

# Ingenio ET LABORE

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND ALUMNI MAGAZINE

AUTUMN 2007

**CROSSING CULTURES  
– ALUMNA DAME  
JOAN METGE**

EMBRACING CHINA

ALUMNUS BARRY  
BRICKELL

BOOST TO SOFTWARE  
RESEARCH



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF AUCKLAND

NEW ZEALAND

Te Whare Wānanga o Tāmaki Makaurau

# In this issue . . .

Ingenio – The University of Auckland alumni magazine

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**Editor**  
Tess Redgrave

**Photography**  
Godfrey Boehnke

**Design/production**  
Ingrid Atvars

**Proof reading**  
Bill Williams

**Advertising manager**  
Don Wilson

**Editorial contact details**  
*Ingenio*  
Communications and Marketing  
The University of Auckland  
Private Bag 92 019  
Auckland 1142 New Zealand  
Level 10 Fisher Building  
18 Waterloo Quadrant Auckland  
Telephone 64 9 373 7599  
ext 84149  
Facsimile 64 9 373 7047  
email ingenio@auckland.ac.nz  
www.auckland.ac.nz/ingenio

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The University of Auckland  
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Private Bag 92019  
Auckland 1142 New Zealand  
Telephone 64 9 373 7599  
ext 82246  
email alumni@auckland.ac.nz  
www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz

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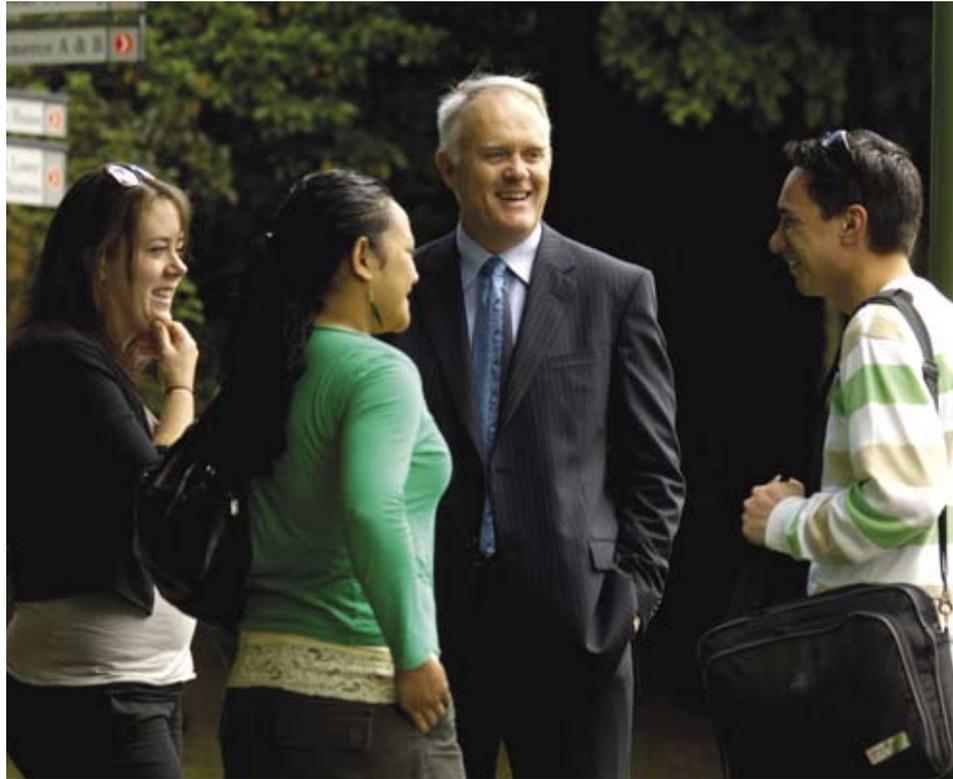
# From the Vice-Chancellor

One of the key features of The University of Auckland, and certainly one of the key objectives of our Strategic Plan 2005-2012, is the focus on developing an international presence and connections. To many, such connections revolve mainly around international student mobility, particularly those students who come to our University to study from overseas. In fact, these relationships are much broader and deeper, extending across many facets of the University's contribution to education, research and community service. Nowhere is that more evident than in our relationships with China, as featured in this issue of *Ingenio*.

It is true, of course, that China is the single largest source of international students studying at The University of Auckland, although numbers have been declining in recent years, as they have at universities and other educational institutions across the country. But, thanks to the foresight of senior managers of our international relationships and previous Vice-Chancellors, we now have established relationships with many of China's leading universities and research institutions, and with senior figures in the Chinese government.

These relationships are, of course, vitally important to this University because they offer the opportunity for ongoing collaboration with colleagues in what is rapidly becoming one of the world's most powerful and influential nations. They thus parallel the relationships we have with leading research universities in Australia, South East Asia, North America and Europe. In doing so, they support our strategic objective of establishing The University of Auckland as a peer of the world's leading universities through association and collaboration, and by an active presence in the international academic community.

Less obvious, perhaps, is the benefit that such relationships can have for New Zealand as a whole. One of the things that has always struck me during visits to China is the fondness the Chinese have for New Zealand because of our early associations – for example, Rewi Alley remains frequently cited some 20 years after his death. Similarly, the fact that the University has strong relationships with many of the leading Chinese universities is a consequence of our collaborations having been established quite early in China's process of opening up her university system to the outside world: these early relationships have



not been forgotten, but rather have laid a firm foundation for the developments that are continuing today. For example, in February the Prime Minister opened the Confucius Institute in New Zealand, an initiative spearheaded by this University. On 21 May the Minister of Foreign Affairs will open the New Zealand Centre at Peking University, another initiative of The University of Auckland and one designed to encourage the study of New Zealand by Chinese scholars.

Even greater advances are possible. Although the eastern part of China is undergoing rapid expansion, much remains to be done in the centre and west. To assist with that process, our University has entered into a relationship with our eastern partner, Tsinghua University, to support its work in developing Qinghai University in the west. This is, we believe, a model that could be applied more generally, particularly since we have relationships with most of the leading eastern Chinese universities and they in turn each have partners in the centre and west of China. Such a programme would not only allow us to assist with development of the Chinese university system, but also build long-term relationships for New Zealand in the parts of China that are yet to undergo the remarkable transformation that has occurred in the east.

STUART McCUTCHEON

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Memories from Israel

A recent article in *Ingenio* about the amazing developments at the General Library, and also the news that the old synagogue is now part of the University, plus an invitation from the editor, encouraged me to write about my memories. I also have a little bit of personal interest in Old Government House!



Rabbi Astor behind pulpit in the old synagogue.

Firstly, my father, the late Rabbi Astor, was Chief Rabbi of New Zealand, minister of the Auckland Jewish Community, and took services in the old synagogue every week for 40 years, from 1932. I well remember going there as a child, and we had Sunday school and all kinds of other activities in the rooms below, called The Schoolrooms, with an entrance in Bowen Avenue.

Our connection with Old Government House was that my father was presented there with an OBE for services to the general as well as the Jewish community.



Ruth on her wedding day 1951.

My own connection with the University General Library began after I graduated and enrolled at Library School in Wellington. Our wonderful teacher was Nora Bateson. Part way through the course I regretfully decided not to continue as I had made up my mind to join a kibbutz in Israel and was already rather older than the usual age for training. I could have finished the year, but the commitment to work for two years after in government libraries was going to be too long for me.

Instead, I was lucky enough to get a job in The

University of Auckland General Library where I spent a year earning enough to pay back my debts to the Library School and my fare to England.

The University librarian then was Mr Sandall, with Jean Anderson a senior worker, and also Adrian Turner. I mention these names in case anyone remembers them. The General Library then occupied one largish room completely lined with books, with alcoves for studying all round it, and a narrow gallery also with books and tables all round it. Of course there were no computers, or even electric typewriters, so my first job was typing catalogue cards, at which I was less than expert, and they had to be so exact that my rubbish bin was rather full of rejects! Later I went on to inter-library loans, at which I was more successful.

I enjoyed my year there tremendously, and knew that, if I could leave the work and the place I loved, and continue with my plans, that I must be doing what I was really meant to do in life. This turned out to be true: since arriving at our kibbutz, Bet Haemek in Western Galilee, in 1954 with my husband and baby daughter, I have never regretted my decision for a minute.

At first we lived under very primitive conditions, without water in the house for eight years, toilets camp-style, trenches in the ground, communal showers, cooking on primus stoves. My baby daughter is still on the kibbutz, now a grandmother of three, (and I, a great-grandmother) and we live in modest but comfortable houses, with all mod cons.

I began to build up the kibbutz library voluntarily in the 1950s and now it employs three pensioners (myself included) working a full week between them. Our total population is about 500, but the library contains around 20,000 books, about half in Hebrew, half in English, and my job is computerising the catalogue of English books into the regional library catalogue, which serves 32 libraries in our area of Western Galilee.

I could continue, but I think that's enough for one letter. I would be delighted to hear from anyone who remembers those times, could update me, or would like to know more, email: [israels@b-emek.org.il](mailto:israels@b-emek.org.il)

**Ruth (Astor) Israelstam BA (English) 1949**

## Autism

I am an alumna of The University of Auckland, and very proud to be associated with such a splendid educational institution.

One of my post-graduation exploits has been to become a tutor in the University's CCE (Centre for Continuing Education) programme, and to write an internationally published book on the subject of autism called *Congratulations! It's Asperger Syndrome* (Jessica Kingsley Publishers, London & Philadelphia, 2003).

My latest contribution to knowledge on this subject

is in the *New Zealand Listener* magazine (Feb 10-16, 2007 issue). The cover story was "Autism," and my contribution to this article was on p.28.

Just to let you know that I am one of your alumni, and very proud and happy to be in that number!

**Jen Birch BA (German) 1999 Auckland**

## The 5th Earl of Ranfurly

Note correction to article on page 9 of the Spring 2006 issue of *Ingenio* "Venerable house marks 150 years".

Though a good article, the description of Governor Ranfurly should read "Uchter John Mark Knox, 5th Earl of Ranfurly, GCMG (1901)". He succeeded to the Earldom in 1875 on the death of his brother. He was appointed Governor to New Zealand in 1897 and received the GCMG (The Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George) in 1901 for services rendered here; he left New Zealand in 1904.

The Earl can't on any interpretation be merely "Sir John Ranfurly" – even though very energetic and popular. Knox is his family's surname and Ranfurly was taken as the designation of the Earldom because of the family's association with the Scottish locality in County Renfrew in ancient times.

The 5th Earl of Ranfurly's full names and correct title appear in all editions of *Burke's Peerage and Gentry*, and also in the various biographical dictionaries of New Zealand and the UK.

My own status as the senior (New Zealand-born) representative of this Knox family (my great grandmother Madden was the Governor's cousin) is set out in *Debrett's Handbook of Australia and New Zealand*, first and second editions (1982 and 1984 respectively).

I knew the Governor's late grandson, the 6th Earl, who signed personal letters "Ranfurly" only.

Sorry for this dissertation; it is necessary because some individual New Zealanders and other Islanders interestingly do use "Ranfurly" as a middle or other name, but they have no blood link with the old Governor or his successors.

**Ian Madden BA (History) 1954;**

**MA (History) 1956**

## Engineers to Canterbury

Dorothy Hutchinson BSc 1943 rang *Ingenio* to point out a correction to the article on the Faculty of Engineering's Centenary (Spring 2006, page 7). The article reported that until 1939 engineers could only begin their degrees in Auckland, but then had to complete them at Canterbury. However, Dorothy correctly points out that this lasted until 1945/46 and that her husband, George Hutchinson, was among many who completed their final professional year at Canterbury.

### Send your thoughts to:

Tess Redgrave

Editor

*Ingenio*

Communications and Marketing

Private Bag 92019

Auckland 1142 New Zealand

By email: [ingenio@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:ingenio@auckland.ac.nz)

By Fax: 09 373 7047

Preference will be given to letters that address the content of the magazine. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for style and content.



## Nearly 6,000 graduate

Associate Professor of Philosophy and Council and Senate member, Jan Crosthwaite, carries the University mace during the first ceremony of Autumn Graduation.

This year some 5,928 students graduated from the University during 13 ceremonies spread over four days, receiving a total of 6,571 qualifications.

The Faculty of Business and Economics had the most graduates with 1,517 followed by Arts (1,132), Science (1,131) and Education (1,044).

There were 516 in Medical and Health Sciences, 504 in Engineering, 435 in Creative Arts and Industries, 267 in Law and 25 in Theology.

Chancellor Hugh Fletcher personally conferred 5,097 degrees and diplomas while the rest (1,474) were bestowed "in absentia".



## Staff win major awards

University staff have won major awards in recent months.

**Professor of French, Raylene Ramsay** joined an illustrious group of celebrities including singer Ella Fitzgerald and writer William Faulkner when she was awarded the Chevalier de L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres last October.

Conferred by the French Government, this honour recognises significant contributions to the arts and literature, or to the propagation of these fields. Raylene focused the early part of her career on twentieth century French writing and has published prolifically. She is currently translating work in French by indigenous writers in the Pacific and comparing these writings with the fiction of Pacific writers in English.

In December, the Royal Society of New Zealand awarded **Professor of Biological Sciences, Ted Baker**, the Rutherford Medal, the highest honour for New Zealand scientists.

Ted is Director of the Maurice Wilkins Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery, a New Zealand Centre of Research Excellence, and has led the establishment of structural biology as an important research field in New Zealand. He has also been instrumental in developing the field of x-ray crystallography in New Zealand, and his research uses this to analyse the structure and function of proteins, particularly those implicated in human disease.

In February this year **Professor of Chemistry, Margaret Brimble**, was named the 2007 L'Oreal UNESCO Asia-Pacific Laureate For Women in Science.

One of only five laureates awarded globally each year, Margaret's work looks at chemically synthesising naturally occurring compounds with the potential to

be developed into drugs for treating human diseases. Her research group specifically focuses on shellfish toxins (harmful chemicals produced by shellfish through ingestion of algae) and developing these as potential drugs for pain, epilepsy, hypertension, cancer and stroke.

In December **Prue Taylor, a senior lecturer in the School of Architecture and Planning** and deputy director of the University's New Zealand Centre for Environmental Law, was selected as one of 20 outstanding women across the world working on climate change issues.

The IUCN, the World Conservation Union, representing 80 states and more than 1000 non-governmental organisations, announced the awards to mark International Women's Day.

Back in 1990, Prue was the first academic in New Zealand to publish a legal article on climate change. Her master of law thesis "An ecological approach to international law: the case of the greenhouse effect" was turned into an award-winning book still regarded internationally as a classic text.

Prue, a former commercial lawyer with the firm Chapman Tripp Sheffield Young, has published extensively on environmental human rights. Her other research interests include environmental ethics, resource management law, biotechnology law, genetically modified organisms and foods, and business ethics. The elective course she teaches on climate change and planning is a first in this country.



Above top: Raylene Ramsay and New Zealand's French Ambassador.

Middle top: Ted Baker.

Middle bottom: Margaret Brimble.

Bottom: Prue Taylor.

## Your voice counts

Our 90,000 alumni soon have a chance to shape the University's direction whether as voters, as nominators or through hands-on involvement in its governance.

A Court of Convocation election will be held on 7 September to elect two of the three graduate representatives on the University Council. They will serve for a four-year term.

The terms for the positions currently held by John Morris and Justice Lynton Stevens expire later this year. In keeping with the constitution of the Council they will be filled by an election (the other incumbent being Kate Sutton whose term ends in 2009).

The Council has 18 members, and being able to choose three gives alumni a measure of influence in setting the University's strategy and direction. The other 15 are a mixture of lay, staff and student members variously appointed, elected and holding office ex officio.

Eligibility to vote has been widened and electronic voting introduced (see story below) to encourage fuller participation by alumni.

Alumni who are passionate about their alma mater and keen to help set its course are urged to consider putting themselves forward for election.

Those who know of fellow alumni with the enthusiasm, ideas and commitment needed to make a worthwhile contribution to Council should seriously consider approaching and nominating them.

Nominations close on 9 August and alumni interested in standing themselves or nominating others should go to the nomination website at [www.auckland.ac.nz/convocation](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/convocation)

Above all be sure to vote when voting documents reach you, whether electronically or in the post. The University looks to its alumni to exercise their democratic choice and ensure high-calibre, widely based representation on its governing body.

## Vote electronically

Voting in September's election for alumni representatives on the University Council will be easier and more straightforward than before.

Alumni in New Zealand and overseas can choose to cast their ballot electronically.

Moreover everyone on the Court of Convocation roll (effectively a graduate of the University) is now entitled to vote at every election. Previously those on the roll lost this right if they failed to vote in consecutive elections and had to formally apply to vote again.

The election rules have been changed to encourage greater voter participation and greater involvement of graduates in the affairs of their University.

The 34,000 alumni whose email addresses the University holds will be invited to vote electronically (unless they express the wish to vote by paper). During August they will be contacted by email, directed to a website containing candidates' profiles and given

instructions on how to vote online.

Alumni who have not sent the University their email address are invited to do so before September so that they too can vote online. Please visit [www.alumni.ac.nz](http://www.alumni.ac.nz)

If any alumni do not wish to receive voting papers for Court of Convocation elections they should contact the Registrar or Gary Nicholls on 64 9 373-7599 ext 85173, [advancement@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:advancement@auckland.ac.nz)

Being electronically linked to the University brings other benefits, notably an automatic subscription to the @auckland newsletter published monthly by the Alumni Relations Team.

Those alumni without an email address will receive their voting papers by post. They will, however, have the option of voting electronically if they wish.

Please direct any questions about the forthcoming election to Gary Nicholls. To repeat: if you have not listed your email address with the University please do so by visiting [www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz)

## New Dean

The University's Faculty of Engineering has a new Dean.

Professor Michael Davies, former Deputy Principal and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences at the University of Dundee, took up the position at the beginning of May. He succeeds Professor Peter Brothers who has just completed a nine-year-term.

Michael holds a BSc (Eng.) in Civil Engineering from King's College London and a MPhil and PhD in Soil Mechanics from Cambridge University.

Before joining the University of Dundee, he was a research fellow at the University of California in Los Angeles and then a lecturer at Cardiff University.

His research interests and consulting activities range from land reclamation techniques to soil reinforcement, dynamic soil structure interaction, centrifuge modelling techniques and mathematical modelling of soils. He has attracted substantial external research funding and made major contributions to his discipline, most recently as chairman of the British Geotechnical Association.



## How new brain cells move



Scientists from The University of Auckland, alongside colleagues in Sweden, have discovered how new brain cells migrate throughout the brain.

The researchers identified how stem cells, immature cells that have not yet developed specific specialised functions, move from the site of generation in the brain, to other areas including those affected by neurological diseases.

"We've known about the migration of brain cells in mammals for some years but humans have usually been deemed different," says Professor of Anatomy Richard Faull. "Our studies show that stem cells migrate long distances through the human brain in order to replace cells that die in the olfactory system. Utilisation of this migration may allow us to direct the stem cells to other brain regions that are affected by brain cell loss. In addition, our study looked at adult brain tissue, which means much of the brain's ability to regenerate remains active even in older human brains.

"This research will change the way in which we can look at diseases where brain cells die, such as Huntington's Disease, or require repair, such as

stroke," says Richard. "By knowing how stem cells move around, we can now look at new ways to regenerate cells and repair damage to the areas of the brain affected by these conditions."

The collaborative study used tissue from adult brains donated to the Neurological Foundation's Human Brain Bank established at The University of Auckland's Department of Anatomy. Using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), staining and other biological techniques, the scientists identified the route of stem cell movement from the subventricular zone, where stem cells are generated, to the olfactory bulb via a pathway called the Rostral Migratory Stream.

"These revelations could not have come about without the brain bank and the generosity of those families who donated their loved one's brains for the benefit of others in society," says Richard. "The brain bank has helped New Zealand scientists, in collaboration with their Swedish colleagues, to make discoveries which have huge implications for the way in which the world looks at major neurological disorders."



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## Auckland in top 50

The University of Auckland is ranked 46th (equal with Kings College London) in the latest *Times Higher Education Supplement* World University Rankings and is the only New Zealand university in the top 50.

Published last October, the ranking of the world's universities is based on six criteria: peer review, citations per faculty member, faculty/student ratio, international students, international faculty, and recruiter review based on data gathered from graduate recruiters, especially those who work internationally or on a substantial national scale. Auckland's peer review score was particularly pleasing with 51 of a possible 100 points placing it 28th equal in the world rankings for this criterion.

For more information see: [www.thes.co.uk/worldrankings](http://www.thes.co.uk/worldrankings)

## Liggins at Cambridge

The University's Liggins Institute has opened a node at the University of Cambridge in Britain.

This will enable the Liggins, a multidisciplinary biomedical and clinical research and postgraduate teaching facility, to have access to a broad base of technologies and exchanges with one of the world's leading scientific universities.

Says institute director, Professor Peter Gluckman: "This formal association reinforces our many existing links with Cambridge and positions the institute at the forefront of the current revolution in biological research. It will provide access to rapidly developing technologies in bioinformatics and molecular biology that are unavailable to us in New Zealand."

The branch of the Liggins – situated within Cambridge's Department of Pathology – is headed by Professor Stewart Gilmour, one of the founding directors of the Liggins Institute. It offers unique opportunities for students at both locations: already one jointly supervised PhD student is working between the two centres developing new techniques in high throughput epigenetics.

## From 1883-2008

The University of Auckland celebrates its 125th birthday next year.

The University opened as a College of the University of New Zealand in a ramshackle, disused courthouse with four professors. While not the first university college to be established, the autonomous University of Auckland is now the leading and largest university in New Zealand.

Events in the University's 2008 calendar will be used to mark and celebrate the University's unique heritage and achievements.



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RESEARCH

# Focus on China

In recent years the University has forged strong relationships with China. Judy Wilford finds out about the China strategy and talks to two academics whose work is focused on different aspects of Chinese culture.

Above: Left to right: Professor Yanghao GUI, Vice-President of Fudan University in Shanghai (The University of Auckland's partner in the Confucius Institute); Helen Clark; Guocheng ZHAO, Vice-Director of HANBAN (Office of the Chinese Language Council International) – providers of funding for the Confucius Institute; the Ambassador to New Zealand from the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Yuanyuan ZHANG and a pupil from Parnell District School.

Note, names in capitals indicate surnames.

"When we think of China, we think on the grand scale," said Prime Minister Helen Clark on 16 February at The University of Auckland, "– the world's largest population, the third largest land mass, GDP measured in trillions of US dollars..."

"The numbers are overwhelming and, with China one of the most rapidly growing economies in the world, the opportunities are equally so."

While the Prime Minister's words are certainly true they are not new to the University. It is now 12 years since the University opened the New Zealand Asia Institute (NZAI), with Associate Professor Chris Tremewan – now Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) – at its head. This marked the start of a strategy for China – and indeed for Asia – that didn't just take opportunities but looked ahead and created them.

Now in place is a solid base of reciprocal relationships with China's top universities, its research organisations and government ministries.

"China is a hugely influential player in our part of the world," say Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon. "It's important for New Zealand to have strong relationships with China, and it's

important for an international university like ours to have strong relationships with similar universities in a country of that importance."

Since 2004 the University has hosted around 40 high-level Chinese visits, including senior members of the Politburo, Ministers of Education and the Minister of Science and Technology, as well as the Presidents of Peking and Tsinghua, the two most prestigious universities in China, who came to consolidate cooperation between their universities and Auckland.

During the same period The University of Auckland has sent more than 65 high-level missions and research delegations to China, and has developed research collaborations with major universities in disciplines ranging from structural biology to nanotechnology.

Strong partnerships, built both bilaterally and through international consortia with the top-tier Chinese universities – notably Peking and Tsinghua, Fudan and Shanghai Jiao Tong, Zhejiang and the China University of Science and Technology – are now being deepened and enriched.

In addition the Chinese Scholarships Council is

providing full scholarships for 20 PhD students to study at Auckland each year (likely to be increased to 40 from next year).

"In terms of the University's strategic priority to double the number of postgraduate students, we need the best that China can offer us," says Chris Tremewan.

Since the December visit of Professor LU Yongxiang, President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and Vice Chairman of the National People's Congress of China, who received an honorary doctorate from the University, research visits have been exchanged with some of the Academy's more than 100 research institutes, and with its Graduate University (GUCAS), which has a postgraduate student population numbering a staggering 33,000, of whom almost half are doing PhDs.

"Auckland has earned respect in China and is highly-regarded as New Zealand's leading university," says Chris. "Its ongoing task now is to translate relationships into action and outcomes."

Helen Clark visited the University in February to launch the Confucius Institute, one of the fruitful outcomes of those relationships. Hosted by The University of Auckland and run in partnership with Fudan University in Shanghai, the institute – the only one of its kind in New Zealand – aims to advance understanding of Chinese language and culture in New Zealand schools, businesses and the community.

Though the Confucius Institute receives funding from China and is one of more than 130 worldwide, its director, Nora Yao, appreciates the lack of prescriptive guidelines, which allows her to respond to needs where they arise, to work in collaboration with other New Zealand universities, and to support organisations such as the New Zealand China Friendship Society.

"Our philosophy," says Nora, "is to provide support for others in what they want to achieve, or to initiate activities and invite other groups to contribute."

In April Nora took a group of selected school principals to China, where they visited schools, businesses and government offices, and gained knowledge and made contacts to help them promote Chinese language learning in their schools.

The Confucius Institute also has an educational role within the University, says Nora, who has created a ten-week course – for one hour a week – in Chinese language and culture, offered free to all staff and tailor-made to their needs.

"Every department has Chinese students, and there are more and more research collaborations," she says. "We need to increase the China awareness of staff."

Another initiative which, in the words of the Vice-Chancellor, gives "teeth" to the relationship with a major partner, is the New Zealand Centre, to



be opened in May at Peking University. This centre, to be launched by Winston Peters, New Zealand's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, will combine an academic and teaching role with a policy development function for China-New Zealand relations. With seed funding from the New Zealand Government and support from the Ministries of Education, Foreign Affairs and Trade and Economic Development, this will be open to all New Zealand universities, and will provide a forum for discussing such issues as the Free Trade Agreement, economic transformation and technology transfer. It will also carry out major projects – first, for example, the translation of *The Oxford History of New Zealand Literature*.

The intention is eventually to form a mirror "China centre", located at The University of Auckland.

So what does Auckland stand to gain from its relationships with China?

To top international scientists such as Distinguished Professors Peter Hunter (Director of the University's Bioengineering Institute) and Ted Baker (Director of the Maurice Wilkins Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery) the answers are clear.

Says Peter Hunter: "China is a country with a massive population on a very fast trajectory of growth, with huge interest in science and technology. We'd be crazy not to be involved in finding bridges into it. It's going to be a source of students, of collaborative funding, and is clearly going to be a major scientific centre. The project I lead, the Physiome Project [building a computer model of human physiology] has involvement from the other major scientific centres of the world – the US, Europe and Japan – and will need to have a Chinese component as well."



Above top: Lion dance at opening of Confucius Institute.

Above bottom: Nora Yao.



## This year we are aiming to help kids in Harlem do better at school

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## RESEARCH

On a recent visit to the Chinese University of Hong Kong and to the Shenzhen CAS Institute just across the border in southern China, Peter discussed possibilities for joint research between the two institutions and Auckland. They are now formulating a project proposal and plan to apply for funding from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), which has indicated it will welcome applications of this kind.

CAS comprises a system of research institutes, funded and administered separately from the universities, which could be compared to the New Zealand Crown Research Institutes, except for its massive size. With more than 100 institutes, and more than 58,000 personnel, it is – according to Dr Ian Maxwell, General Manager of External Relations at Auckland UniServices Ltd – one of the world's largest research organisations.

Ted Baker, leader of an international project using protein structures to help design drugs to treat TB, says international relationships are always beneficial.

"Things change very fast in research," he says. "It's an advantage to be internationally connected because you see what changes are happening before you read about them in the scientific literature. You see new approaches and methods in operation so you can choose the best of them and implement them here. We've benefited a great deal over the years from various personal connections with overseas groups. It's helped our science to remain competitive. Without that I'm not sure we would."

He adds with a smile that China has some exceedingly bright students that he would be delighted to see in New Zealand.

Ted believes biotechnology "is going to really take off in China" and will offer a rich potential for research collaboration and student or postdoctoral exchanges. His own links in China are both personal and professional, through Professor Zihé RAO, a scientist and friend, who established research groups in structural biology at Tsinghua University and at a CAS institute and is now President of Nankai University.

The other question of course is what advantages the University can offer China.

Ted offers insight into that: "The language of science is English and nothing is going to change that. Chinese researchers aspire to publish in the best journals, to be competitive with the US and with anyone else in the world. To do that they have to be able to publish in English and to present their work in English. You learn that through working in the right English-speaking environment."

Ian Maxwell from UniServices naturally sees the benefits for both countries through a commercial lens.

Auckland UniServices Ltd is the University's commercial arm, accounting for some 50 percent of the University's external research contracts.



Engagement with China is a part of its growth strategy to assist it to reach its target of doubling revenue by 2012.

"We now do about 20 percent of our revenue-generating activities overseas," says Ian. "To achieve our growth target we'll need to increase that to about 50 percent. While the conventional developed countries like the US, the UK and Europe will remain important, all the trends are showing we need to engage with what I call 'the new research tigers', such as China and India, Singapore and South Korea. Given the relationships built by Auckland International and the Vice-Chancellor, China is top of our list."

Issues of intellectual property, sometimes a stumbling block in the past, are now being rapidly dealt with, says Ian. Tighter legislation on intellectual property, the number of new patents now being issued in China, and China's membership of the World Trade Organisation – requiring adherence to its regulations – are all contributing to a change

Above: Chris Tremewan with President LU Yongxiang who visited the University last year to receive his honorary doctorate.



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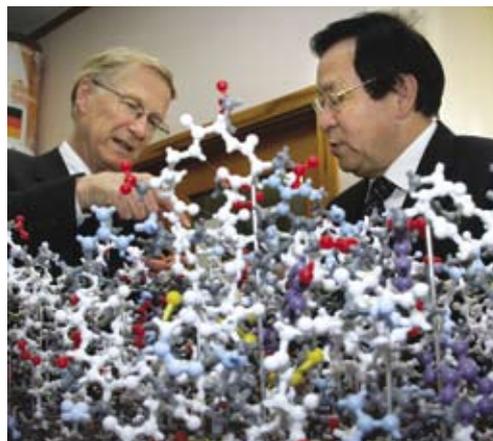
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in culture around intellectual property.

President LU Yongxiang in an interview during his visit to Auckland said innovation is the key to sustaining China's rapid advance and to distributing economic gains throughout its society. In this he believes Auckland can assist: "The huge potential of the Chinese market and New Zealand's capacity for innovation can combine to create a win-win situation."

This accords with Ian Maxwell's perception of the kind of input that China will value: "Here we have a country that is spending huge money on quality science, whose leaders say its future economic and social development will depend on science and technology. However, to go from a rural and manufacturing base to a knowledge economy is very complex. In manufacturing you're bringing in someone else's technology and training people to use it. In a knowledge-based economy you have to do the research and own or partially own it, and you need to have people who understand how to take a piece of research protected with a patent along that very complex path to a product or service in the market, local or global.

"That's a big ask, particularly for a country that hasn't got a tradition of economic activity in a knowledge-based economy. And in that space – in what I call 'the innovation space' between science and the market, is where I think New Zealand could help significantly."

One exciting initiative now emerging in China seems likely to give Auckland the chance to contribute to that country's advance – and perhaps even the world's environmental welfare – while also helping achieve its own long-term objectives.

The Chinese government has conceived a project to raise the quality of the "undeveloped" universities in central and western China, and address the growing inequities of wealth in a time of rapid economic advance.

China's most prestigious universities are far ahead of the rest, receiving the highest funding

and selecting only the top students, who compete for entry from all over the country. Through this project each of these top universities will "adopt" and support one or more of the less developed universities from China's interior and west.

For The University of Auckland and for New Zealand, long-term collaborative research within this scheme could be a way of helping with China's development while also extending and enriching this country's network of contacts as China's prosperity spreads into the centre and west.

During a discussion in Auckland last year the President of Tsinghua University, Professor GU Binglin, and Auckland Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, agreed to collaborate in the relationship with Qinghai, one of Tsinghua's "protégé" universities.

This plan was endorsed strongly both by the Chinese Minister of Science and Technology, who said he would look positively at funding, and the Chinese Education Minister, ZHOU Ji, who said, in an address to the Vice-Chancellor and delegation in China last September: "As China is entering a new stage of very rapid growth, your commitment to the relationships with Chinese universities will mean that Auckland will be with us on this journey into the next phase."

The economics and practicalities of entering other trilateral relationships of this kind are now being discussed with the New Zealand Government.

On a recent visit to Qinghai by Chris Tremewan, Vice-President CEN Zhangzhi of Tsinghua University and FU Weidong, the University of Auckland's representative in China, identified three clear areas for collaborative research and professional development: advanced materials, environmental systems and management, and high-altitude medicine. Auckland researchers from each of those areas will visit Qinghai in the first half of this year.

Qinghai province, located on the Qinghai-Tibetan plateau, is twice the size of Germany, with a relatively sparse population of about five million. However, with a wealth of minerals – until now little exploited – and as the source of three major Chinese river systems, it is a key region for technological advance and for ecological management.

"What happens there will affect the entire ecosystem of China," says Chris.

And it seems clear that what affects China will affect the world.

Above: Ted Baker with Professor GU Binglin, President of Tsinghua University, in the Maurice Wilkins Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery.

# Parallel stories

BY JUDY WILFORD

In 1974 Paul Clark, a masters graduate in History from The University of Auckland, travelled to Beijing as one of the first three New Zealand exchange students to study in the People's Republic of China.

In the same year a young woman called Manying Ip, born in China and a recent graduate of the University of Hong Kong, stepped off the plane at Auckland Airport with her doctor husband – about to start work in an Auckland hospital – and her baby daughter.

Both these moves were later to benefit The University of Auckland, with Professor Paul Clark and Associate Professor Manying Ip now long-standing and highly valued members of staff in the School of Asian Studies, each with PhDs in modern Chinese history and both currently conducting research with the help of prestigious Marsden Fund grants.

Paul arrived in Beijing knowing just two sentences of Chinese ("I am a student. I am from New Zealand.") to join an enclave of about 50 western and Japanese students at a language institute with students from North Korea, Vietnam, Albania and Africa.

"This was a plunge into the deep end of language-learning," says Paul, "with airmail letters the only contact with home."

However, in contrast to what one might expect, contact with the locals was in some ways closer in those last years of the Cultural Revolution than it is now.

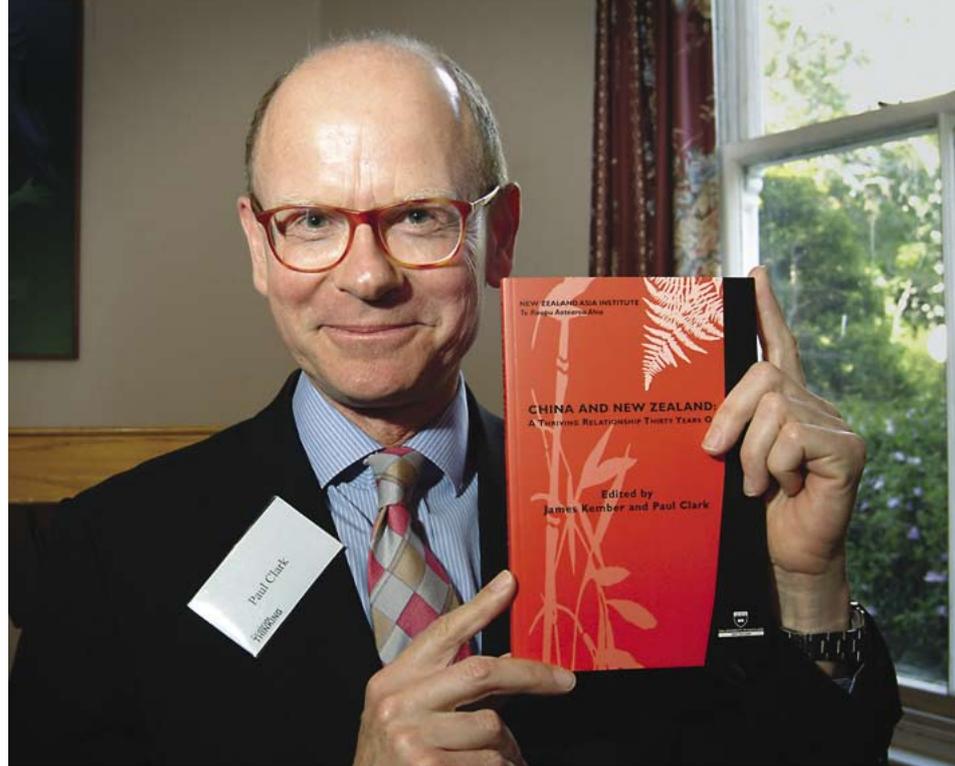
"In my second year, when we studied at Peking University, our [Chinese] classmates were also our room-mates. We even had political discussion meetings together and went to 'open-door schooling' at the Capital Steel Works and on a rural commune together.

"In these experiences the gap between the official rhetoric in the Chinese media, and real people's feelings, was obvious."

"For Manying too, the shock of the change is still clear in her mind – the abrupt move from the cosmopolitan buzz of Hong Kong to a quiet sleepy Auckland, with shops closed at evenings and weekends, domestic technology (such as washing machines) startlingly undeveloped, essential ingredients (such as rice) difficult to obtain, and a distressing lack of knowledge about China and Asia in general even among otherwise well-educated New Zealanders. "At that time we had young doctors' wives arriving at the airport, and there were some who put their arms around their husbands and just said, 'Let's go home!'"

It is no surprise to find deep connections for both Manying and Paul between these early experiences and their later scholarly explorations.

While Paul's research has focused on the cultural history of China, Manying has become



New Zealand's foremost commentator on the social history of its Chinese immigrants, their experiences, their patterns of migration and the attitudes they have encountered.

Paul's current research arises from 30 years' study of Chinese film and popular culture and is focused on Chinese youth culture, "core-sampled" at three key historical points.

"In 1968, encouraged as Red Guards to question authority and innovate on stage and in the streets, young people found a space to assert their difference from older generations," Paul explains.

Though this was interrupted when 20 million young people were "sent down" to the countryside, where many remained until 1976, a lot of the writing and thinking taking place underground at this time would later emerge as new kinds of art, literature and films.

The second key year of the study, 1988, fascinates Paul as "perhaps the most liberal moment culturally and politically in China since 1949 – when a lot of new cultural influences were pouring in from the western countries, and notably Japan, as a consequence of the 'opening-up' of the economic reforms, and the influx of television programmes".

Paul, who spent three months of that year in China, sees it as "a sort of mid-point in the passage from indigenous youth culture to full globalisation. While highly excited by international influences these young people still had a concern to remain Chinese. There was a great craze for creating ersatz Chinese-style folk songs or Chinese-style rock music with a folk influence."

Paul's study of the year of the Olympics, 2008, will trace the emergence of youth culture in relation to ideas of globalisation and internationalisation in a context of the enthusiastic embrace of mobile phones and the Internet.

One interesting question is: Will Chinese youth culture enjoy the same currency around the world as

Above: Paul Clark with his book *China and New Zealand* co-edited with James Kember in 2002 to mark 30 years of New Zealand-China diplomatic relations.

## RESEARCH



Above: Manying Ip with her two children, John and Vivian, in Albert Park, February 1982 just after she had handed in her thesis. John is holding a bound copy of the thesis.

Below: Manying with Vivian and John in Albert Park in 2007. Vivian and John are both University alumni. John (BA 1998, LLB (Hons) 2001) is the first Chinese lecturer in the Faculty of Law and Vivian (BA, LLB 1996) is a policy analyst with Auckland City Council.

American popular culture achieved in the last century?

This project was partly sparked by Paul's frustration at the "over-fascination" with recent changes in China. "There's a tendency to journalistic over-enthusiasm about how exciting the changes are. As someone trained in history here at The University of Auckland I feel an urge to help people understand where this has come from, to recognise that it has strong historical roots."

Manying's Marsden-funded research, now almost completed, is on the changing relationship between Māori and Chinese, tracing their interactions from early colonial times until the present day.

Māori and Chinese people have much in common culturally, says Manying. They share key values such as respect for elders and embrace of the extended family. It was these common values in colonial New Zealand that encouraged their early affinity.

She has observed a change in their inter-group dynamics, evident by the mid-1990s, and believes this is partly due to the well-publicised success of Asian immigrants in education and business, which could be resented by indigenous people who believe

their own opportunities have been limited. The immigrants have also felt very insecure because of criticisms led by some Māori politicians.

Manying's research will result in two books, one focusing on family and human relationships while the other will be an edited volume covering all aspects of Māori Chinese encounters, from early DNA links to contemporary media perceptions of the "Other". Manying suggests that modern migration has changed the cultural mosaic of New Zealand.

"New Zealanders tend to see migration as one directional, from A to B," she says. "In reality it is never like that."

Finding that settlement patterns are changing she believes a new framework is needed to understand the movement of peoples, taking into account "returnees" and looking at the whole spatially-extended family. Because New Zealand is small and opened up only recently to Chinese immigration, it can provide manageable data for charting migratory patterns.

Manying acknowledges there has been an "anti-Asian backlash" since the latest surge of new immigrants, and has been involved in a recent complaint to the Press Council about an article by Deborah Coddington published in *North & South* (December 2006) – confrontationally entitled "Asian angst: Is it time to send some back?" The complaint was on grounds that the article was "prejudiced and misleading".

Nevertheless, her feelings about the future are positive: "I'm always confident that New Zealand will get it right in terms of race relations, because we are a smaller nation and haven't got that very bitter heritage that some countries have."

There is growing acceptance of diversity along with a surge of confidence among Chinese New Zealanders, "especially among the locally born young people, and what we call the 1.5 generation [born in Chinese-origin areas, raised in New Zealand]."

"I don't think all the Deborah Coddingtons in the world can put them down."

An international conference called "Bananas Goes Global" will be held at the Business School later this year (see [www.goingbananas.org.nz](http://www.goingbananas.org.nz)).

A larger sequel to last year's conference – "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Banana" – it will highlight the achievements and experiences of Chinese New Zealanders.

Among the speakers will be inspirational young achievers: artists, architects, publishers, film-makers, health professionals and business people.

"The young people now are doing well," says Manying. "They know what they want and they know where they stand. They are entitled to their share of the sunshine here, and no-one can tell them otherwise."

# Probing leaky homes

In a classic tale of kiwi ingenuity, a student project in the Faculty of Engineering has evolved into a thriving business, and a godsend to owners of leaky homes.

BY DANELLE SEAGER

In 2004, Bryan Holyoake (BE/BCom conjoint 2005) was a member of a final-year undergraduate project which invented an electronic probe for investigating moisture behaviour in walls.

Three years on, the device has been installed in hundreds of walls by the Moisture Detection Company ([www.moisturedetection.co.nz](http://www.moisturedetection.co.nz)) now headed by Bryan.

The miniature probes are a technological breakthrough in identification and monitoring of leaky homes. They are inserted through the skirting board at potential trouble spots around a home to measure the moisture levels in the gap between the walls. They are permanent, non-destructive, and give an online computer report with a simple colour-coded reading ranging from green (safe) to red (maintenance is needed and timber may need replacing).

Before, the only way to establish if a home was leaky was to rip down walls or cut large holes in the cladding.

"Bryan's work was fundamental in understanding the behaviour and movement of water both as a vapour and as a liquid in a typical house wall building cavity," says Professor of Engineering, Geoff Duffy, who supervised the fourth-year project. "Many clear insights were gained."

Originally Bryan and his group set out to measure the rate of moisture loss from building walls and the mechanisms that drive that loss.

The result was a small, twin-wired device that allows a small current to pass between the paired wires; this alters logarithmically with



increases in moisture.

Now the Moisture Detection Company's probes measure variances around a house and then plots are formulated to locate where the water is entering. An assessment is then made on the cause of the leak so remedial repair work can be undertaken.

The devices not only establish if a home is leaky, but also monitor leaky homes that have undergone repairs and act as an early warning detection system for home owners wanting peace of mind from unknown moisture problems.

About 600 homes, mostly in Auckland, now have the devices installed. "Our current initiative is to have 1,000 homes using the system, including online access and sharing, by the end of 2007," says Bryan.

"Moisture detection is a perfect example of how an engineering advance can bring great benefits to industry and home owners," observes Geoff Duffy.

"Bryan quickly realised the commercial potential of his investigations and had the vision to be able to take it to the public, which has set a fantastic example for fourth-year students about to embark on their projects."

Above: From left Bryan Holyoake and Senior Programmer and alumnus Brian Hsu (BE 2004, GDSci 2006).

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

# Thirty years of Marine Reserves

BY EMMA TIMEWELL



IMAGE: Dr Russ Babcock

EACH YEAR AROUND 300,000 PEOPLE TRAVEL TO A SMALL BEACH ON THE COAST NEAR WARKWORTH NORTH OF AUCKLAND, TAKING THEIR SNORKELS OR SCUBA GEAR TO ENJOY THE UNDERWATER LIFE.

Above: A group of sea urchins (kina) feeding on kelp. Higher densities of fish and lobster in the reserve reduce urchin numbers and allow regeneration of the kelp forest.

For 30 years, thanks to University of Auckland researchers, Leigh Marine Reserve has been a paradise for both humans and marine life – a legally declared “garden of Eden in the sea”.

The concept of marine reserves in New Zealand was first voiced in 1965 by Professor Val Chapman of the University’s Leigh Marine Laboratory, which had opened the previous year. Professor Chapman’s idea was to establish an area where research efforts were protected from outside interference – a revolutionary notion despite the existence of over a thousand scenic and wildlife reserves on land.

The reserve concept grew legs with support from the New Zealand Underwater Association and the Marine Sciences Society, and in 1971 the Marine Reserves Act was passed into law.

In May 1977, two years after it was gazetted, New Zealand’s first marine reserve (and one of the world’s first) was officially inaugurated at Leigh’s Goat Island.

The reserve, which stretches around five kilometres from Cape Rodney to Okakari Point, was the first time in European settlement in New Zealand that “we have officially sanctified

a piece of coast,” observed Lew Ritchie, Chairman of the Reserve Management Committee at the inauguration ceremony. “We have set it aside for posterity because of its riches and beauty and the diversity and abundance of its life forms, rather than setting it up for its exploitation. It is also set aside for people to enjoy. It’s very much a people thing.”

There are now 28 marine reserves in New Zealand, from the Kermadec Islands in the north to the Auckland Islands in the south, with another five proposals undergoing review by the Department of Conservation. Collectively, the reserves cover over seven percent of New Zealand’s ocean territory. All wildlife within a reserve, including animal and plant life, is protected from human interference with a no-take policy in place.

The University’s marine laboratory overlooks Leigh Marine Reserve, and conducts research not only into New Zealand’s marine life in general but also the value of marine reserves globally and the specific impact the reserve has had around Goat Island.

“The success of the reserve as a place set aside for people to enjoy is patently obvious given the numbers of visitors and their enthusiastic response,” says Professor John Montgomery, current Director of the Leigh Marine Laboratory. “But the reserve also has an important role to play in helping us understand the marine ecosystem by giving us a research area that’s closer to a natural state.”

The benefits of the reserve are obvious to most visitors: there is an active, well populated world beneath the ocean’s surface. The snapper are abundant and much bigger than in other places – in fact, in science-speak, numbers and biomass of snapper are 14 times higher inside marine reserves than outside. Similarly, there are more, and larger, spiny lobsters within the boundaries of the reserve. The recovery of snapper and lobster numbers has resulted in a reduction of urchin numbers which in turn has allowed regeneration of the kelp forests. This complex cascade of changes has taken many years to happen.

Inevitably, arguments about the impact of reserves on fishing have arisen, but the research at Leigh shows that, if anything, the presence of the reserve has been positive.

“There is a spill-over effect of mature animals where they have been given the opportunity to grow larger in the reserve and then move beyond its boundaries and get caught,” says Professor Montgomery.

“New Zealand has a special role to play in marine science globally,” he adds. “It has a large marine estate of great importance to the country’s identity and economy. It is therefore crucial that we better understand the environments and animals that exist below the surface.”

# Dance with me

BY AMBER OLDER

Ralph Buck is greeted like a rock star when he walks into the room.

"Mr Buck! Mr Buck! You know my name, eh, Mr Buck!" The audience shriek, flocking excitedly around him.

But Associate Professor Ralph Buck is no rock star – he is the Head of Dance Studies at the National Institute of Creative Arts and Industries (NICAI) – and his adoring fans are 18 members of the Pegasus Unit, the special needs class at Pakuranga College in East Auckland. Accompanied by 17 NICAI dance students, Ralph is at the college to lead the first of four weekly classes, where he offers the benefits of dance to people with disabilities.

For the past three years, Ralph has been taking classes to Pakuranga, to simultaneously engage the Pegasus students in a range of behavioural and cognitive exercises, and to demonstrate to his own students the importance of dance as a rehabilitative tool.

"Everyone is scared stiff of dance, but the benefits are immediate and tangible," says Ralph, who also takes his students to dance sessions at an Auckland retirement village and at Starship Hospital. "It's not just about physical skills; dance also involves thinking, making choices, responding to instructions and building confidence."

On the first day of class, an air of nervous anticipation permeates the minibus ride from the University to Pakuranga. The NICAI students, a mix of second-, third- and honours-year students, admit they are unsure of what to expect.

They soon find out.

As Ralph and his students enter the gym at Pakuranga College, the Pegasus students erupt in shouts of glee, barely able to stay seated in a large, cross-legged circle on the floor. After greeting most of the students by name, and inviting his NICAI students to pair up with a Pegasus member, Ralph starts the class.

For the next hour, Pegasus and NICAI students work together, following Ralph's lead as they stretch, shimmy and sashay around the room. They work in pairs, then in small groups, and finally as a unified group. Dean, a 21-year-old Samoan man with Down Syndrome, shows off his krumping skills; Anna, a diminutive 16-year-old with Down Syndrome, moves in perfect time to the salsa beat. Monique, a tall,



slender young woman with developmental delay, shows her NICAI partner how to hop, skip and jump across the gym. The room is filled with loud music, joyful shouts and peals of laughter. By the end of class a tangible bond has formed between the two groups of students, any tentativeness quickly replaced by a genuine – and mutual – respect and affection.

In just 60 minutes, something powerful has happened.

Having completed a masters degree on dance for adults with Down Syndrome, and a PhD in dance education in primary schools, Ralph emphasises that he is building a programme that places equal value on acquiring technical ability, honing research skills and appreciating the life-long learning benefits of dance.

Veronica Arnold, who heads the Pegasus Unit, has no doubt that Ralph's classes make a huge difference to her students, both physically and mentally. She says the boost in their energy and concentration levels before and after a dance class is striking.

"Students who are largely reticent and tend to be unsocial throughout the day become fully involved in the movement, music and interaction with others. They maintain that kind of engagement for hours, which means they pay greater attention to their studies over the rest of the day. The transformation is amazing," she says.

Fundamentally, says Ralph, both the NICAI and Pegasus students reap the rewards of uniting dance and disabilities.

"After the Pakuranga College experience my students tell me that they stop making assumptions about who a dancer is, and they think differently about the 'rules' we are supposedly bound by in society," he says. "Equally, the Pegasus students teach us about how to cope, how to compromise, how to be tolerant – they remind us of the diversity of the planet. After all, we are always dancing with humans – it is the people who make dance happen, who make it special."



Above: Ralph Buck (middle picture, left).



# Reaching across barriers

LAST YEAR ALUMNA  
DAME JOAN METGE  
WON A MAJOR  
PEACE PRIZE. NOW  
THE ROYAL SOCIETY  
OF NEW ZEALAND  
IS CREATING A  
NEW MEDAL IN HER  
HONOUR.  
TESS REDGRAVE  
TALKS TO THE  
RENOWNED  
ANTHROPOLOGIST  
AND LONG-TIME  
CHAMPION OF  
CROSS-CULTURAL  
COMMUNICATION IN  
NEW ZEALAND.

"[It] is all too easy to assume that our way of seeing the world, that is, our way of interpreting and valuing what goes on around us, is the universal, human way...and all too easy to fail to realise that other people have and act on different ideas."

This lifelong sentiment, first publicly expressed in 1978 in her seminal book *Talking past each other*, is one of the reasons renowned social anthropologist and University alumna Dame Joan Metge (BA 1951, MA 1952, DLitt (Hon) 2001) won a major international peace prize last year.

Following in the footsteps of Jos Ramos-Horta, current Prime Minister of East Timor, and the Bougainville Restorative Justice Project, Dame Joan is the third winner of the Asia-Pacific Mediation Forum Peace Prize. Part of a worldwide network, the forum awards the prize every two years to a person or group which has made a significant contribution to conflict resolution or peace initiatives in the Asia-Pacific.

"I only found out I'd won a week before the prize-giving in Suva, which was on at the same time as I was due to go to Wellington for a special meeting of the Waitangi National Trust Board," says Joan as we sit talking at her home in Onehunga, Auckland.

One of nine non-Government representatives on the board which administers New Zealand's historic Waitangi Treaty House and grounds, Joan decided she could not miss the two-day meeting that would

set strategic objectives for the years ahead.

"So I asked the sister-in-charge at St Christopher's Anglican orphanage in Suva to accept the Peace Prize on my behalf," she explains. "In the 70s I spent some time in Suva and visited St Christopher's. I fell in love with the place and have stayed in touch."

What Joan doesn't volunteer is that she donated her Peace Prize money to the orphanage "because they are always in need".

For more than 50 years Dame Joan Metge has quietly pursued a passion to improve cultural understanding and communication between Māori and Pākehā in New Zealand. In the process she has forged friendships in the Māori world, been adopted by a Māori iwi, published nine books and won numerous awards: in 1987 made a Dame Commander of the British Empire for services to anthropology; the same year, awarded the Elsdon Best Memorial Medal from the Polynesian Society; and in 1997 given the Royal Society of New Zealand's inaugural Te Rangi Hiroa Medal for outstanding scientific research in the social sciences. (This year the Royal Society has honoured Joan further by creating the Joan Metge Medal, which, from 2008, will be awarded biennially in rotation with the Te Rangi Hiroa Medal, recognising excellence in social sciences research, and in particular, active engagement with research participants.)

Today aged 77, and “officially retired”, Joan is President of the Polynesian Society, on the advisory panel of a research institute developing Treaty of Waitangi-based legal institutions, and is engaged in writing a book on Māori methods of learning and teaching.

“I’ve always seen it as my task to learn as much as possible about the Māori world to pass on to other Pākehā in the belief we can understand one another better,” she says of her *raison d’être*.

Looking back, Joan zooms in on three years growing up in Pukekohe during the Second World War as having a pivotal impact on her life.

“My father was a primary school teacher and when I was ten he got a job in Pukekohe. We moved from Mt Eden and rented a house that had been a sly grog shop supplying Māori who, because of paternalistic laws, couldn’t buy liquor legally. There was something very wrong about the whole set-up in the town. There was a so-called ‘Māori end of town’ and in the cinema Māori weren’t allowed to sit upstairs.”

At school Joan met her “first best friend” Eileen who had a Māori mother and Chinese father. “She made me aware there was a lot more to Māori society and culture than was being recognised, that there was something we [Europeans] were denying.”

By the time Joan enrolled at The University of Auckland (then a constituent college of the University of New Zealand) in 1948, she knew she wanted to be an anthropologist and study Māori culture. But while anthropology was on the books, there was no professor to teach it, so instead she did a degree in geography combined with French and German and then completed an MA thesis on Māori population movements.

After a year as a junior lecturer in geography, Joan won a University Senior Scholarship and spent two and a half years doing fieldwork towards a PhD in anthropology under the guidance of the newly appointed Professor of Anthropology, Ralph Piddington.

“By then I had decided that what interested me was the urban migration of Māori, particularly because the newspapers were full of comments damning the migration. It seemed to be the view that Māori were a rural people, they came to the city and got into trouble: they were a problem with a capital P! Everyone was sounding off about this as experts but no one had gone and asked the people why they moved? How it went? What happened?”

While researching Māori living in Auckland City during the 1950s, Joan encountered an enormous amount of misunderstanding and anger between Māori and Pākehā. Despite this she made some “very good friends”, among them members of the Māori Women’s Welfare League who were

undertaking a housing survey.

“They were appalled at conditions under which some Māori were living and mounted a campaign to get more state houses; they arranged for me to work as an honorary Māori Welfare officer, so I went round with them and took notes and met people.”

After two years’ fieldwork in the city, Joan decided she needed to know where the migrants had come from and what their rural communities were like. She made contact with members of Te Rarawa iwi in Northland and spent five months living with several families in Ahipara.

“It was a pretty intense five months,” she remembers. “I did a lot of walking – there was no car – and talking and taking part in hui; I attended my first tangi and I wrote lots of notes.”

In late 1955 she travelled to London with a suitcase full of notes from her fieldwork and completed a PhD in Social Anthropology at the University of London in 1958 under New Zealander Professor Raymond Firth. Back in New Zealand and based at the University on a Carnegie Social Sciences research fellowship, she transformed her PhD thesis into her first book: *A New Māori Migration: Urban and Rural Relations in Northern New Zealand*.

“I called it a new migration,” she explains “because it was a sympathetic view of migration to the city, stressing reasons why people came, the sorts of problems they encountered. The title reflected my strong feeling that this was a migration comparable to the one that brought their ancestors from the islands to New Zealand – and for many of the same reasons.”

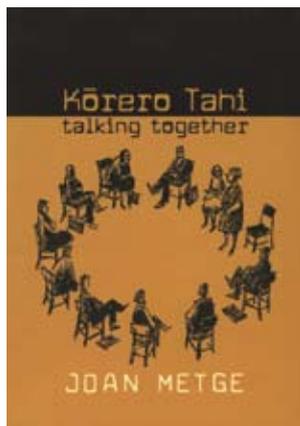
While on the Carnegie fellowship, Joan travelled around many North Island marae and attended hui, gathering and writing material that eventually appeared in her second book *The Māoris of New Zealand*.

Four lectures on Māori culture and society she gave in Kaitaia in 1963 sowed the seeds for her next and, arguably, most well-known book *Talking past each other: Problems of cross cultural communication*.

“I remember at the first lecture there were about 50 Māori and Pākehā,” she explains. “A lot of them knew each other so at the end of my talk I said ‘now we’ve got a lot of experts in Māori society and culture here so I’m going to hand over to them to answer the questions’. Pākehā started asking simple, basic questions about Māori community life. The Māori elders answered, but they didn’t answer and that’s when I coined the term ‘talking past each other’. The question went this way, and the answer went this way.”

Sitting in her living room, Joan laughs as she demonstrates for me crossing her arms with hands pointing in opposing directions. “There was this





total lack of connection,” she sighs. “It happens between a lot of cultures and between the sexes. We take so much for granted about other people thinking the same way we do.”

As a result of the Kaitaia lectures, Joan began making notes and then in the early 1970s, working at Victoria University of Wellington, she collaborated with a former student, Patricia Kinloch, to publish *Talking past each other*.

Nearly 30 years on the slight, 56-page book remains in print shedding light on some of the problems of misinterpretation between Māori and Pākehā, Māori and Samoan, and Pākehā and Samoan.

“An awful lot of people have encountered the book yet there are still many making the same mistakes today,” says Joan when I suggest the book might still be relevant. She points to the recent debate on the Government’s foreshore and seabed legislation.

“I made a submission on the bill, along with two colleagues, saying that there were a lot of misunderstandings going on and don’t let’s rush into this, let’s sit down and talk about it more and try to understand each other. Māori don’t even have a word for foreshore,” she points out. “The legal position distinguishes seabed, foreshore and land, but there just isn’t that distinction in Māori language.

“Even the hui on the bill weren’t a real discussion,” she adds. “They were a series of speeches that just didn’t connect. So often it seems the Government goes out to talk to people but it doesn’t talk with them, it talks at them.”

In 1965 Joan joined the staff of Victoria University of Wellington as a senior lecturer in Anthropology with special responsibility for Māori Studies; in 1968 she was promoted to Associate Professor. Between the demands of teaching she continued to research Māori culture and in 1986, drawing on more than 60 personal interviews, published a ground-breaking book *In and Out of Touch: Whakamaa in a Cross Cultural Context* which explores the Māori concept of whakamaa – a word that “suggests a way of thinking about interpersonal relations” and is “bound up with the lack or loss of mana in relation to others”.

In 1988 Joan retired early to concentrate on her research and writing and returned to Auckland to be closer to her extended family, which includes members of Te Rarawa iwi as well as her sister and family and two of her own whangai – four boys she fostered at crucial points in their lives.

Joan has since renewed ties with her alma mater holding an honorary research fellowship with the University’s Department of Anthropology since 2001. A major work *New Growth From Old: The Whānau in the Modern World* was published in 1995 and then in 2001 *Kōrero Tahī: talking together* came out in answer to the challenges posed in *Talking past each other*.

Like its predecessor, *Kōrero Tahī* is the result of Joan’s work with Māori and observation of Māori and Pākehā in the field. It draws on tikanga kōrero (Māori rules of discussion) to develop a procedure for managing group discussion in settings where Māori and non-Māori meet to talk about common concerns.

As the message of *Kōrero Tahī* filters through the community, Joan is increasingly in demand as a mediator, conference presenter and facilitator.

Relaxed and gentle in manner, she embodies what she preaches.

“A careful listener, deep thinker, quiet speaker and a humble, caring person among us, Joan has been claimed as one of our own,” writes John Campbell, Chairman of Te Runanga O Te Rarawa, in the foreword to *New Growth from Old*.

In the mid 1970s, Te Rarawa formally adopted Joan during a small ceremony on Roma marae.

“But I don’t trade on this,” she tells me quickly. “In the north they use the word atawhai which translates to grace. It’s a connection by association and acceptance. A lot of the people up there either call me aunty in English or whaea (aunt, mother, mum) in Māori.”

And this acceptance matters more than anything else. She knows only too well what it can feel like when it’s not there.

“In the early 80s, during the rise of Māori activism, I had a very specific, very personal and very hurtful challenge that what right did I, as a Pākehā, have to intrude into the Māori world? I faced the accusation that I was gaining professional advancement and a good salary on the back of that research.” She bristles at the memory.

“I have an undying debt to Pita Sharples [current co-leader of the New Zealand Māori Party]. At the time I was on a Royal Society James Cook Fellowship in Auckland and spending a lot of time at Hoana Waititi Marae. Pita and his team sat down and listened to me and I asked them straight: ‘Do you feel that I am exploiting you?’ They put their arms around me. There’s a wonderful Māori word awahi (to cuddle, to reassure, to build up). They reassured me and Pita said as a mediator between Māori and Pākehā I could say things that they, at that stage, couldn’t say.

“I’ve always seen my job as never to claim I am an expert in Māori things but to help Pākehā to understand, to give them a sufficient basis that they can then move into the Māori world and make their own connections.

“One of the things I’ve learnt in the field is that it is possible to make friends with people from very different backgrounds. You can reach across what seem like impossible barriers and there’s an enrichment that flows from that.”



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# Coming full circle: the 2007 Distinguished Alumni Awards

"It was shortly after The University of Auckland took ownership of Old Government House [in 1969] that I began studying law here," explains His Excellency, the Honourable Anand Satyanand, Governor-General of New Zealand, to guests at the University's 2007 Distinguished Alumni Awards Annual Dinner.

"Perhaps those legal history lessons in the ballroom had a somewhat subliminal impact on my subsequent career path," he jokes.

Anand, nicknamed Satch while a University law student, was among more than 430 alumni, alumni scholars, staff, friends of the University and invited dignitaries who attended the twelfth annual awards held in the Alumni Marquee at Old Government House in late February.

This year's awards – always a highlight on the University calendar – were marked by several causes for celebration. Only hours earlier Professor of Chemistry, Margaret Brimble had been named Asia-Pacific Laureate in the L'Oreal UNESCO Women in Sciences Awards – the first New Zealand woman to be so honoured.

As guests arrived, they stood outside on Old Government House lawn in the balmy evening air sipping champagne and chatting excitedly about Professor Brimble's news.

There was more cause for celebration once guests were seated inside the marquee and New Zealand's new Governor-General was welcomed as the evening's guest speaker.

"Anand's appointment gives The University of Auckland 'a constitutional trifecta'", noted Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon. "New Zealand's Governor-General, Prime Minister [the Honourable Helen Clark] and Chief Justice [Dame Sian Elias] are all now alumni of this University."

In responding, His Excellency pointed out that the Alumni Marquee stands on the site of the Auckland home of Governors-General for more than 100 years. "This site is very much part of our nation's and the city's history," he told the crowd. "Even more than that, it is a physical reminder of the years in which Auckland was New Zealand's capital during the first blush of our nation's European youth.

"Tonight I feel that my association with the University has come full circle," he concluded, "with me here at Old Government House addressing alumni as Governor-General."

After a meal that included a hot smoked salmon



entrée and South Island rack of lamb accompanied by wines produced by alumni-owned estates – Goldwater, Kumeu River, Mount Riley, St Jerome Matuka – the night's main cause for celebration began with the presentation of Alumni Awards to six outstanding New Zealanders honoured in the arts, business, science, education, law and sport (see report over page).

"This year's awards dinner was again a real privilege to be involved in," says Alumni Relations Manager, Amanda Lyne, who masterminded the event. "It was marvellous to see so many distinguished and familiar faces enjoying themselves throughout the evening.

"It was particularly moving to celebrate the achievements of our award winners as they represent such a rich and talented alumni body – a community of scholars. It is by their many achievements that they in turn inspire and challenge us (as alumni and friends of the University) to raise our standards, and utilise our many talents for the betterment of humanity."

Above top: Anand Satyanand

Above bottom: From left: Bob Harvey, Mayor of Waitakere City and University philanthropists Irene and Gus Fisher at the awards dinner.



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# Our 2007 Distinguished Alumni



## EMERITUS PROFESSOR JUDITH BINNEY BA (1962), MA (1965)

"I'm delighted history is taking centre stage in New Zealand," Judith Binney told the audience at the Alumni Awards Dinner. "Conversations I've had with Māori elders have clarified my view that historians must write for as broad an audience as possible while retaining the rigour of academic discipline."

An eminent New Zealand historian, who was born in Australia, Judith graduated with first class honours in history from the University in 1965. In 1966 she joined the staff of the History Department, retiring in 2004 as Professor of History.

Judith's MA thesis was published as *The Legacy of Guilt, A Life of Thomas Kendall* and won the F.P. Wilson Award for the best piece of historical writing in New Zealand in 1968. Her books include *Redemption Songs* (a biography of Te Kooti) which won the Montana Book of the Year Award in 1996 and, like her other works – *Mihai: The Prophet Rua Kenana and his Community at Maungapohatu* (with G. Chaplin and C. Wallace, 1979) and *Nga Morehu: The Survivors*, (with G. Chaplin, 1986) – redefined and reinvented the biographical form that was central to twentieth-century New Zealand historiography.

Judith is renowned as a pioneer in oral history in New Zealand and was a key figure in the growth of New Zealand history in the 1960s; for many years she edited the *New Zealand Journal of History*. In 1998 she was one of the first two historians to become a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. In 1999 she was appointed to the Board of Te Papa Tongarewa and in 2003 she became a guardian (Kaitiaki) of the Alexander Turnbull Library.

In 1997 Judith was made a Companion of New Zealand Order of Merit for services to history and in 2006 was promoted to become a Distinguished Companion of the Order.



## PROFESSOR TERRY COLLINS BSC (1974), MSC (1975), PHD (1978)

A world-leading researcher in the field of green chemistry and sustainability, Terry Collins received three degrees, majoring in Chemistry, from The University of Auckland, before departing for Stanford University to carry out postdoctoral work. He is now the Thomas Lord Professor of Chemistry, and founder of the Institute for Green Oxidation Chemistry at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, USA.

One of the true pioneers of green chemistry, Terry is significantly responsible for shaping the field in the United States and internationally. His research focuses on greening oxidation technologies by designing non-toxic catalysts, called TAML<sup>®</sup> activators (tetra-amido-macrocyclic-ligand activators), which activate the natural oxidants, hydrogen peroxide and oxygen, for non-polluting processes. He holds over 100 patents on his catalysts which represent a platform technology promising dramatic improvements in our ability to purify water of both pathogens and chemical pollutants as well as to advance many other oxidation technologies.

A passionate educator in this field, Terry has been involved in developing educational materials and educational workshops for university teachers in both the US and internationally. He is spearheading the integration of green chemistry into undergraduate university curricula.

As well as being an alumnus Terry is an honorary professor at Auckland.



## THE HONOURABLE DR PETER WATSON LLB (1976)

"I believe this University will be noted in the future for its strong sense of interdisciplinary values," Peter Watson told the audience at the awards dinner.

Peter is the only New Zealander to have held several senior leadership positions in the United States Government, his background in both law and business scholarship enabling him to have a top-flight international career.

After gaining a Law degree at The University of Auckland, where he received the Desmond Lewis Memorial Prize for International Law in 1975, he received an LLM and doctoral degrees in International Economic Relations from McGill University. He also holds a masters degree in International Business Administration.

Peter worked for the US Government, first as the National Security Council's director of Asian Affairs for President George H.W. Bush, then as chairman of the US International Trade Commission, and finally as chairman of the US Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). Currently he is President and CEO of the Dwight Group which supports global transactions.

Peter is a Visiting Professor at St Peter's College, Oxford and a Distinguished Lecturer at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business. In 2002 he was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) for his service to New Zealand and the international community. Recently he was one of the first two New Zealanders to receive a Woodrow Wilson Award for his efforts in promoting New Zealand internationally.

## DR MARIS O'ROURKE BA (1975), MA (1978), PHD (1986)

In accepting her alumni award, Dr Maris O'Rourke invoked the stories of her great-grandmother who used a cross for her signature, her grandmother who could only sign her name, and her mother who left school at 14.

"Despite this they were clever women who raised large numbers of children," she said. "The life and opportunities I have had were not available to them but I know they would be happy for me and I like to think they would be proud..."

Today a leading international educationalist, Maris came to the University in the 1970s as a mature student, wife and mother to study Education and Psychology.

From her early career as a lecturer at Auckland College of Education, to becoming New Zealand's Secretary for Education and Chief Executive of the new Ministry of Education, to her later role as Director of Education for the World Bank, Maris has played a central role in establishing educational reforms in New Zealand and education policies, strategies, quality controls and partnerships among regions, countries and key agencies around the world.

As the World Bank's first Director of Education she, in particular, helped focus action on poverty reduction and spearheaded the *Education for All* programmes.

In 1989, Maris was made an honorary member of the Māori Women's Welfare League, in 1990 she was awarded the New Zealand Commemoration Medal and in 1993 she was awarded the Women's Suffrage Medal in recognition of her work for New Zealand women.

Maris left her World Bank role in 2001 to return to New Zealand, and now works as an international education consultant. She is currently working on a five-year contract in Vietnam with the Primary Education for Disadvantaged Children (PEDC) project – a partnership between Vietnam, the World Bank, Australia, Canada, Norway and the UK.



## IAN WEDDE MA (1968)

Heralded as a novelist, poet, art critic, anthologist and public intellectual, Ian Wedde is rightly acknowledged as one of New Zealand's leading writers and thinkers.

"I remember coming to the University in the 60s with great pretensions to be a writer," he told the alumni awards audience. "There were people like Karl (C.K.) Stead, Allen Cumow and Kendrick Smithyman here and I was given the message that it was okay to want to be a writer!"

Ian graduated in 1968 with a MA (first class honours), soon emerging as a poet of unusual eloquence and breadth of vision. From his debut collection, *Made Over* (1974) to his most recent *Three Regrets and a Hymn to Beauty* (2005), Ian's work is praised for drawing on great poetic traditions, from Virgil and the Elizabethans to contemporary New Zealand and American poets.

Ian's reputation as a writer and anthologist has been secured through a variety of short stories, novellas, two novels – *Dick Seddon's Great Dive* (1976) and *Symmes Hole* (1986) – and through the publication of two important anthologies co-edited with Harvey McQueen: *The Penguin Book of New Zealand Verse* (1985) and *The Penguin Book of Contemporary New Zealand Poetry* (1989).

Ian became a leading public intellectual through his role from 1994-2004 as Concept Leader – Humanities at Te Papa Tongarewa, The Museum of New Zealand. The writings, which grew out of that experience, published as *Making Ends Meet* (2005), are rich in anecdote and insight and were chosen by the *New Zealand Listener* as one of its books of the year in 2005.



## YOUNG ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR MAHÉ DRYSDALE BCOM (1999), GDCOM (2001)

Hailing from Tauranga, Mahé Drysdale was studying for his BCom in Accounting and Commercial Law when he joined a University novice rowing team because it was one of the few sports he could join as a complete beginner. Taught the basics of rowing by members of the Westend Rowing Club, he attended the inter-university Easter Tournament in Dunedin.

Mahé continued to row and in 2001, with his University study completed, was working as an insolvency accountant at Ferrier Hodgson when he was selected for New Zealand Rowing's development team. He left his job to row full-time and by 2004 was a member of the New Zealand Men's coxless four at the Athens Olympics. Soon after, he switched from the single-oar four to the single scull.

In 2005 he won both the Single Scull World Championship in Gifu, Japan and a silver medal at the World Cup Series in Munich. In 2006 he created history by successfully defending his world title at Eton, England and setting a new world best time.

Earlier this year Mahé was named New Zealand's Sportsperson of the Year 2007. He is currently focused towards competing at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and was unable to attend the awards ceremony. (For more, see the story on Mahé in *Ingenio*, Spring 2006, page 34).





Above: Heikki Hansen, Wind Tunnel Research Engineer.

## Alumni feature in America's Cup

Thanks to the Faculty of Engineering's internationally renowned Yacht Research Unit (YRU) some 20 Engineering alumni hold key positions with America's Cup syndicates in Valencia.

On a trip to Valencia last year to work on a special weather project with the Alinghi team, director of the YRU, Professor Richard Flay, kept a tally of former students and colleagues involved in the cup. He discovered midbowman Andrew Maclean (BE Hons 2001) and seven others working in a variety of background roles for the Emirates Team New Zealand syndicate and two alumni – Jon Bilger (BE 1990) and Mike Drummond (BE 1985) – aboard the cup defender Alinghi as head of the Swiss syndicate's weather team and navigator respectively. The rest were spread over Team Shosholozza (the South African Challenge), Victory Challenge (Sweden), Desafio Espanol (Spain), Luna Rossa (Italy) and Team Areva (France).

"Working with us in the YRU has enabled many graduates to understand more about how yachts work," says Professor Flay. "So they have been able to make contributions to the America's Cup scene in many ways such as being involved in

weather teams, wind tunnel testing, sail design, structural design and so on."

The first academic yacht research facility of its type in the world, the YRU was established in 1987 when New Zealand mounted its first challenge for the America's Cup in Perth. In the years since, the YRU has been at the forefront of yacht research internationally contributing to the success of New Zealand's 1995 and 2000 America's Cup campaigns.

The unit is renowned for the improvements it has made in sail aerodynamics and was among the first to apply computational fluid dynamics to the flow around spinnakers. In 1994 it built the world's first wind tunnel with twisted flow for testing sails. A real-time velocity prediction programme has been developed for wind tunnel testing so a model yacht heels in the same manner that it does in full-scale.

New projects in the pipeline include developing a dynamic velocity prediction programme that takes into account the oscillations imposed on sails due to sailing over waves and analysis of weather data to enable better pre-start information to be given to America's Cup crews.



## New Alumni Relations Manager

Alumna Amanda Lyne (BA 1993, MA in English 1998) is the University's new Alumni Relations Manager.

After gaining her MA, Amanda worked for some of New Zealand's leading publishing firms and then joined the University's Alumni Relations office in 2001, taking on a variety of roles, most recently as the Events Manager.

A keen advocate of life-long learning, she is now half way through a Postgraduate Diploma in Business

Administration with the Business School's Graduate School of Enterprise.

Amanda sees her role primarily as linking graduates back to the University and to each other through a range of "friend-raising" and "profile-raising" activities.

"I want to engage with as many alumni as possible by encouraging an active alumni and friends community who feel connected to the University with their hearts and minds," she says.



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Yes, I am interested in becoming a Society member. Please send me further information.

## STAY CONNECTED: Join The University of Auckland Society

Membership\* to the Society is open to all graduates, members of the University's staff both past and present, and friends of the University.

Although all alumni are encouraged to keep in touch with the University, only the Society gives alumni further unique benefits, supports student initiatives and provides opportunities to attend exclusive events in conjunction with the University.

Forthcoming Society events include:

- The annual debate titled "Arguments are to be avoided; they are always vulgar and often convincing": June 25
- A concert by Society sponsored The University of Auckland Strings: August 5
- A gala evening (combined cabaret evening and networking opportunity for students with academics and alumni): August 30

Visit our website [www.society.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.society.auckland.ac.nz) or phone 64 9 373 7599 ext. 82309.

\*Annual membership: \$45, 5-year membership: \$180 (one year free)



## DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

Some of the University's star researchers and teachers will speak at local and international events this year as part of an Alumni & Friends Distinguished Speaker series.

The first events get underway in the USA and London in May. Professor John Montgomery, who holds the University's chair of Marine Science and is the Director of the Leigh Marine Laboratory, speaks in Los Angeles. His talk is titled "New Zealand's oceans – prototype for a blue planet".

Founding director of the University's Bioengineering Institute, Distinguished Professor Peter Hunter speaks on "The Virtual Human Physiome Project" at alumni events in New York and London. Renowned for pioneering mathematical modelling of the human body, notably the heart, Professor Hunter heads the Physiome Project, an international consortium of linked research groups which is developing web-accessible resources for modelling biological function.

Speakers are currently being finalised for events in Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

### Alumni & Friends receptions will be held:

Los Angeles	16 May
New York	21 May
London	24 May
Melbourne	23 July
Sydney	24 July
Kuala Lumpur	26 July
Singapore	27 July
Brisbane	29 July
Hamilton	8 August
Wellington	29 August
Christchurch	30 August
Seoul	10 September
Beijing	11 September
Shanghai	13 September
Hong Kong	15 September
Tauranga	7 November
Golden Graduates Auckland	10 October

For more information please visit [www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/calendar](http://www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/calendar)

## NOMINATE A DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Have you considered nominating someone for a Distinguished Alumni Award?

The awards are presented at a gala dinner each February/March (read about this year's awards pages 23-25). Alumni as well as staff (former staff) and friends of the University can put forward names. Nominations for 2008 close on 31 July.

For nomination forms and more information visit [www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz)

## HOST INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS TO DINNER

If you live in Auckland would you consider having between one and three international students for dinner one evening?

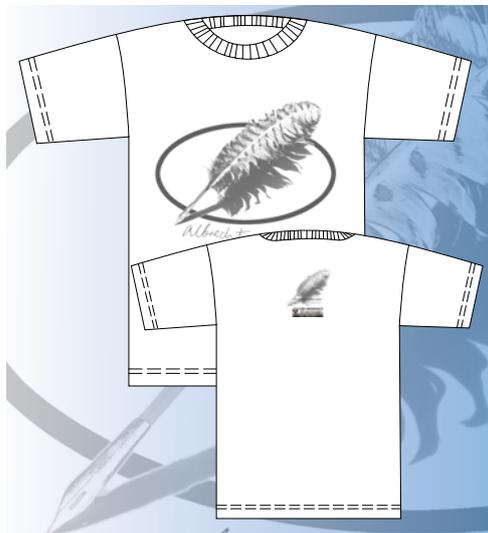
The Alumni Relations Office in conjunction with the University of Auckland Society and Auckland International has begun offering a dinner in a New Zealand home to new international students at the start of each University semester.

"The ones we've organised so far have been lots of fun with both the students and host families really enjoying themselves," says Judith Grey, Executive Officer of the Society.

If you are interested in hosting students to dinner contact Judith Grey: email [j.grey@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:j.grey@auckland.ac.nz) or telephone: 09 373-7599, ext 82309.

## DESIGNER T-SHIRT

Leading New Zealand artist and University Distinguished Alumna Gretchen Albrecht (DipFA 1964) has designed a limited edition cotton T-shirt for 2007 Graduation. It features a quill, a symbol of knowledge and learning, which arcs through the outline of an oval – a signature shape in much of Gretchen's work. The t-shirt is available for sale to all alumni at the University Bookshop and via [www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz)



## HELP US FIND OUR LOST ALUMNI

We are very keen to get back in touch with the alumni we have "lost" touch with and would welcome your help. We have launched a "Lost Alumni" service on our website – [www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/lost](http://www.alumni.auckland.ac.nz/lost) – which lets you search by year of graduation, faculty/school and/or name to see the alumni we want to find.

If you have any information which could help us to locate someone, please let us know.

## INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI NETWORK

If you live in or near any of the areas below and would like to be involved with local alumni, we encourage you to make contact with your volunteer co-ordinator.

- Australia – Brisbane –** Allanah Johnston  
[a.johnston@business.uq.edu.au](mailto:a.johnston@business.uq.edu.au)
- Melbourne –** Rupert Saint  
[rsaint@carmichaelfisher.com.au](mailto:rsaint@carmichaelfisher.com.au)
- Perth –** Margaret Sims  
[m.sims@ecu.edu.au](mailto:m.sims@ecu.edu.au)
- Sydney –** George Barker  
[BarkerG@law.anu.edu.au](mailto:BarkerG@law.anu.edu.au)
- Canada – Calgary –** Allison Hall  
[allisonhall77@hotmail.com](mailto:allisonhall77@hotmail.com)
- Vancouver –** Nigel Toy  
[nrttoy@stgeorges.bc.ca](mailto:nrttoy@stgeorges.bc.ca)
- China – Beijing –** Yang Jiao  
[vivianny@gmail.com](mailto:vivianny@gmail.com)
- Chengdu –** Hua Xiang  
[xianghua@swufe.edu.cn](mailto:xianghua@swufe.edu.cn)
- Guangzhou –** Howard Scott  
[howard@aisaonline.net.nz](mailto:howard@aisaonline.net.nz)
- Hong Kong –** Raymond Tam  
[tmkramond@yahoo.com.hk](mailto:tmkramond@yahoo.com.hk)
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[paul.rothville@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:paul.rothville@mfat.govt.nz)
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- Indonesia – Jakarta –** John Wishart  
[jwishart@jisedu.or.id](mailto:jwishart@jisedu.or.id)
- Israel –** Ofir Goren  
[ofir.goren@solcon.co.il](mailto:ofir.goren@solcon.co.il)
- Japan – Tokyo –** Simon Hollander  
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[duncan@lithgow-schmidt.dk](mailto:duncan@lithgow-schmidt.dk)
- Belgium –** Ken Bauer  
[eualumni@skynet.be](mailto:eualumni@skynet.be)
- Singapore –** Von Chan  
[vonchan@eoffice.com.sg](mailto:vonchan@eoffice.com.sg)
- Taiwan – Taipei –** Mago Hsiao  
[mago.hsiao@nzte.govt.nz](mailto:mago.hsiao@nzte.govt.nz)
- UK – London –** Cecilia Tarrant  
[cecilia.tarrant@btinternet.com](mailto:cecilia.tarrant@btinternet.com)
- USA – New Hampshire –**  
Rushan Sinnaduray  
[rsinnaduray@exetercongregation.org](mailto:rsinnaduray@exetercongregation.org)
- New York –** Rosena Sammi  
[rosena@rosenasammi.com](mailto:rosena@rosenasammi.com)
- San Francisco –** Sue Service  
[sue@serviceconsulting.com](mailto:sue@serviceconsulting.com)
- Texas –** Jyoti Maisuria  
[j.maisuria@gmail.com](mailto:j.maisuria@gmail.com)
- Washington, DC –** Ruby Manukia  
[ruby@manukiaconsulting.com](mailto:ruby@manukiaconsulting.com)



# The inspector of permanent ways

Alumnus Barry Brickell talks to Tess Redgrave about the part the University has played in a life spent crafting pottery, building a railway and planting native trees.

Honk! Honk! shout the horns of the Linx and the Snake – two narrow gauge (381mm wide) trains hauling 77 passengers between them – as they slowly roll through Driving Creek Railway Station and Potteries on the Coromandel.

A passenger on the Snake, I watch as brick kilns, stacks of freshly made bricks and an intriguing railside sign “I AM looking for a truth train” flash by. Potters busy in an adjacent communal pottery raise their heads and wave while a glass-blower hunches over his furnace drawing out a “gather” of glowing glass.

Soon the custom-built Snake – aptly named because of its agile ability to twist and curve around sharp bends and steep grades – is zigzagging up

through lush, regenerating bush and whizzing past ceramic sculptures looking as comfortable in their outdoor home as fledgling kauri, rimu, totara, matai and kanuka.

We pass close to banks made from old glass bottles and car tyres, cross five viaducts including a double-decker, reverse five times, spin effortlessly around two horseshoe spirals and plunge through three tunnels. Along the way the story of the unique, three-kilometre railway is slowly revealed via signposts: Chipman’s branchline 1983, Hoki Mai (keep on returning) halfway point to the top 1992, Cascade 1994.

Finally, the two trains chug into the hilltop

terminus – the EyeFull Tower, 567 feet (173m) above sea level. Here, passengers take in panoramic views of Coromandel's Te Kouma Harbour and a glistening, powder blue Hauraki Gulf in the distance.

Driving Creek Railway and Potteries is the "Grand Vision" of renowned potter, terracotta sculptor, rail enthusiast and conservationist Barry Brickell.

When *Ingenio* recently discovered Barry is a University alumnus (BSc Botany 1960), I rang to see if we could profile him.

"Yes," he happily replied on the phone. "But before you talk to me, take the train ride."

Now, after an enchanting hour-long journey aboard Snake, I am ushered through the station's shop and gallery, up some back stairs and out a door. With instructions to hand, I tiptoe carefully down the centre of a railway siding and clamber up some stairs to a wooden shed: "This is an Asylum where a madman is at work in his sanctuary" pinned on the door.

Inside the small, cluttered studio-cum-office, a tall, lean grey-haired Barry Brickell wearing the ubiquitous plastic roman sandals, shorts and self-designed mini-sleeved, V-necked T-shirts that have become his trade uniform, sits at a spinning potter's wheel. Above coloured, glass-blown objects rest on the window-sill reflecting the day's bright light while near an open door with views to paddocks and bush beyond, a radio telephone crackles.

"I'm used to being bossy," chuckles Barry explaining that the radio telephone means he can monitor the trains' comings and goings from his secret sanctuary.

"I used to drive the trains," he adds, "but I'm slowly passing work onto others younger than myself now so that I can be an artist for the rest of my days. Actually I'm regulated to the role of IPW – the inspector of permanent ways. It's a lovely expression from the old Government Railways," he explains.

"The IPW was a formidable being who'd come along and inspect the track the gangers had been repairing and he'd point out 'you have to do that again...'" Barry puts on a deep, gruff voice then bursts out laughing.

"I've trained up a ganger to work on the tracks here," he adds, "but I still go up and check them myself every morning and night."

Barry was one of the first New Zealand potters to earn a full-time living from his craft. His interest in pottery and engineering has its genesis in a boyhood spent growing up in Devonport close to the Auckland Gas Company's coal-fired gasworks and adjacent coke-fired brickworks. Clandestinely creeping around the Gas Company site he remembers "ascending ladders and watching fuming smoke and flames, roaring furnaces, steam engines,

blowers and vertical retorts being charged".

Fascinated by the structure and ascetics of furnace design and architecture, the teenager built his own gas works and when the brickworks manager gave him a piece of prepared clay, he began making "primitive kilns pinching coal from the gas works" and firing his first pots.

In 1957, at the urging of his parents, Barry enrolled full-time at The University of Auckland (then a constituent college of the University of New Zealand).

"But I'm not a natural academic," he says emphatically. Nonetheless, today he has an enduring affection for the alma mater that helped open doors and fuelled his passions.

Interested in native plants, for example, Barry drew inspiration from the then Professor of Zoology, William McGregor's pioneering campaign to save the Waipoua Forest.

"He wrote a beautiful book [*The Waipoua Kauri Forest of Northern New Zealand*] and eventually they stopped the logging."

Equally interested in geology and botany, Barry spent hours in the University Library reading up on vulcanology. He also received private tuition from the Professor of Geology, Arnold Robert Lillie and then lecturer (later professor) Ernie Searle.

"They saw my enthusiasm," remembers Barry. "As a potter I was interested in using rocks for actual stoneware glazes. Len Castle [a university alumnus (BSc, 1946)] was my pottery mentor in those days. We would discuss how to analyse rocks visually. Ernie Searle showed us how to use a petrographic microscope so we could visually analyse rock specimens. We could see the mineralogy of the rock and then decide what to mix with it to make a beautiful stoneware glaze."

Extracurricular activities during University days had a lasting impact too. After a visit to the Auckland Art Gallery during one lunch-hour, Barry joined painting classes with Colin McCahon. "I developed a huge interest in contemporary New Zealand painting," he recalls.

Off campus, Barry shared the rental of an old railway cottage in Newmarket and spent much of his time, outside University lectures, riding trains and studying railways and native plants.

His eyes light up like sparklers as he remembers going down to the Auckland train station after botany lectures and catching the 5.25pm fast train to Papakura. "It was pulled by a powerful steam engine: a Wab-class tank engine. I'd stand out on the open platform of the passenger carriage, right behind the engine – in those days you could – and listen as it gathered speed. The exhaust beats as it went through the Purewa tunnels was real adrenalin-pumping stuff. A big powerful steam engine working





full tilt just in front of you. It was fantastic ... like being on the edge of a volcano!"

During University vacations, Barry bought a cheap train ticket and explored the country travelling on slow goods trains, taking notes and sketching railways in the landscape to use later for paintings.

In 1959 he completed his Science degree, then trained to be a teacher and moved to the Coromandel to teach at the local high school in 1961. But after two terms he abandoned teaching to pursue his passion for pottery. "Entering a profession was a big mistake," he reflects.

In 1973 Barry bought the 60-acre Driving Creek property he owns today and, soon after, began turning it into a potters' community encouraging potters to live and work alongside him in exchange for help on specific projects. In the early days these included building the first wood-fired stoneware kiln in New Zealand and railway-track surveying through the scrub-land. He then built a small locomotive and wagons to bring yellow plastic clay and pinewood for the kilns down from the hills above.

As the pottery developed, Barry began to hatch his "Grand Vision" to build New Zealand's first true narrow-gauge mountain railway, like those he had read about in the Andes.

"Mankind has never evolved a more beautiful and environmentally benevolent instrument for heavy transport than well-engineered narrow gauge railway," he says in *Barry Brickell: A Head of Steam* by Christine Leov-Lealand.

While still trying to earn a daily living as a potter, Barry designed and developed the tracks and planned viaducts and locomotives to be built by contractors in the Driving Creek workshop. Contractors dug the tunnels and excavated some sections, but Barry and his team of resident potters did most of the hard grind. Barry located second-hand rail from around New Zealand and laid all the tracks himself.

"Building that railway was damned hard work," he tells me now. "I don't know why my arms haven't fallen off and my legs crumbled up under me. I don't know how many hundreds, probably thousands of truckloads of earth and ballast and rock I've moved. How many thousands of nuts and bolts I've done up. How many thousands of hours I've spent bending rails with a Jim Crow tool – and mostly in the early mornings or evenings with a glass of wine, some peanuts and cheese to keep me going."

In 1990, two years after Barry was awarded an OBE for his services to New Zealand pottery and ceramics, the Driving Creek Railway became a licensed tourist operation. Today it attracts some 40,000 passengers annually from all over the world and has been heralded in publications as far from the Coromandel bush as the *Boston Globe*.

The Driving Creek property is also the site of a major conservation project. When Barry arrived it was rough, steep scrubland – denuded after years of farming burn-offs and kauri logging. Since then he has planted more than 20,000 kauri and dozens of other natives and has registered the property with the QEII National Trust so that it will remain a reserve in perpetuity. Land on a separate title is being used to establish a wildlife sanctuary for endangered native species from the local biota and will be surrounded by a pest-proof fence.

"So you see nothing's been wasted from my University education," he tells me. "What I learnt in geology, botany and zoology is being put into practice here.

"I used the facilities and the libraries at the University extensively," he reflects. "In the end I gained a lot of knowledge to put to my own use.

"Now I am very happy to be an alumnus. But you know, for a long time I didn't know what alumni were," he confides. "I used to think they were people who were illuminated!"

As renowned for his quirky sense of humour as he is for his boundless physical, intellectual and creative energy, Barry remains an enigma to some who puzzle over his life-long celibacy.

"My sexual energy has gone into my projects," he responds, "it always has."

Now, at 71 years old, Barry is as productive as ever.

His most recent sculpture is his most ambitious: a majestic ten-metre high terracotta kauri tree on permanent display in the centre of the wildlife sanctuary. Its 7.2m trunk consists of five hand-built terracotta sections.

More large, collaborative sculptures are on the way as is a self-portrait painting and a memorial plaque for the late historian Michael King. Plans for a proposed underground art gallery, which will have terracotta light shafts and house Barry's extensive art collection as well as hold exhibitions of other artists, are also being developed. Two manila folders, high on a shelf above where we talk, contain Barry's half-written autobiography as well as a history of Driving Creek Railway. The old Imperial typewriter used to type these is locked away in its case behind my chair. "I can't stand computers," he says. "I go cross-eyed and start feeling sleepy."

Barry Brickell's eccentric individuality and enthusiasm for life is infectious. I could linger longer listening to his stories but soon our interview comes to an end and I'm back on the ferry bound for Auckland.

As the summer heat goes out of the day, I imagine the Driving Creek Railway's IPW out there in the cool bush, walking up the line, a glass of wine and some cheese in hand .... quietly and carefully surveying his domain.

**Maree Burns (PhD Psychology 2004)** was one of five New Zealanders awarded a Vodafone Foundation World of Difference Award in 2006. The annual award covers the salaries and expenses of up to six people a year to work with youth-related causes. Maree works at the Eating Difficulties Education Network (EDEN), a non-profit community agency based in Auckland offering services to individuals with an eating issue.

**Denis Feeney (BA 1975, MA (Latin Hons) 1976, MA Greek (HONS) 1977)** has recently been appointed to one of the most prestigious chairs at the University of Oxford, the Corpus Christi Professor of Latin Language and Literature. Denis teaches Latin poetry in particular and has published two important books on the interaction between Roman literature and religion: *The Gods in Epic: Poets and Critics of the Classical Tradition* and *Literature and Religion at Rome*. His third book *Caesar's Calendar: Ancient Time and the Beginnings of History* is published this month by University of California Press.

Currently Professor of Classics and Giger Professor of Latin at Princeton University, Denis takes up his new post in August.

**Justice Lowell Goddard (LLB 1975)** has been appointed New Zealand's new Police Complaints Authority (PCA). The first woman appointed to the role, Justice Goddard commenced practice as a barrister in 1977 and was appointed a Queen's Counsel in 1988. In 1992 she was appointed Deputy Solicitor-General for New Zealand with responsibility for the prosecution for all indictable crime. Prior to taking up the PCA role, she was a Wellington-based High Court judge appointed to the role in 1995.

**Gerda Kuschel (BE 1985, PhD Chemicals and Materials Engineering 1991)** has recently been appointed President of the Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand. Currently a technical specialist in the Air Quality Policy Team at the Auckland Regional Council (ARC), Gerda worked for nine years as a researcher in air quality at the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA).

**Galia BarHava-Monteith (MA (Hons) 1999)** has recently launched a website dedicated to professional women in New Zealand: [www.professionelle.co.nz](http://www.professionelle.co.nz). It aims to create an online community for professional women where they can talk about their experiences in the workplace and issues that are sometimes hard to discuss with colleagues or even close friends. Galia, who has a Masters in Developmental Psychology and whose last corporate role was as Ethics Manager for Fonterra, hopes professional women will naturally go to the website for advice and support.

**Mike Rann (BA 1974, MA 1976)** is the 44th Premier of South Australia. He is the parliamentary leader of the South Australian Labor Party, and has been an MP for over 21 years. A former current affairs journalist for Radio New Zealand, Mike was first elected Premier in 2002 and re-elected in 2006. He is also chairman of a new Australian Federation Council, which aims to improve state-federal ties, and is National Senior Vice President of the Australian Labor Party.

**Dr Sharon Smith (BA 1967, MSc 1969)** is currently studying zooplankton in Oman as the result of winning a Fulbright Scholar Award. A professor in marine biology and fisheries at the University of Miami Rosenstiel's School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, Sharon is known for her climate change research involving zooplankton and consequent food web changes in the warming Arctic. While in Oman she is based at Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat and is teaching in the undergraduate programme as well as mentoring graduate students in their plankton research.

**Tukua-'I'-Utua Tonga (BA 1987, BTP 1988, MPlan 1991)** has recently been made Director of the Urban Planning Department for the Tongan Government and is based in Nuku'alofa. Tukua, who is half-way through a PhD on sustainability at The University of Auckland, is responsible for reengineering and developing urban plans for the Nuku'alofa Central Business District and ensuring that the urban environment assets are managed in a sustainable way for all Tongans.



Above: Tukua-'I'-Utua Tonga.

If you would like your contemporaries to know what you are up to, email the editor [ingenio@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:ingenio@auckland.ac.nz)

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# Building successful teaching and learning models

Thanks to the generosity of philanthropist Woolf Fisher, University researchers are having a positive impact on school students' achievement rates. Amber Older reports.

"Our interventions show that low progress is neither inevitable nor immutable."

This is the guiding principle behind the work of Professor Stuart McNaughton, Director of the Faculty of Education's Woolf Fisher Research Centre. For nearly a decade he has been tackling one of this country's great educational challenges: how to improve reading and writing levels among traditionally underachieving students, particularly Māori and Pacific Island primary school children.

approach to instruction, to help them identify where and what the problems are in terms of teaching and learning, and to help them find their own solutions," says Stuart.

This year marks the culmination of two three-year partnerships with two "clusters" of seven schools in Otara and Mangere respectively. Another partnership project, involving 33 schools and early childhood teachers on the South Island's West Coast, also finishes at the end of 2007. Stuart says the "nuts and bolts" of the school partnerships consist of three main phases. In the first phase, the research centre's directors assess patterns of achievement and observe the teaching and learning efficacy in individual classrooms. Problem areas are identified, and teachers and teacher leaders examine the best way to improve teaching and learning outcomes.

In phase two, teachers participate in professional development sessions aimed at building upon the problem-solving already underway. In phase three, teachers conduct their own action-based research into the problem areas they have identified, tracking students' development and monitoring their learning progress. Many go on to present their findings at education conferences in New Zealand and even overseas.

"Student achievement is the driving force behind everything we do," says Stuart, who estimates the centre has worked with more than 5,000 children and their teachers since the initiative began. "We emphasise ongoing analysis of data and the recognition that effective teaching is dependent on understanding the strengths and needs of individual students."

Direct engagement with schools is only one aspect of the centre's strategy. Underpinning the focus on evidence-based research and practice are two other key drivers: the role of families and communities in educational achievement, and the need to ensure that successful teaching and learning models are sustainable.

Born and raised in Samoa, Associate Director Meaola Toloa is keenly aware of the role of families in encouraging children to learn. Her focus at the centre



Established in 1998 as the result of significant funding from the Woolf Fisher Trust and ongoing University support, the Woolf Fisher Research Centre focuses primarily on education and schooling success in South Auckland communities. Based at the Manukau Institute of Technology, the centre is headed by Professor of Education, Stuart McNaughton and supported by Associate Directors Dr Mei Lai and Dr Meaola Toloa. Together they are making impressive strides not only in improving literacy and writing standards among young students, but also in helping teachers hone their classroom instruction techniques and develop effective teaching models that are sustainable over time.

"Our aim is to help teachers fine-tune their

Above: From left: Meaola Toloa, Stuart McNaughton and Mei Lai.

is on identifying and developing effective instruction in bilingual (Samoan and English) classrooms. Whenever she enters a classroom, Meola says she is mindful of the cultural diversity and sensitivities that exist there. She says among Pacific Island and Chinese communities in particular, the motivation to achieve in education is not just about personal accomplishment, but for the "aiga" (extended family).

"As researchers, we are constantly reminded of the greater degree of respect within the 'feagaiga', the covenant relationship between brother and sister, when we deal with people," says Mealoa. "We want to continually nurture that kind of support in our research relationships – with students and their families, teachers, principals and boards of trustees."

Malaysian born Dr Mei Lai echoes her colleague's beliefs.

"Compared with traditional New Zealand and European goals of individual success, many Polynesian and Asian students strive to succeed in order to bring honour to their families," says Mei. "Achieving that goal involves not only the students, but their parents, siblings and cultural communities."

Another top priority is the need to develop successful teaching models that are sustainable. Mei, whose research focuses on research-practitioner projects that improve teaching and learning, says one of the centre's main goals is to provide tools and techniques for teachers so they can confidently practise and share knowledge long after the partnership projects have ended.

"There is no silver bullet – but we need to develop the capacity of schools to continue their work without intensive support from us," says Mei. "When that happens, we feel we have succeeded in our work."

Glowing testimonials from principals are evidence of the Woolf Fisher Research Centre successes. Tone Kolose is Principal of Wymondley Road Primary School, a decile 1A school in Otara with nine teachers and around 200 children, 70 percent of whom are Pacific Island and 28 percent are Māori. He says before the school entered into the partnership, most of the students were in the bottom three bands of achievement and below the national average. By the end of three years, most were in the middle bands (4-6, in line with the national average), levels that are maintained today, a year after the partnership has finished.

Tone credits the partnership development sessions with enabling teachers to talk about and understand the learning trends in their classrooms and to initiate effective solutions for improving education levels.

"There's been a huge shift in our students' achievement, and I take my hat off to the teachers and to the centre," he says. "A school shouldn't just dive into professional development because it's

trendy – it has to mean something. Our work with Stuart has shown us that professional development is important, proven and effective."

Alison Hall, principal of Mangere's decile 1 Koru School, echoes her Otara counterpart. Her 700-student primary school, which is predominantly Pacific Island, partnered with the Woolf Fisher Research Centre between 2003-2006. During that time, significant and consistent educational advances were made, with students progressing from achievement band 3 to 4 or 5. She says even though the partnership has ended, the positive outcomes continue.

"Many of the teachers haven't even noticed the project is finished – they are using the skills and knowledge gained through the centre in their ongoing work in the classroom. That kind of sustainability is crucial for the continued success of our school."

Problem-solving, relationship-building and sustainability – if the results of the Woolf Fisher Research Centre are any indication, these three platforms are the foundation on which improved education achievement rests. With proven results in South Auckland and the South Island (where initial results show the number of top-achieving students has almost doubled, while the number of bottom achievers has been halved), the centre's work stands out nationally and internationally as a shining example in the sometimes gloomy realm of schooling success – and offers scientific proof that low progress among young students is neither inevitable nor immutable.



## The Woolf Fisher Trust

The man behind one of New Zealand's most generous education trusts had only two years at secondary school and became a travelling salesman to help support his family.

From such humble beginnings, Woolf Fisher went on to co-found the globally respected Fisher & Paykel and establish New Zealand Steel. Even though his time at secondary school was very short, the working-class boy understood the role his teachers played in his later successes.

Thus, in 1960, Woolf Fisher founded the Woolf Fisher Trust. Dedicated to the advancement of scientific and general education, the trust's fellowships provide overseas study and travel for outstanding secondary school principals and teachers, polytechnic senior managers and, most recently, primary and intermediate school principals.

In recent years, the trust's philanthropy has expanded to include the Woolf Fisher Research Centre at The University of Auckland and establishment of the Woolf Fisher Scholarships, each worth up to \$100,000 per year and enabling New Zealand university graduates to study for up to four years for a doctorate at the University of Cambridge or the University of Oxford.

Though he died in 1975 at age 62, the spirit of Woolf Fisher lives on in the approximately 1,000 recipients of the trust's nearly 50-year-old tradition of educational philanthropy. *For more information see [www.woolffishertrust.co.nz](http://www.woolffishertrust.co.nz)*

# In memory of Clinton Bedogni



Above: Clinton Bedogni.  
Below: John and Kenda Bedogni.

The development of Open Software Systems in New Zealand has received a major boost as the result of a generous gift to the University.

John Bedogni, a former co-owner of Metropolitan Glass, and his wife Kenda have gifted \$1,700,000 to the Computer Science Department in commemoration of their eldest son, Clinton Bedogni, who died in June 2005. The gift comprises two endowment funds: the larger, \$1,600,000, supports in perpetuity an annual Clinton Bedogni Fellowship in Open Systems Research in the Department of Computer Science, and the remaining \$100,000 supports a biennial \$10,000 Clinton Bedogni Prize.

"This is a significant boost for the department," says Professor of Computer Science, John Hosking. "It recognises that Open Systems are an important area for the country and that it is important to increase our capability in this area."

Open Software Systems are computer systems that other people can access, understand, contribute to, and even adapt. While some research in this area is already underway in Computer Science, John says to have someone working on a fellowship as a focused resource will make a huge difference.

It is envisaged the Clinton Bedogni Fellowship will support a succession of early-career researchers deemed likely to become leaders in the field of Open Software research, while the Clinton Bedogni Prize will go to the New Zealand individual (whether an academic or in industry) who has made the greatest contribution to the field of Open Software Systems in the past two years.

The two awards are a fitting tribute to Clinton Bedogni who was 35 years old when he was killed instantly in a head-on collision with a drunk driver who crossed the median line.

Remembered by his father as "as maverick, a non-mainstream thinker and a bit of a rebel .... someone who had an open mind to conspiracy theories", Clinton had always been fascinated by computers.

After finishing school at St Kentigern College, he

worked in the pump industry for Russell Pool Pumps and Grundfos New Zealand, eventually heading overseas on his OE.

Returning to New Zealand in 2000, Clinton decided to turn his computer hobby into a career and was offered a job as a customer support technician at Soft Tech New Zealand, who specialise in developing configuration software.

Founding Director of Soft Tech, John Ball remembers Clinton's different way of looking at the world. "Because of this he could often bring a fresh approach to solving computer problems.

"Clinton was also a very good communicator with customers," remembers John, "and had very good people skills which you don't often get in the computer world."

Outside work hours, Clinton pursued his passion for computers, Open Software Systems and motor vehicle restoration.

"He had six hard drives in his computer – that sort of thing," remembers his father John.

At the time of his death, Clinton had developed an intense interest and capability in the Linux system – one of the most famous examples of Open Software Systems using what Professor Hosking calls "an almost 'anti-establishment' approach to its development".

Now John and Kenda Bedogni would like to celebrate the non-mainstream interest in computer systems that their son embraced.

"We would like to see this gift give other people the opportunity to develop their, shall we say, alternative theories, their non-mainstream thinking for the benefit of computer science," John Bedogni told a small gathering at a University signing ceremony in early April.

"We know that Clinton would've loved to be a part of the development of Open Systems and we believe this is the best way to remember him and in so doing enhance the opportunities in this area for other New Zealanders."



## New Advancement Manager

Jim Hill is the new director of Advancement at the University.

Born and raised in Morgantown, West Virginia, he has an undergraduate degree in psychology and has done postgraduate study in psychology, sports management and public administration at West Virginia University, Penn State University and the University of Southern California.

Jim has worked in a range of different fundraising environments in the United States, in recent years focusing on educational fundraising at universities in West Virginia, Florida, Illinois and Arizona.

His initial role at The University of Auckland will see him building the infrastructure for an upcoming campaign, educating staff, building the case for support and putting best practices in place.

# Dame Professor Emerita Marie Clay

DBE, MA (Hons), Dip Ed, PhD, FRSNZ, FNZPsS, FNZEI, 1926-2007

*Distinguished alumna Dame Marie Clay was a world-renowned developmental psychologist whose pioneering work in Reading Recovery in New Zealand and its successful transference to many countries of the world has won her international acclaim.*

*Dame Marie graduated from The University of Auckland with a PhD in Education in 1966; she was appointed the first woman professor at the University in 1975 and the first woman head of an academic department. In 1987 she was made a Dame Commander of the British Empire and in 1994 awarded the title "New Zealander of the Year".*

*Here, Professor of Education, Stuart McNaughton, pays tribute to the work of a colleague, mentor and friend whose passing has prompted tributes from around the world.*

Marie was first and foremost a scientist studying children's development, deeply interested in the nature and conditions of children's development, both typical and atypical. Her working definition of developmental science was that it described and explained development, but was also able to contribute to optimising development. Her particular fields of inquiry were wide-ranging and included oral language and socio-emotional development; as well as the development of reading and writing. A true scientist, she discovered and explained new or puzzling phenomena, and invented new procedures and tools.

A list of just some of her achievements includes: the identification of developmental patterns before school which she first labelled "emergent literacy"; the discovery of the presence and role of self corrections in early reading which led to the theory that these are regulatory strategies maintaining the complex components needed to read accurately and fluently with meaning; the design of new tools for assessing early development in both literacy and oral language; the reconceptualising of reading errors as miscues which can be used for diagnostic purposes; the early identification of developmental trajectories in which children are trapped in a cycle of low progress and therefore have limited access to stimulation; the operationalising of "personalised learning" brilliantly demonstrated in Reading Recovery lessons which are individually designed using generic frameworks of assessments and instruction.

A unique feature of Marie's research was the understanding that optimising development requires

understanding educational systems and developing policy that will help resource those systems. She worked with policy-makers in government agencies to get Reading Recovery implemented successfully, nationally and internationally, in education systems in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Britain, the United States and Barbados.

Marie's interest in Māori educational issues started in the 1970s with a language tool that assessed children's comprehension in Te Reo Māori. Recently, she contributed to the redevelopment of her early literacy assessments in Te Reo Māori.

Marie was a clever writer and she enjoyed thinking about her writing. The carefully considered title of her book on emergent writing is "What did I write?" A direct quote from a child, it reflects the point that children develop hypotheses about the nature of writing in advance of controlling all the elements. She was a pioneering researcher in this developmental area too: children's writing and the relationships with reading.

A great teacher, Marie was a rigorous and nurturing mentor, fiercely protective of, and an advocate for, her students. Among her graduate and doctoral students there have been heads of departments and deans from four New Zealand universities; directors of two research centres; chief executives of governmental agencies including of the Ministry of Education; national and international professional developers; a generation of school psychologists, principals, Reading Recovery educators, countless teachers; and at least one politician.

Marie was a devoted family person, a loved and loving member of an extended family of which she was fiercely proud.

During her farewell speech to the University, she used an analogy that typified her humility. She described her times during Christmas holidays playing on a family farm. She and the other children would make trails through the bush. When she returned the next holidays, the trails were overgrown. She said that her work had made trails. But they would disappear as others would find new trails. I think she got the analogy wrong. True, others will make new discoveries; they will add ways of researching with and optimising children's literacy development. But these accomplishments will be done standing on this work, and in reference to this extraordinary body of work.





IMAGES: Jennifer French

# Elam artists front up

ART STUDENTS AND  
BUSINESS PEOPLE  
SEEM UNLIKELY  
PARTNERS, BUT  
WHEN THE WORLDS  
OF ACADEMIA AND  
CORPORATE CULTURE  
GOT TOGETHER  
FOR THIS YEAR'S  
AUCKLAND FESTIVAL  
THEY WERE ABLE TO  
CREATE AN EXHIBITION  
EXPERIENCE UNLIKE  
ANYTHING AVAILABLE  
IN THE SAFE WHITE  
SPACES OF A  
CONVENTIONAL  
GALLERY – AND MUCH  
MORE PUBLIC TOO!

Above top left: Megan Hansen-Knarhoi.

Above bottom left: Ana Horomia.

Begun in 2003 for the inaugural Auckland Festival, *Elam Art Upfront* brought some of the hottest talents from the University's Elam School of Fine Arts into the CBD to present work in the austere glass-and-marble environments of corporate lobbies. In 2007 the exhibition focused on Shortland Street, home to the University's Gus Fisher Gallery, creating an inner-city art hike that snaked through the entrances of some of New Zealand's biggest financial and legal entities.

Parked at the top of the trail outside the Gus Fisher Gallery, Amelia Harris and Alla Sosnovskaia's *Mobile Gallery Unit* announced the arrival of *Elam Art Upfront*. A restored vintage caravan given a second life as an artwork, the MGU brought an unmistakable presence to the street as a symbol of transience, nostalgia and recreational escapes, defying the local culture of parking wardens and empire-building power-lunches.

For most people, the phrase corporate art summons up images of permanently installed minimalist sculptures, such as the huge generic ball that was toppled from its perch in the movie *Fight Club*. Much of this kind of work is the result of "art percent" schemes, which were popular around the world in the mid to late 20th century and resulted in indifferent artworks being plonked into large marble voids begrudgingly set aside by architects so a developer could stretch planning regulations. Streamlined and solid enough to resist the most stringent of OSH requirements, these monolithic abstracts are hardly likely to disrupt the monolithic structures they occupy.

*Elam Art Upfront* operates in more responsive and fleeting ways. Designed to last only a few weeks, the works take a riskier approach to establishing

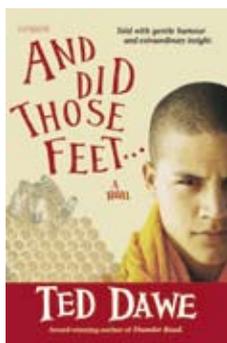
a dialogue with their environment. Eileen Leung's coloured perspex structures played with the transparent ethos of vast glass spaces, surreptitiously placing delicate, ambiguous shapes in corners, recesses and on ledges. Megan Hansen-Knarhoi also offered a contrast to hard, industrial surfaces with stringy, hand-knitted texts that transformed the steely lines of a lift lobby into a place for poetry and pause. In a similar fashion, Ana Horomia's fluorescent rainbow striped its way through the AXA Centre's rear entrance, discreetly conducting and disrupting the building's usual traffic flow.

Like Eileen Leung, Brydee Rood, Ji Ah Lee and Karena Way brought political and cultural commentary to these sleek, neutral spaces. Rood's *Wasabi Whale Roll* used recycled materials to comment on consumer culture while Lee's striking video footage of strange tea-drinking rituals transformed a glass retail space into a viewing booth. Conveniently located on Auckland's former waterfront in the Dorchester Building, Way's photographic survey of port bollards provided an anchoring point from which to contemplate the history and use of transitory spaces.

Thanks to the hospitality of Shortland Street's participating building owners and the enthusiasm of a group of University of Auckland Fine Arts alumni, an interesting dialogue has been established and is sure to result in more surprising interventions when *Elam Art Upfront* continues in future years.

**Andrew Clifford**

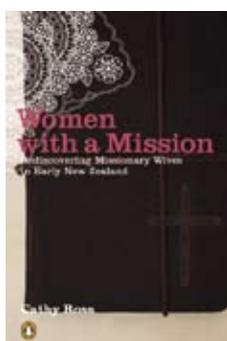
*Andrew Clifford works as Curatorial Assistant for The University of Auckland's Centre for New Zealand Art Research and Discovery. He curated the 2007 Elam Upfront.*



## And did those feet

While Head of English at Dilworth School in Auckland, alumnus Ted Dawe (BA 1974) became aware of the paucity of books on offer to New Zealand teenage boys. In an attempt to remedy this, he wrote a story, in consultation with his students, that memorialised a teenage relationship and included elements like motorbikes, drugs, cars, fighting, gangs and girls. The end result was *Thunder Road*, winner of the 2004 Best Senior Fiction and Best First Book in the annual New Zealand Post Book awards.

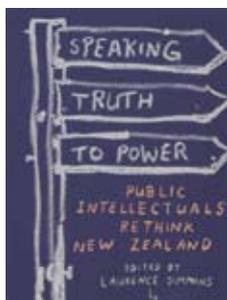
*And did those feet*, published by Longacre Press, is Ted's third novel and again it is directed at adolescent boys. Still dealing with the recent death of his mother and his father's subsequent grief, the main character Sandy is involved in an ugly showdown at school and is packed off to live in Taranaki with an aunt and uncle. "It's the story of how a boy faces up to a season of disasters," explains Ted, "some of his own making, some brought upon him by others."



## Women with a Mission

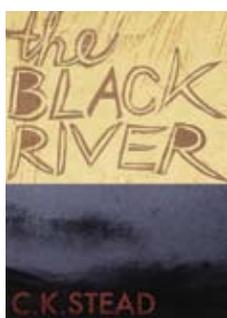
Cathy Ross (MA 1984, PhD 2004) examines the private and public lives of Elizabeth Colenso, Kate Hadfield, Anne Wilson and Charlotte Brown, who lived in New Zealand during the nineteenth century. The four women were married to missionaries and as well as being wives and mothers, were also teachers, social workers, Māori land advocates and examples of faith within their communities.

*Women with a Mission: Rediscovering Missionary Wives in Early New Zealand*, published by Penguin, helps make visible what has largely been invisible in the written record of New Zealand's missionary history by refocusing the historical lens on these women and their lives and bringing them out from under the shadow of their husbands.



## Speaking Truth to Power: Public intellectuals rethink New Zealand

This book, edited by Laurence Simmons (BA 1974, MA 1975) and published by AUP, takes a contentious subject: intellectual life in today's New Zealand. It is centred on 11 interviews with leading intellectuals including Jane Kelsey, Brian Easton, Nicky Hager, James Belich, Marilyn Waring and the late Michael King and is introduced by Laurence Simmons with three reflective essays by Roger Horrocks, Andrew Sharp – on the late Bruce Jesson – and Stephen Turner.



## the Black River

In May 2005 Emeritus Professor and alumnus Karl (C.K.) Stead (BA 1954, MA 1955, DLitt 1982) suffered a stroke which left him briefly dyslexic and innumerate. During the days that followed he composed a series of short poems:

words have given me access  
to the inside  
of the inside  
of the mind  
  
whose mind?  
mine  
  
the mine of the mind ...

Now in this collection (his 14th), published by Auckland University Press (AUP), Stead places a selection of the S-T-R-O-K-E poems alongside verse spanning from Auckland to France to Mussolini's Italy and covering topics ranging from dead family members, to former colleagues and swimming on Auckland Harbour.

## In brief

*Uncommon Enemy*, published by Polygraphia. What would life in New Zealand have been like if it had been occupied by Nazi Germany? Would New Zealanders have resisted or collaborated? This thriller written by alumnus John Reynolds (BA 1972, PhD 2002) paints a vivid scenario as characters join the New Order, or resist, in a post-war New Zealand under Nazi rule.



*Choosing our Destiny: Creating the Utopian World in the 21st Century*, published by Libris. Alumnus Cyril Belshaw (BA 1940, MA 1942) and Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia, turns his critical eye towards the future examining the issues humankind faces: family life, global government, crime and ill health, the inadequacies of national governments, poverty, public finance, violence and freedom.

*Waimarino County* published by Auckland University Press (AUP). Alumnus Martin Edmond (BA 1975) is considered a master prose stylist and in this book of essays he unleashes his skill on themes of memory, words and travel. Though held together by a single consciousness, the book is divided into four sections: Autobiographies, Meditations, Illusions and Voices.

*Luce Cannon* Titus Books. Alumna Will (Stephanie) Christie (BA 2003, MA 2006) publishes her first collection of poetry exploring themes of language and embodiment in the highly mediated twenty-first century world.

If you have published a book in the last six months, or will do so in the next, email the editor [ingenio@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:ingenio@auckland.ac.nz)

# Cultural relativism

CRITICAL INQUIRY  
AND INTELLECTUAL  
RISK-TAKING ARE  
ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS  
OF A UNIVERSITY'S  
CULTURE.

However the findings of my most recent research, undertaken with Professor Roger Openshaw from Massey University, suggest that such inquiry is increasingly restrained by the culturalist ideology now dominant in New Zealand education.

We looked at a number of cases from several New Zealand universities, including The University of Auckland, where intellectual risk-taking was actively discouraged. In each case politically powerful interest groups that derive their power to condemn from culturalist principles, either attempted to, or succeeded in, silencing critical research. These interest groups claim a degree of "cultural sacredness" – that is, a right not to be offended by critical inquiry, especially from those not of their ethnicity or religion.

One of the most serious consequences of such cultural relativism, and of immediate relevance to universities, occurs when objective scientific inquiry is regarded as just another cultural story. It is true that all cultures have asked and answered the big questions about natural and social phenomena – about how the world began, the nature of human beings, and the meaning of life. Yet a fundamental difference exists between such cultural knowledge and world-views on the one hand and science on the other in the way the questions are answered.

Traditional cultures and neotraditionalist groups within modern societies turn their answers into sacred knowledge. This serves a number of purposes: as the group's social cement, as a means for the spiritual well-being of individuals who identify with the group, and in the case of neotraditionalist groups, the sacralisation of knowledge is used to justify strategies promoting political and economic interests.

Science, on the other hand, is skeptical, refusing to accept the latest answer as the final say on the matter. It doubts, investigates, overturns and attempts new answers, ones that will stand only until the next challenger. Both forms of knowledge are important. But only science has a place in the work of a university.

Matauranga Māori and kaupapa Māori have the status of science in our universities yet, unlike science, are protected from critical scrutiny. How this came about is itself a matter for inquiry.

The assumptions that underpin culturalism (the belief in an essential cultural being resulting from the individual's ethnic or racial heritage) require analysis and critique, not because they are necessarily right or wrong, but because they are powerful ideas in New Zealand education. The ideas are used to justify the policies of a separate kaupapa Māori education system from tertiary to early childhood,



the practices of a Māori pedagogy, Māori mathematics and science and, of considerable significance to universities, kaupapa Māori research itself.

Despite the politics which have promoted ethnicised knowledge, the responsibility of a university lies in subjecting all social phenomena to criticism, including that protected by political interests. Our research shows that the current culturalist environment does restrain individual academics from intellectual risk-taking. This is reason enough for a university to increase commitment to its "critic and conscience of society" role.

However the contradiction between this role and the requirement that a university adheres to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi poses a major dilemma. Indeed the place of Treaty adherence in university life is the single most effective mechanism in ensuring that culturalist ideology becomes the accepted and uncriticised way of doing things.

Immanuel Kant's "turbulent individual" caught in the grip of "self-imposed tutelage" is an apt metaphor for universities' current conundrum – suggesting as it does institutions driven by the energy and creativity of turbulent forces but at the same time yoked by a self-imposed restraint.

On the one hand a university should be critical of all social and political forces. On the other hand it is required to adhere to what is in fact a political position in support of the current dominant interpretation of the Treaty of Waitangi. Given a possible constitutional role for the Treaty in the nation's future it is important that its various interpretations and the political debates about the extent of its significance are subject to rigorous critical inquiry.

This is a difficult task when a university itself has taken on a political position in relation to the Treaty. It suggests that a university's role in relation to social and political phenomena requires more, rather than less, turbulence if it is to fulfil its critic and conscience role.

## Alumna Dr Elizabeth Rata

Elizabeth Rata (BA 1975, MEd 1992, PhD 1997) is a principal lecturer in the Faculty of Education's Department of Social and Political Studies. Last year she and Roger Openshaw published a discussion of culturalism by a number of academics in the edited collection: *Public Policy and Ethnicity, The Politics of Ethnic Boundary Making*.



# TISSOT

SWISS WATCHES SINCE 1853



CHRONO



ALTIMETER



COMPASS



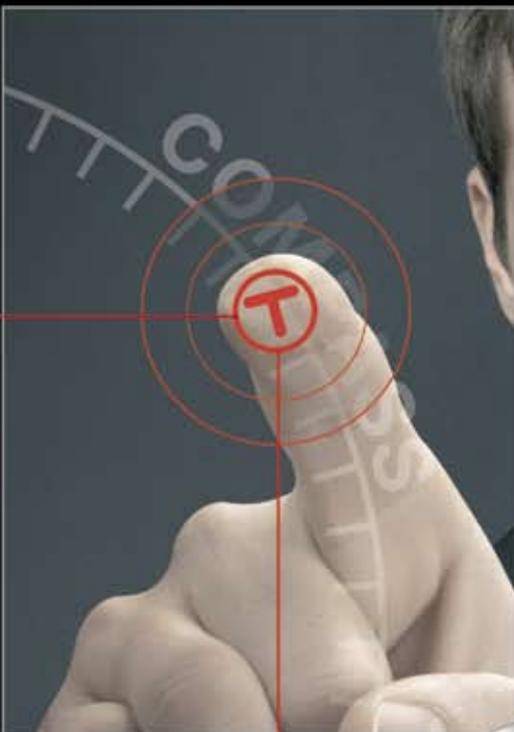
METEO



THERMO



ALARM



Michael Owen, International Football Player

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