



Tāmaki Update

September 2015
A newsletter for
Tāmaki Innovation
Campus

Fluency network sees growth ahead



Selena Donaldson (left) and Tanya Watt, a Master of Speech-language Therapy Practice student. The Fluency Clinic welcomes new referrals and interest from adults affected by stuttering or other fluency problems.

Almost two years on from its launch at Tāmaki Campus, the Fluency Network is thriving with referrals from both within the University as well as the wider community.

Professional teaching fellow and speech-language therapist, Selena Donaldson, says the clinic continues to welcome new referrals and interest from adults affected by stuttering or other fluency problems. The Fluency Network is part of speech-language therapy, one of several clinics on campus, and a teaching clinic for Master of Speech-language Therapy Practice.

Selena says the clinic is interested in supporting people to cope with their stuttering in the workplace, and is currently assessing interest in running an evening clinic.

To date, the majority of clients have been from amongst the University community. Many students have seized the opportunity to get help with their communication for engaging with University life and looking towards eventual interview and employment scenarios.

Additionally, the clinic is growing and consolidating its international links; Selena recently spent some time with City Lit in London looking at models of speech-language therapy.

She also attended the international fluency association congress in Lisbon, Portugal, noting it was an exciting presentation of global perspectives on stuttering. "As speech-language therapists across specialisms look to break down barriers for people who find

communication difficult, it was very positive to see people who stutter being empowered to embrace self-help and group supports," she says.

This semester, Selena and student clinicians are embracing the vast amount of social media around stuttering and helping clients find a supportive community.

"While the New Zealand community of people who stutter might be small, there is a vast array of social media resources and online communities which our clients can access. The student clinicians will frequently signpost people to these, and also embrace the many podcasts for their own learning."

The Fluency Network embraces evidence-based clinical practice for adults who stutter, and offer a number of options for anyone who wants to access help with their communication. Selena says accessing help can be a huge step for people, and this is an approachable and friendly opportunity to find out more about living well with a stutter.

Selena joined the University of Auckland in 2012 following a time with the NHS and Newcastle University in the United Kingdom. She is an expert advisor to the New Zealand Speech-language Therapy Association for acquired brain injury, Co-chair of the Cognitive-Communication Disorders Special Interest Group, Co-chair of the Fluency Special Interest Group and an expert witness speech-language therapist to the UK Courts for acquired brain injury.

Her particular areas of interest are acquired brain injury, fluency disorders, supervision, clinical education, cognitive communication disorders, aphasia, and pragmatic communication disorders.



Message from Head of Tāmaki Innovation Campus

Dear Colleagues

Tāmaki Innovation Campus has reason to celebrate, with two of its departments observing significant milestones during the month of September.

The Section of Audiology is celebrating 25 years since its clinical audiology programme was introduced. Professors Peter Thorne and Suzanne Purdy were both instrumental in setting up the Master of Audiology programme in 1990. Until then, students wishing to specialise in audiology had to go to Australia to complete a masters degree. An important aspect of the programme has been its contribution to the establishment of the University of Auckland Clinics where students gain valuable first-hand experience in a local community clinical environment. The programme has also been an important catalyst for developing new research in audiology. A reception on 10 September will kick off the celebration and commemorate an innovative 25 years. This will be followed by a two-day symposium featuring the research achievements and potential of Audiology. Congratulations to all!



Preparations for a celebration are also underway in my own department, Sport and Exercise Science. The department will be celebrating its 21st birthday on 30 September and has invited past and present staff, students and associates to join us at Tāmaki to reminisce, reconnect and reflect on the department's transition from childhood through adolescence to young adulthood. We are delighted that founding head of department, Professor Bob Marshall (Eastern Institute of Technology) will be attending. A reception to be held in the Function Room in Building 730 from 5.00pm until 7.30pm will include tours of the new research facilities in Building 731 and plenty of opportunities for mixing and mingling. Sport and Exercise Science, including the Health and Performance Clinic, is the only department in the Faculty of Science to be entirely located on the Tāmaki Campus. We look forward to celebrating 21 great years and the exciting prospects for the department's development into adulthood.

United States Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa, Mark Gilbert, will be our final Head of Campus seminar speaker for 2015. Prior to becoming Ambassador in February 2015, Gilbert had a distinguished career in finance and in his younger days played professional baseball for the Chicago White Sox. I'm sure this seminar will be a fascinating insight into American diplomacy, and I encourage you to join us on 9 October at 3.30pm in 731.201 followed by a chance to network and socialise.

Once again, the articles in this edition of the Tāmaki Update highlight the world-class research and innovative activities taking place on our campus. I hope you enjoy reading about our people.

Best wishes

Associate Professor Greg Anson
Head of Tāmaki Innovation Campus

What's been happening?

Passion for Māori achievement



Dr Elana Curtis from Te Kupenga Hauora Māori has won a **2015 national Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award** in the Kaupapa Māori category. Dr Curtis leads the Vision 20:20 programme and since her appointment in 2005 has been at the heart of a team of people who have been successful in improving staff and student understanding of Hauora Māori and in supporting the success of Māori and Pacific students. With others in the University, Elana has championed innovative methodologies and kaupapa Māori approaches which have strengthened Māori and Pacific bridging and foundation education, retention and success within the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.

Community mobilisation in action



The **New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse** hosted a symposium on community mobilisation. Community mobilisation is an approach to preventing violence which enables and builds local community ownership. The keynote address was given by video by Lori Michau from Raising Voices, a nonprofit organisation working to prevent violence against women and children in Uganda. Comprehensive research and evaluation found the Raising Voices SASA! initiative lead to decreased rates of intimate partner violence and a wide range of positive changes in people's relationships and the community.



Working towards a common goal



Pictured here are some of the Conectus alliance members, who are passionate about the work they do to improve the health and wellbeing of mothers, children and their families.

Conectus is an alliance of three organisations based at the Tāmaki Campus: the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC), Whakawhetū Mokopuna Ora, and TAHA Well Pacific Mother and Infant Service. Together, they all share a commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of mothers, children and their families.

General Manager Anne McLean has been with Conectus right from the beginning, and her background in DHB management, and more recently the direction of health services in Niue, brings both strategic and organisational expertise. This has helped Conectus secure and deliver a number of contestable contracts, including a rewrite of the Well Child handbook for health practitioners and currently, the development of an antenatal training curriculum for the three Auckland DHBs.

Anne says the Well Child Tamariki Ora (WCTO) Programme is an important focus for Conectus. IMAC is contracted to assist WCTO providers with promoting Well Child checks and Conectus has provided support and resource to promote the annual awareness of Well Child week.

Whakawhetū and TAHA programmes are also in the antenatal and infant health and wellbeing area, creating a common point of interest across the services. Conectus is working on a strategic plan that will lift the

knowledge base for WCTO providers and the public enhancing access and engagement with the programme.

Anne points to the antenatal curriculum as a great example of combining the talents and cultural expertise of TAHA and Whakawhetū to produce a resource for both the practitioners and users of antenatal education across the Auckland area.

“Based upon TAHA’s successful Tapuaki programme, which provides antenatal education for Pacific, the new work will entail a core curriculum for all users and two specific modules for Māori and youth. We also plan to extend this to other ethnic groups,” she says.

Kathrine Clarke, National Manager of Whakawhetū, has recently also taken on the leadership of the Wero Challenge, a smoking cessation programme for Māori, based upon a whanau/team-based competition model. Her extended role as Manager of Māori Services ensures all Conectus work is responsive to the needs of Māori.

As part of the University and to foster academic endeavours in maternal and child health, Conectus has secured funding for a research fellow. The position is supported by the School of Population Health and sponsored by the Karitane Product Society (KPS) and will be open to applicants soon.

In brief

Coming up - Head of Campus Seminar Series

9 October, 3.30-4.30pm, 731.201

Mark Gilbert - United States Ambassador to New Zealand and Samoa



Ambassador Gilbert formerly served as a Managing Director of UBS, the culmination of a distinguished career in finance, which included positions at Barclays and Goldman Sachs.

From 2009 to 2013 he served as the Deputy National Finance Chair for the Democratic National Committee. Prior to his banking career, Ambassador Gilbert played professional baseball for eight seasons, reaching the major leagues with the Chicago White Sox in 1985.

Hearing loss increase for ageing

The number of New Zealanders aged 70 years and older suffering from hearing loss is expected to double in the next 50 years. A study on the occurrence of hearing loss and the implications for the hearing health workforce found the ageing population trend will have a significant impact. Dr Daniel Exeter from Epidemiology and Biostatistics says, given the projected increase in elderly residents, particularly in rural regions, hearing health workforce planners need to consider both the development of additional audiologists and ear nose and throat specialists and their location.

Problem gambling a health issue

Problem gambling continues to be a significant public health issue for more than 40,000 New Zealanders, according to a report from the Centre for Gambling Addiction. Dr Fiona Rossen says the report reiterates that Electronic Gambling Machines (EGMs), both in and out of casinos, are associated with the most harm from gambling and that Māori, Pacific people and those living in neighbourhoods with higher levels of deprivation are disproportionately affected by problem gambling.



Research into academic success



Erena Wikaire has recently completed her masters degree and is about to embark on a PhD where she will be looking at Māori participation in traditional Māori health practices.

Māori and Pacific students' experiences within the education system have a particular resonance for Erena Wikaire, who has just completed a Master of Public Health at Tāmaki Campus.

Erena has seen many of her Māori and Pacific friends and whānau struggle through the education system; meeting multiple barriers that ultimately make them feel like they want to quit.

The ongoing nature of these barriers for younger generations motivated Erena to contribute to creating change through her masters thesis: exploring predictors of

academic success for Māori and Pacific compared to non-Māori non-Pacific students in the FMHS Bachelor of Health Sciences, Nursing and Pharmacy programmes.

The Kaupapa Māori research approach analysed the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences (FMHS) student cohorts by ethnic grouping, to explore and compare predictors of academic success. Fundamentally, this analysis showed that FMHS programmes produce inequities in academic outcomes between Māori and Pacific, and non-Māori non-Pacific student groupings. Many causal factors have been highlighted in relevant literature that focus on the individual student at the pre-tertiary, admission and first year bachelor stage, however little quantitative analysis has been carried out to investigate such factors further.

The research found that Māori and Pacific student cohorts are fundamentally different and face different challenges, when compared to non-Māori non-Pacific students.

Secondly, the research concluded that controlling for common explanations for inequities, for example socio-economic status and entry pathway, did not fully explain the inequities in academic outcomes between Māori/Pacific and non-Māori non-Pacific students. This highlighted a need to explore unexplained and unmeasured institutional, rather than individual, factors that provide differential teaching and learning experiences for students of different ethnic groupings.

The research was located within Te Kupenga Hauora Māori (TKHM), with Dr Elana Curtis as principal investigator and supervisor, along with Dr Donna Cormack and an advisory group that included academic and administrative staff within FMHS.

Erena found value in being able to study and be located within a Māori research environment alongside supervision and leadership from expert Māori academics, and welcomed the ability to conduct research in health using Kaupapa Māori methodology.

"The Tuākana programme also provided a valuable writing retreat opportunity. Tāmaki project staff were supportive of the project, but unfortunately during my study, there was no Māori and Pacific specific space at Tāmaki. I am excited that a new space for Māori and Pacific students is now available.

"The project has allowed me to develop professionally in terms of exposure to Kaupapa Māori methodology, development of quantitative research knowledge and skills, networking with the wider project team, and knowledge development in Māori and Pacific health workforce development."

The results will be used to provide FMHS with detailed analysis of performance against equity objectives for Māori and Pacific students. They also provide information that can inform institutional change to improve the provision of tertiary health programmes for all students.

Erena describes the process through the Master of Public Health as both challenging and rewarding. Balancing work and study commitments provided additional challenges and she is appreciative of support from MAPAS and TKHM staff. She is now about to start her PhD project, looking at Māori participation in traditional Māori health practices in 2016.



A place to thrive



Certificate of Health Sciences students attend a Village Hour, a facilitated study and office session, at Te Pae Riroriro.

When you walk into Building 701.5, you are struck by two things – the bright yellow walls and the hum of academic productivity.

After campaigning for a MAPAS student space at Tāmaki Campus for many years, Te Kupenga Hauora Māori (TKHM) and Vision20:20 have opened a new home for their MAPAS students on campus. The idea behind the space is explained by the MAPAS team who say that the students can thrive academically in a place specifically for them, where they are surrounded by the support of their peers.

Te Pae Riroriro opened on 27 May with a blessing attended by kaumātua, student representatives, and TKHM staff. It was named by the kaumātua for the nest of the Grey Warbler, who announces the season for sowing and reaping, as well as that for harvesting.

Te Pae Riroriro as a study space symbolises this cycle, with the sowing and reaping of knowledge, through to the harvesting of strong students nourished through academia.

The MAPAS programme provides admission, academic and pastoral support for Māori and Pacific students studying within the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. As part of this support, Grafton MAPAS students have had access to an exclusively MAPAS study space for many years. With the newly opened Te Pae Riroriro, this same support is now offered to MAPAS students on Tāmaki Campus.

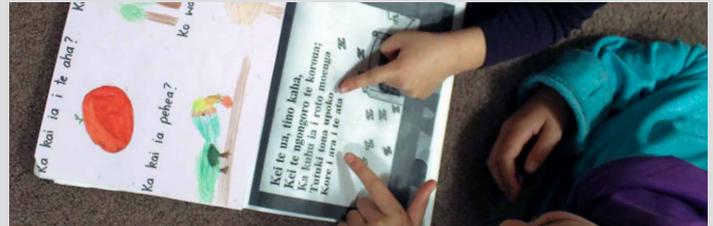
The space offers general study space, computers, teaching spaces for small tutorials and a kitchen, plus study snacks are made available for all MAPAS students. It is also open for extended hours until 9pm on weekdays.

A unique place has been created on campus for MAPAS students to be in a Māori and Pacific context that encourages them to be themselves. The use of the space is largely determined by student demand, and the MAPAS team help run the space with the help of the students themselves.

Te Pae Riroriro is the home of the MAPAS community on Tāmaki Campus and is a significant addition for all MAPAS students.

Children helping to keep te reo Māori alive

The use of te reo Māori is on the rise with more parents speaking te reo to their infants in comparison to their own childhood. The number of toddlers of Māori descent who understand te reo has also increased.



This information is revealed in a new policy brief from the Growing Up in New Zealand study that follows the lives of almost 7000 children from before birth into adulthood.

Of all the children in the study, 12 percent were described by their mothers as understanding at least some te reo when they were two years old. Forty percent of Māori two-year-olds understood at least some of the language. In comparison, around 20 percent of Māori parents reported understanding te reo Māori well or very well.

“It has been proposed that Māori language could be described as safe if 50 percent of Māori spoke Māori,” says Dr Te Kani Kingi, Māori Expert Advisor for the Growing Up in New Zealand study.

“It is very encouraging to see all New Zealand children, but especially Māori, using or understanding the language and appreciating its value from an early age,” says Dr Kingi.

It is rare for the parents of the new generation of New Zealand children to themselves have been raised in a Māori language environment. The study shows an encouraging change in that trend: by the time their own children were nine months old, 15 percent of mothers and 7 percent of fathers were speaking some te reo Māori to their infants.

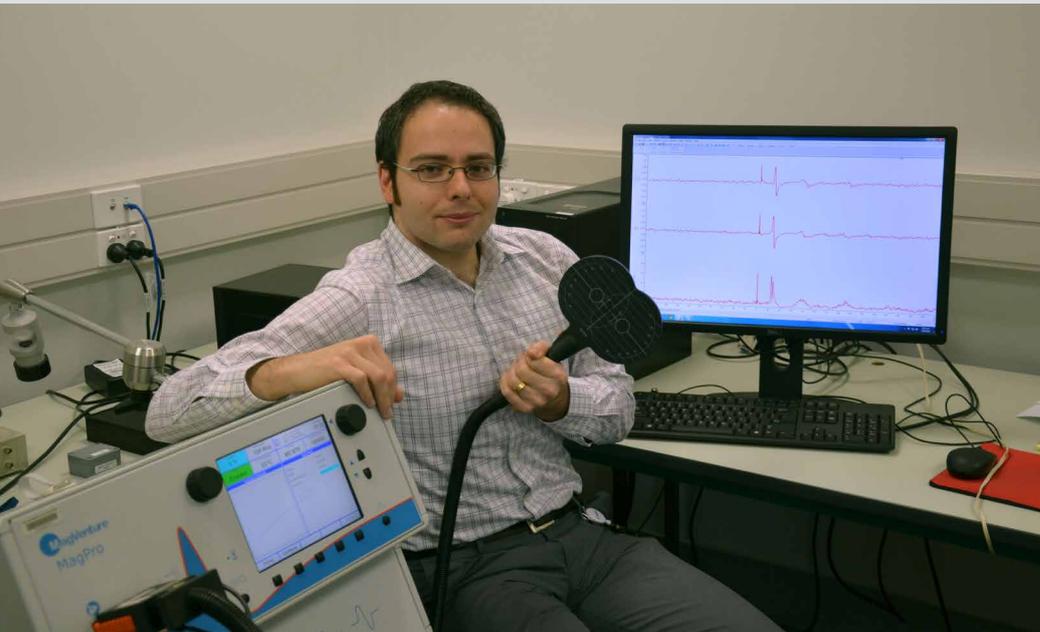
“Retention and use of te reo Māori is important for Aotearoa/New Zealand society as a whole, to strengthen Māori culture and identity, and to ensure that Māori succeed as Māori. These results therefore provide some indication as to how strategies to promote te reo Māori are working, why they should be supported, and what opportunities for future development could be explored,” comments Dr Kingi.

Despite more children understanding te reo today, regular use of the language at home remains low. Less than 1 percent of children had a parent who was speaking mostly te reo Māori to their infants. The main motivations for those parents who used te reo as the primary language at home was to maintain their Māori culture, to bring up their child in a bilingual environment, and to ensure the child’s success later in life.

“The challenge for us is now to support those children who are hearing Māori as infants and understanding Maori at age two, and to turn them into active te reo speakers later in life,” says Dr Kingi.



A world class centre for neuroscience research



Dr John Cirillo has settled into life at Tāmaki since his arrival in February, and is excited to be involved and learn from world renowned researchers in the field of stroke.

A chance meeting with Professor Winston Byblow, at a Society for Neuroscience conference in Washington DC, has opened new doors for a recent Tāmaki Campus arrival.

Dr John Cirillo was presenting a poster on his specialty, the neurophysiology and neuroplasticity of human motor control, when he met Professor Byblow and became intrigued with the world-class work being carried out at Tāmaki.

That and subsequent meetings, drew him to Tāmaki and a Health Research Council-funded study, assessing motor areas of the brain following non-invasive brain stimulation in stroke patients and aiming to improve recovery of movement by individualising stimulation techniques during the acute and sub-acute stages of stroke.

For Dr Cirillo, the move ticked all the right boxes. "I was excited to be involved and learn from world renowned researchers in the field of stroke - Professor Winston Byblow and Associate Professor Cathy Stinear. And, the Movement Neuroscience Lab here at Tāmaki is a world-class motor control and

neuroscience research community, equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and a world class and prestigious organisation located in a vibrant community with a rich and diverse environment," says Dr Cirillo.

"Then there is the opportunity to learn and incorporate new techniques, such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS) to measure aspects of brain activity and relate these to recovery of an individual. All of these provide a strong base for me to continue and develop my research in understanding how the nervous system, including cortical and spinal mechanisms, function to control and learn voluntary movements in healthy individuals and those following injury or disease, which may support the development of novel and more effective therapeutic interventions."

The icing on the proverbial cake, however, was the opportunity to increase his teaching portfolio, both at the undergraduate and graduate level that was a step on Dr Cirillo's pathway in his long-term goal of securing a faculty position.

Under the guidance of Professor Byblow and Associate Professor Greg Anson, he hopes to transition from his current position to becoming an academic with his own lab, and ideally located within New Zealand or Australia in the near future.

Dr Cirillo's journey started with his PhD at the University of Adelaide, Australia in 2012, with a dissertation focused in understanding how a number of different factors influence the ability of the central nervous system (CNS) to control voluntary movement, and on how varying factors influence neuroplasticity in human motor cortex.

"Having developed skills in the use of neurophysiological techniques, particularly transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), a non-invasive and painless research tool that allows assessment of pathways that control voluntary movement from the brain to the muscle, I then wanted to contribute to the development of rehabilitation strategies that promote recovery of function. During my post-doctoral fellowship, with Associate Professor Monica Perez at the University of Pittsburgh in 2012, I was able to further develop my TMS and electrophysiology skills, while examining the neurophysiology of corticospinal function in individuals with chronic incomplete spinal cord injury."

Dr Cirillo has settled into life at Tāmaki since his arrival in February, feeling very welcomed by all members of the Department of Sport and Exercise Science.

"I believe the environment at Tāmaki plays a large role in how all members within the department are able to interact with each other. The transition to Auckland has also been quite simple for me as it feels very much like Adelaide."

He retains his Australian affiliations through watching Australian rules football matches that involve Port Adelaide, but remarks, "Given the season that they had this year, I am not sure I would classify that as relaxing."