a greater sense of professional accomplishment, and had greater optimism about the future.

They were also less likely to be searching for a new job. People with high and low levels of education and in standard jobs were even more optimistic than those with medium levels, while people with low education levels in standard jobs were least likely to be job hunting.

Elizabeth is now examining the French data to see if gender and social class affects job choices and outcomes, and beginning a separate study into the experience of social and psychological connection and isolation for people in nonstandard work.

IN MEMORIAM



IAIN BELL BUCHANAN

29 August 1948 –
14 November 2018

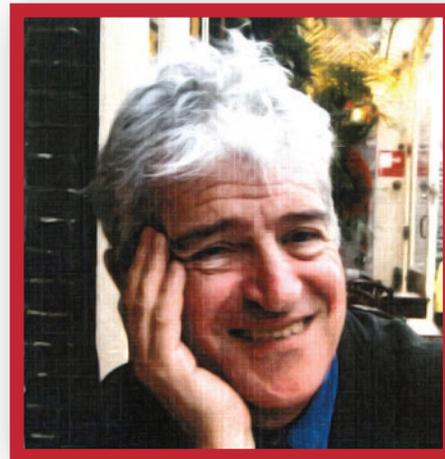
An international expert in Northern Renaissance Art, Associate Professor Iain Bell Buchanan died suddenly on 14 November.

A valued member of the Faculty of Arts staff since 1974, Iain had more than 40 years experience in research, teaching and publication in his field, and there was no scholar in Australasia with a record of publication to rival his, says colleague, Associate Professor Linda Tyler.

Born in Glasgow, he attended Manchester and Essex universities and was appointed lecturer in Art History at the University of Auckland in 1974.

He quickly attracted a huge following for his courses in Renaissance Art, and on the paintings and prints of the German artist Albrecht Dürer. He also introduced a postgraduate course

in Art Historiography. Iain's research was internationally acclaimed, and he published widely, with articles on the collecting and patronage of the Netherlandish artist Pieter Bruegel as well as Dürer, and Flemish tapestry, in leading periodicals such as the *Burlington Magazine* and the *Gazette des Beaux Arts*. As the recipient of a Claude McCarthy Fellowship in 1986, he visited archives in Antwerp, and reconstructed the art collection of Nicolaes Jonghelinck, held at his country house, which included paintings by Bruegel and sculptures by Jacques Jonghelinck. More recently, he investigated the Antwerp house, shop and art collection of the Antwerp print publisher, Hieronymus Cock. Linda Tyler says her colleague's deep understanding



of Netherlandish art enriched his undergraduate teaching.

"He enthralled students with vivid descriptions of the political implications of the emergence and development of the print as an independent art form in Northern Europe during the Renaissance."

She says Iain's crowning achievement was in the Brepols Studies in Western Tapestry series which featured his "magisterial" 400-page book on the Flemish tapestries collected by the Habsburg rulers of the Low Countries – *Habsburg Tapestries* (2015). His research was also the basis of two major exhibitions at the Metropolitan Museum in New York: one on tapestries in 2002 and *Grand Design: Pieter Coecke van Aelst and Renaissance Art* in 2014.

He also had a special interest in Frances Hodgkins and 20th century British art, on which he has co-authored two books and several articles.

At the time of his death, Iain was working on a book which examines the paintings of Pieter Bruegel in relation to the collecting and marketing of art in sixteenth century Antwerp. A much-

loved husband and father, Iain is survived by his wife Pauline and daughters Amanda and Anna.

A service for Iain was held in Maclaurin Chapel on 23 November. A full obituary by Linda Tyler is on the University website.

WHAT'S ON CAMPUS

CLOCKTOWER CAROLS

What: The Staff Choir sings Christmas music

When: Friday 14 December at midday

Where: In the foyer of the ClockTower building at 22 Princes Street on City Campus.

Come and hear your colleagues sing around the beautiful tree in the ClockTower atrium. The choir will be performing a varied repertoire of much-loved favourites, some lesser-known pieces and contemporary arrangements of traditional carols. The performance will last around 40 minutes.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DAY

What: Staff shopping day at Ubiq, the University bookshop

When: Thursday 6 December

Where: Kate Edger Information Commons, City Campus

Staff are invited to a day of good deals, sweet treats and a free gift-wrapping service for any purchase over \$20. Staff receive 25% off most items, with some exceptions. Please note that unlike last year, this is a daytime event to accommodate as many shoppers as possible.





GOOD CHEER FOR FESTIVE SEASON

Playing off a dominant circle shape against chevrons and triangles in a square ground, *An Episode of Events, 1971* by Roy Good was an experiment by the artist in combining ideas about geometric pattern painting into “one grand pictorial assembly”.

Like all abstract paintings, it is a work full of accidents and incidents. Basic shapes and colours collide, creating new forms. Parallelograms intersect with isosceles triangles to form squares, or click together as six-pointed stars and diamonds.

Graduating from the School of Fine Arts at the University of Canterbury in 1965, Roy Good moved to Auckland where he became Head of Design for the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation.

He exhibited his abstract paintings with Barry Lett Galleries, and then at the Petar/James Gallery where he showed alongside Milan Mrkusich, Ian Scott, Geoff Thornley and Gordon Walters.

As well as developing a profile as a painter, he had a parallel career as a designer of television sets and corporate graphics: he designed the branding for New Zealand’s Expo pavilions in 1988 and 1992, and the stylised kotuku used for the 1990 sesquicentennial.

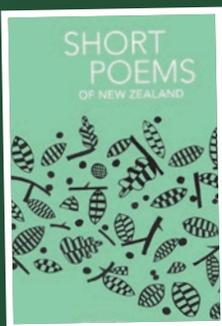
Practised in the combination of allusion and illusion, his work often reflects his environment.

Surrounding his home at Waiatarua is the bush of the Waitakere Ranges, where light interacts with the segmented and broken forms of the Claude Megson architecture, chaos and order held in balance.

In the period in which this work was made, Roy Good was flirting with optical art after seeing the catalogue for the Museum of Modern Art’s exhibition *The Responsive Eye* in 1965. He aimed to create art works that existed less as objects than as generators of perceptual responses.

To this end, he investigated the chromatic tension of juxtaposed complementary (chromatically opposite) colours of equal intensity. Red and green predominate in this

WHAT’S COMING OUT



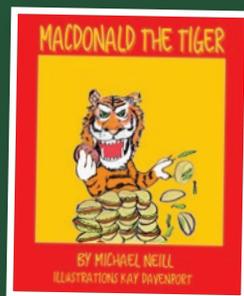
Short but perfectly formed

“I’ve begun to think of short poems as being the literary equivalent of the small house movement,” says poet and editor of *Short Poems of New Zealand*

Jenny Bornholdt. The attractive hardback volume features, among others, the work of current and former University of Auckland staff members Allen Curnow, Michele Leggot, C.K. Stead and Murray Edmond.

And while one word can constitute a poem, says Jenny, the shortest in the book has a sparse five words and none must be longer

than nine lines. Funny, startling, poignant, illuminating, and always succinct, this anthology celebrates the many moods and forms of the short poem and demonstrates its power to engage. Illustrations are by Gregory O’Brien. Published by Victoria University Press, November, 2018. Available at Ubiq.



Cautionary tiger tale

In a whimsical departure from his usual publications, Emeritus Professor Michael Neill and former English department

colleague Kay Davenport have produced a delightfully wicked children’s picture book about a voracious tiger who escapes from a seaside zoo and goes on a rampage.

Michael describes *Macdonald the Tiger* as, “Somewhat in the manner of Hilaire Belloc’s

Cautionary Tales, that is, a doggerel story I wrote for my godson in the UK”.

Illustrator Kay Davenport taught medieval literature at Auckland from 1966-72, and has since based herself in the the UK and Ireland, pursuing her interest in art, pottery and illustration. Earlier this year she published two children’s books; *Sweet Dreams* and *Hip-hop Aesop: the Boy who cried Wolf*, which are both available as paperbacks or eBooks from Amazon. A perfect Christmas present for a young reader, *Macdonald the Tiger* is published by Amazon, November, 2018.

Creatures ancient and rare

Illustrated with wonderful new photography, *Reptiles and Amphibians of New Zealand* by Dylan van Winkel, Marleen Baling and Rod Hitchmough is the only field guide which covers all currently recognised species.

The definitive guide to all of New Zealand’s tuatara, geckos, skinks, frogs, marine turtles and marine snakes, it features range maps for every species; an introduction to evolution,

work, and gradated colour which creates the illusion of movement, preventing the viewer's eye from resting long enough on any one part of the surface to be able to interpret it literally.

Reflecting on the process and result, the artist remembers: "The work was too complex to be considered successful and was criticised for being purely decorative.

"It provided a motivation to be more reductive with ideas about painting and it led to the more minimal work of the mid-1970s in which I sought to integrate shape and content into a 'one hit' pictorial solution."

After 1972 he abandoned the rectangular or square canvas format for shaped canvases to achieve this synthesis. This work is part of the University's Art Collection and will feature on the front of the Vice-Chancellor's Christmas card this year. A retrospective exhibition curated by University of Auckland doctoral graduate Edward Hanfling, *Parallel Universe: The Art and Design of Roy Good*, opens at Te Uru Waitakere Contemporary Gallery in Titirangi, West Auckland, on Saturday 1 December at 2pm and continues on show until 10 February 2019.

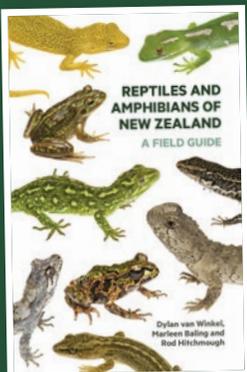
■ Linda Tyler, Associate Professor, Museums and Cultural Heritage

Image left: Roy Good (b. 1945), *An Episode of Events*, 1971, PVA on canvas, 1218 x 1218 mm

conservation, observing and collecting; eco systems and geographic history.

From the ancient tuatara, the sole surviving member of its order, to the world's largest collection of long-lived and live-bearing lizards, New Zealand's 123 species of reptiles and amphibians represent an extraordinary aspect of this country's biodiversity.

The guide will become a go-to book for anyone interested in New Zealand's unique wildlife. Published by Auckland University Press, November, 2018. Available at Ubiq.



ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

INTERESTED IN ONE-YEAR HOUSE SWAP CLOSE TO PARIS, FRANCE FROM FEB 2019? University staff member and her husband seek to exchange their 3 bed, furnished home in Nozay (quiet village, 25kms from Paris, public transport/highway nearby, primary/secondary schools, all amenities) for similar furnished accommodation in Auckland.
Contact: s.hermann@auckland.ac.nz.

CHARMING 2 BED BUNGALOW, FULLY-FURNISHED, IDEAL FOR VISITING ACADEMIC: Central heating, wireless internet. Rambling private garden. Close to all amenities, Uni is 10 mins. by bus. \$850 pw.
Contact: anita@rood.co.nz for more info and photos.

FULLY FURNISHED 1 BED. APARTMENT TO RENT, 1 MIN WALK FROM UNI: Elegant apartment with balcony and all amenities in heritage Courtville building opposite the High Court on Parliament Street. Available 29 December to 29 March (dates negotiable). \$490 per week includes internet, water, power. Email: mssusannahwalker@gmail.com

THE NEW WEBSITE www.summerstays.auckland.ac.nz HAS NOW LAUNCHED: We have special rates for University staff and their family and friends. Our accommodation ranges from single studio rooms to family apartments. Please quote 'Staff' for discounted rates.

ROOM TO RENT, SUNNY ST HELIERS, AUCKLAND: Large fully furnished bedroom in cosy three-bed, 1 bath peaceful home. Ten mins. to beach. 30 mins. drive or bus, along Tamaki Drive to CBD, Tamaki Campus. Share with mature professional woman. Suit academic or professional, \$250 weekly plus electricity.
Contact Penny: pkstar@gmail.com

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. Views from decks, short walks to beaches. Bus stop nearby, short drive from car ferry. Fully-equipped kitchen, WiFi. Max. four guests, min. two-night stay. Spring (Sept-Nov) rate: \$95/night/two, \$10 extra pp. Photos and availability: pat.neuwelt@gmail.com

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.

SHORT TERM SUMMER RENTAL PARNELL: Available approx. 3 Jan to 16 April 2019. Fully furnished one bed. flat, secluded location near Auckland Domain. Sunny, leafy outlook, like living in treetops. Q-size bed, good clothes storage, fully equipped kitchen. Off-street undercover parking. \$400 pw neg. includes power, landline and WiFi. Email: jacqu.walker@gmail.com

LOVELY PRIVATE ROOM FRESHLY RENOVATED TO A HIGH STANDARD: Large and sunny overlooking garden with own deck. Although part of our house, the room does have a separate entrance and ensuite

and can be locked from the rest of the house. Also available is a lounge/sunroom with a single day bed, TV, armchairs and books to enjoy. Centrally located in the heart of Parnell. Contact Christine on: 0274 430006.

STUDIO AVAILABLE TO RENT 2019: Self-contained studio space in Herne Bay, minutes from cafes and galleries of Ponsonby. Bus route to universities and 40min harbour side walk to downtown. Large studio bedroom with ensuite, kitchenette, and private outdoor seating area. Available 2/01/2019-28/01/19 and longer term from 01/02/19. \$425 pw incl. services. Please contact: louisepagonis@gmail.com

INTERESTED IN A 2-6 MONTH HOUSE-SWAP IN SYDNEY IN 2019? Recently retired academic and her writer-husband seek to exchange their two-bedroom, fully furnished flat in Glebe (15 min. walk to Sydney University/near public transport) for similar Auckland accommodation. Flexible time frame, but early 2019 preferred. Contact: laurie.miller@sydney.edu.au for more information.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

SEEKING 1-2 BDM RENTAL NEAR THE UNIVERSITY FEB-MAY 2019: We are a professional couple from Canada looking for an apartment or a house, within walking distance (30 mins. or less) from the University for the period February to May 2019 (approx.). Please contact Claude at: Claude.Lague@uOttawa.ca or Liliane at lccl82@gmail.com.

SEEKING 2-3 BDM RENTAL/HOUSESITTING IN WEST AUCKLAND, JAN-AUG 2019: We're looking for a home, ideally on the western train line from Jan-Aug 2019 (approx.). Professional couple and two kids who go to Glen Eden Primary. Any leads welcome. Please contact Nicky at: n.shepherd@auckland.ac.nz or 021 178 4492.

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'm 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. Call: 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'm interested in providing support to energetic students in all academic fields. Published author and graduate. Contact: abroo19@aucklanduni.ac.nz or 022 090 1513.



DEMOCRACY SURVIVING IN TRUMP'S AMERICA

The results of the US 2018 mid-term elections are in and there's cause for optimism, writes Paul Taillon.

The Democratic Party has taken control of the House of Representatives and then some. In the weeks after Election Day, the magnitude of the Democrats' success has become apparent: it has flipped 40 Republican-held seats for a net gain of 38 seats, more than the 23 needed to control Congress.

Historically, though, in one sense, there is nothing new here. After all, the party of the sitting president typically loses seats in the House during midterm elections.

But these are not typical times. Indeed, over the past two years the US Congress has proven largely unwilling or unable to fulfil its constitutional role as a check on the power of the Executive branch, which has been under Republican control since 2016.

Now, even though the Republican Party extended its control of the Senate, the House can begin to act as a brake on the Executive, which has been occupied by a president who has shown little regard for the rule of law and who has polarised an already deeply divided nation.

The Democrats achieved this outcome despite the gerrymandering and voter suppression that the Republican opposition has carried out at state level over the past decade.

Gerrymandering, a practice dating to the early nineteenth century, is the systematic redrawing of congressional districts to favour candidates of one political party while disadvantaging the other.

Republicans in control of state legislatures did exactly this with the Redistricting Majority Project in the wake of Barack Obama's 2008 victory, recognising that the party that controls the redrawing of congressional districts (which happens every decade in tandem with the census) controls Congress.

Voter suppression in the United States is nothing new. It goes back to the years after the Civil War when southern vigilantes (the Ku Klux Klan most notably) tried to prevent newly freed and enfranchised African Americans from voting through intimidation and violence.

During the long era of American racial apartheid from the late 19th through the mid-20th centuries, southern states prevented African Americans from voting through laws designed to keep them from the polls and racial terrorism.

Currently, 77 million eligible Americans are missing from the nation's voting rolls, according to a new study by Emory University historian, Carol Anderson. The majority of these are racial minorities and people of low income.

Voter suppression is not necessarily the physical blocking of a person from the polls. It may take the form of measures that simply make registering to vote more difficult. These sorts of measures have arisen at the state level in the wake of the Supreme Court's 2013 weakening of the 1965 Voting Rights Act (*Shelby County v. Holder*).

According to Anderson, the decision allows districts with histories of racial discrimination to change voting requirements without approval from the Department of Justice. The result: a raft of new state-level laws restricting voting and a corresponding drop in black voter turnout.

Republican state legislators passing these laws justified them as measures to control fraudulent voting, despite a 2017 presidential commission and numerous studies that found that actual

voter fraud is virtually non-existent.

As an American living and teaching United States history in New Zealand, I find the Democrats' House majority – including the diversity of those newly elected representatives – heartening. I'm also impressed by the voter turnout, 49.3 percent of the voting-eligible population, the highest in over a century.

Roughly 60 million people voted for Democrats in the mid-term elections, which suggests the possibility of a real challenge to the current president in the 2020 presidential election. These results reflect Democratic voters' determination as well as the mobilised – but also polarised – nature of the electorate. And therein lies a challenge to democracy.

In my introductory survey of US history from the American Revolution to the present, I talk about freedom. Together, my students and I explore how Americans have contended with one another over the meanings of the ideals of equality, opportunity and justice central to freedom in the US.

We think of the US as a great but imperfect nation, from which students around the world can learn a great deal (that goes for Americans, too). If there is one takeaway from the course, it's the fact that democracy is, and always will be, a work in progress. The mid-term elections, with the highest voter turnout in 50 years, demonstrate this truism.

To work it requires engaged citizenship who are not driven by fear. It needs to be informed by education and characterised by 'slow thinking' and evidence-based dialogue. This is a lesson I hope my students get from my teaching, and one we can take on board looking forward to 2020.

Dr Paul Michel Taillon is a senior lecturer in United States History at the University of Auckland.

The views on this page reflect personal opinions and are not necessarily those of the University.