

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

news

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The future of our cities



Professor Stuart McCutcheon and Professor Anna Tibajuka sign the partnership agreement.

The University last month took another significant step in contributing to the health of our cities and their future inhabitants in New Zealand and all over the world.

With the signing of an agreement between Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon and United Nations Under-Secretary-General Professor Anna Kajumulo Tibajuka on 19 June the University became the first New Zealand partner in the innovative Habitat Partner University Network (HPU) of the UN Human Settlements Programme UN-HABITAT.

Cities are now home to half of humankind and the UN-HABITAT mandate is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities, with the aim of ensuring that all people have adequate shelter. UN-HABITAT is convinced that climate change, which is inextricably linked to urbanisation, must be tackled within a broad framework of sustainable housing and urban development. This includes a holistic approach to participatory governance, urban environmental planning and management, and the harnessing of ecologically sound technologies.

As part of the HPU network of well-recognised universities, The University of Auckland shows its commitment to support UN-HABITAT's mandate of promoting sustainable urban development, in line with the UN's millennium development goals.

Professor Tibajuka, who also holds the position

of Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, visited the University with other highly-placed UN officials: Professor Jossy Materu, Chief, Urban Design and Planning Services Unit, and Dr Andre Dzikus, Chief, Water and Sanitation Section II.

The aim of the visit was to launch the partnership, engage with key researchers who will lead the University's involvement in the HPU Network, discuss possibilities of future collaborations in support of the work of UN-HABITAT, and interest staff and students in "Adaptation to climate change: The challenge of island states".

During a busy and productive afternoon all those goals were accomplished, with the visitors receiving a traditional welcome by our PVC (Maori), an introduction to the University by the Vice-Chancellor, followed by the signing of the document and a round-table discussion.

This discussion, led by Professor Dory Reeves (Architecture and Planning) and attended by staff from all over the University with expertise in sustainable development, ranged across a broad variety of issues - including water conservation, sustainable energy, urban planning, population health and population mobility, and the equity implications of policies relating to climate change. It provided a number of definite possibilities for future collaboration.

In the evening, following a public lecture by Professor Tibajuka, the guests attended a dinner

Key events

Going bananas

Presented by the New Zealand Chinese Association Auckland Inc and the International Society for the Studies of Chinese Overseas (ISSCO), the Rising Dragons, Soaring Bananas International Conference brings to life talented voices of Chinese descent making an impact in New Zealand and on the global stage. Speakers, spanning the creative arts, media, academic, community and business sectors, include several from The University of Auckland: Professor Manying Ip (Asian Studies), Dr Ward Friesen (Geography, Geology and Environmental Science) and Dr Robert Sanders (Asian Studies). The conference will take place on 18 and 19 July on Level 0 of the Owen G Glenn Building, 12 Grafton Road. See www.goingbananas.org.nz for further information.

Winter series

The Winter Lectures on "Writing New Zealand history in the twenty-first century" get under way on 21 July (Maidment Theatre, 1pm). Associate Professor Caroline Daley (History) will be talking on "Taking off the black singlet". The six-lecture series is previewed on page 2.

Darwin's legacy

In the first of the "Season of life" series of public lectures organised by the Liggins Institute, Dr John Long, Head of Sciences at Museum Victoria, Melbourne, Australia, will speak of "Death, sex and evolution - 380-million-year-old fishes and the origins of the human body plan".

All five lectures will take place at the Robb Lecture Theatre in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, 85 Park Road at 6pm. More information can be found on page 8.

Anthropology seminar

Professor Robert J Foster from the University of Rochester will lead a Department of Anthropology seminar at 4pm on 23 July in Room HSB 704, Human Sciences Building. His topic is "A cultural biography of the P.G. Black Collection of Pacific Islands artifacts".

In this issue

- 2 | Sir Peter Blake Leadership Awards
- 3 | King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia
- 4 | EcoMinds Youth Forum

From the Vice-Chancellor

I recently spent a week in California, hosting two alumni events (in San Francisco and Los Angeles), meeting with alumni and donors, and attending the Annual Presidents' Meeting of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) at CalTech. The University of Auckland will host the APRU meeting in 2010.

Even a brief time in California reveals how badly the universities there have been affected by the recession. Although the State Legislature has not (at the time of writing) settled on a recovery plan to deal with its staggering US\$24 billion budget deficit, it is almost certain that the public universities in California will have their budgets cut by a total of about \$2 billion. In other words, they will bear about eight percent of the total cuts, even though they account for much less than that proportion of total State expenditure. At the same time, the universities – both public and private – with significant endowments have experienced a massive decline in the capital value of those endowments, coupled with a reduction in the income they generate, as a consequence of low interest rates. Talk of budget cuts in excess of 15 percent, and of layoffs, is common. In addition, philanthropic giving has slowed because, with the uncertainty in the economy, donors can no longer be sure about how much they are worth.

Interestingly, though, both the universities and donors remain committed to philanthropy as a means of ensuring that universities maintain or enhance quality and, in the case of those with high fees, are able to maintain their “needs blind” policies (ie to ensure that bright students are able to study, irrespective of their socioeconomic status). And, I am pleased to say, the same seems to apply with respect to our own alumni and friends, who remain very interested in the University. Indeed, at one of the alumni events four of those attending approached us with offers of support, which is something of a record. That is most encouraging, at a time when retrenchment would be a logical approach. It bodes well for the future success of the University's *Leading the Way* Campaign, which has now raised \$53 million of its \$100 million target, particularly as the world economy begins to recover.



Extraordinary leaders



John Hood.



Andrew Hamilton.

On 26 June seven New Zealanders received the annual Sir Peter Blake Leadership Awards.

Dr John Hood, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford – and former Vice-Chancellor of The University of Auckland – became the fifth recipient of the Blake Medal, the supreme award for an outstanding leader. This was presented by Sir Peter's widow, Lady Pippa Blake, on board *HMNZS Canterbury* in Auckland.

Andrew Hamilton, CEO of business growth centre The ICEHOUSE, was named as one of six to receive an “emerging leader” award, recognising his contribution to business growth and angel investment funding in New Zealand.

Taking off the black singlet

A fresh take on how New Zealand's past has been interpreted will be offered at this year's Winter Lectures at The University of Auckland (21 July to 25 August).

The six lectures on “Writing New Zealand history in the twenty-first century” feature five university historians and one from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

They will look at how our history has been written and understood, and suggest how it might be rewritten in the future. In particular they will explore how far the cultural nationalism identified in twentieth-century histories was a misleading “construct”, says Associate Professor Caroline Daley (History) who is organising the series.

In the first lecture, entitled “Taking off the black singlet”, she will argue that the black singlet – rural, masculine, and hard-wearing, the woollen equivalent of number eight fencing wire – has “straightjacketed” the writing of our history.

“Thankfully, a new generation of historians are delving into the wardrobe of the past and finding that satin and sparkles were part of the country's story, alongside boiled wool and nightshirts made from sugar sacks.”

continues from page 1

with senior University staff.

Stuart McCutcheon expressed pleasure at the University's partnership with the HPU Network, which he said supports “the overall strategies of

Several members of the selection panel for this year's awards also had connections with The University of Auckland. Among them were Judge Mick Brown, former Chancellor and later Pro Vice-Chancellor (Māori) at the University, John Graham, former Chancellor, Dr Lester Levy, an adjunct professor in the Business School; and Sir Ron Carter, a Distinguished Alumnus.

At the conclusion of John Hood's tenure at the University of Oxford in September, he is to become president and CEO of the Robertson Foundation, a private, family-led philanthropic trust in the United States.

The other lectures will offer original insights into the role of Empire, the impact of local history (“What happens if we take Gore seriously?”), the so-called Māori “renaissance”, nostalgia for the past, and the New Zealand experience of war.

It will be argued that “the rebranding of old stuff as trendy and desirable” demonstrates widespread interest in our history. Moreover professional historians cannot ignore the popularity of events such as art deco weekends and medieval jousting tournaments.

The notion that fighting for King and country helped transform New Zealand “from dutiful daughter of Empire to independent nation” will come in for serious scrutiny.

The lectures will reveal major aspects of our history in a new and sometimes provocative light, says Caroline. “For anyone interested in how our past has made us what we are today this will be a fascinating series.”

The lunchtime (1-2pm) lectures are on six successive Tuesdays in the Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred Street. They are free and everyone is welcome. Full details are at www.auckland.ac.nz/winter

the University and provides opportunities to help address the complex issues of sustainable urbanisation in the Pacific region”.

Spanish royal visit strengthens links

Their Majesties, King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia, on a visit to the University on 22 June, showed a keen interest in examples of the University's research, displayed in the foyer of the Owen G Glenn Building.

Asking many questions and engaging in conversation with the academic staff on hand to explain the displays, their Majesties took the opportunity to learn about the pioneering work of the Yacht Research Unit and the Bioengineering Institute, as well as the work of the research group on inductive power transfer.

The visit of their Majesties, which further strengthened links between Spain and The University of Auckland, began with a welcome by the Chancellor, Roger France, and a presentation about the University by Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutchen.

They then met the new appointee to the Prince of Asturias Chair, Professor José Colmeiro, and were presented with a commemorative gift: a framed photograph (taken by University photographer Kathryn Robinson) of a fifth-scale model of an historic Pacific sailing vessel. This was built for a research project being carried out jointly by Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Irwin (Anthropology) and Professor Richard Flay (Mechanical Engineering).

The new professor, Dr José Colmeiro, is the third holder of the Prince of Asturias Chair of Spanish Language and Culture, inaugurated in 1991. The chair came about as the result of a visit by Prince Felipe, Crown Prince of Spain, to the University in 1990, and was the first of five highly prestigious Prince of Asturias Chairs worldwide.

Their Majesties then moved to the foyer of the Owen G Glenn Building, where they viewed the displays and discussed them with the researchers.

Stuart McCutcheon said the display of the Yacht Research Unit "was organised with the King and his keen interest in sailing in mind. It has been a world leader in innovative sailing technology."

The displays of virtual human models and of the wireless charging system for electrical cars were equally novel and ground-breaking.

Moving to the Fale Pasifika in Wynyard Street for morning tea, King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia met senior staff members and Spanish students, and viewed a display of the current research and activities of the School of European Languages and Literatures. They also discussed with interest the activities of the department, and the recent books which staff had authored.

Stuart McCutcheon said it was "highly appropriate as well as symbolic that their Majesties should follow their son, Prince Felipe, in honouring us with their presence". He expressed gratitude to Spain and its government "for their generous support for our Spanish programme over many years" which has "contributed to Spanish being the most popular European language taught at our University".



King Juan Carlos I (left) discusses yacht design with Professor Richard Flay.



Queen Sofia speaks with University Chancellor Roger France (left).

Alumna on astronaut shortlist

Dr Karen Willcox, a graduate in Engineering Science from The University of Auckland, says she is honoured to have been considered by NASA for its 2009 Astronaut Training Programme.

She was among 47 hopefuls to make the final selection round, though was not selected to join the programme this year.

Karen is currently in New Zealand on a research sabbatical, and will return to her role as Associate Professor in Aeronautics and Astronautics at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the United States in September.

Writer in residence

Distinguished Wellington poet, novelist and critic, Ian Wedde, has been selected for a six-month writer's residency in Auckland starting in July.

The residency is a partnership between The University of Auckland, Creative New Zealand and the Michael King Writers' Centre. It aims to foster New Zealand writing by providing an opportunity for an established author to work full-time on a major project in an academic environment, together with free accommodation and a studio working space at the Michael King Writers' Centre in Devonport.

While he holds the 2009 residency, Ian Wedde plans to work on a new novel, a book of poems and a book-length essay about the meaning of home.

Musical events

The July to November concert and event brochure for the School of Music is now available. Featuring students, staff and distinguished visiting artists, it offers classical and popular music and jazz, as well as seminars and concerts with leading composers and scholars.

Staff and their guests can purchase tickets at concession prices for School of Music concerts when booking via TicketDirect on 0800 224 224 or at www.ticketdirect.co.nz or purchasing tickets from the Box Office 45 minutes prior to each concert. Quote the reference "Uni Staff" when buying tickets.

The School of Music also offers numerous free events, including the weekly Friday Lunchtime Concert Series, as well as regular seminars, workshops, masterclasses and public student assessments.

To be placed on the mailing list visit www.forms.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/join-nicai-mailing-list or for details of events, visit www.creative.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/events

Sustainable energy message radi



Lesley Stone (standing at the back) works with delegates on the second day of the forum.

An international youth forum held at the University has sent a strong message around the world about sustainable energy supply systems.

Taking the word out to at least nine countries – and taking vital new knowledge home – are the 25 energetic and enthusiastic young student delegates whose essays on sustainable energy won them a place at the EcoMinds Youth Forum, sponsored by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Bayer. This year the forum was hosted for the first time in New Zealand, at The University of Auckland.

Also attending was a team of invited journalists who ensured that the conference events would find a wider audience in all of the students' countries of origin: Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

For many of the student delegates at EcoMinds, this was their first experience outside their home countries. The programme, designed by Dr Robert Kirkpatrick from the Faculty of Engineering and the Business School's Energy Centre, and Dr Lesley Stone, the University's Environmental Co-ordinator, was guaranteed to give them an exciting and challenging experience and to ensure that they absorbed new knowledge not only about sustainable energy in New Zealand but also about the way it could be applied in a range of other international contexts.

This was a "working forum", Lesley Stone stressed, with a focus not only on acquiring knowledge but also on specific tasks and outcomes related to finding practical solutions to issues in sustainable development.

Unlike previous EcoMinds forums, which have concentrated on solving specific local environmental problems, this one looked to equip the delegates with knowledge to take home and adapt to their local environments.

On the first day students attended a powhiri and were taken on an orientation trip to Piha and

the Waitakeres, which they greatly enjoyed, says Lesley. One of their activities was to plant native trees, which helped offset the carbon emissions from their travel.

The second day was more formal, with a welcome from Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon – who stressed that the University "is committed to sustainability and to enhancing our environmental performance" – an opening address from the Governor-General, the Hon Sir Anand Satyanand, and presentations by a number of people with relevant international expertise. These included Dr Young Woo Park, UNEP's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific; Hans Dieter Hausner, Chair and Managing Director for Bayer, Australia and New Zealand; Bryan Gould, Chair of the New Zealand Commission for UNESCO; and Mike Underhill, Chief Executive of the NZ Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority, whose message focused on the enormous potential for sustainable energy in New Zealand.

Delegates then set out on an exciting four-day tour (including three nights in Rotorua), in which they had the opportunity to learn at first hand about a diverse range of methods of power generation. On a visit to Genesis Energy's power station at Huntley they viewed coal-fired generation and a combined cycle gas turbine; at Karapiro they saw a hydro supply lake and visited Mighty River Power's hydro-electric station; at Wairakei, they visited Contact Energy's geothermal power station. They also had a virtual tour of Meridian's wind power plants. On the final day, Lesley and Rob were joined by Denis Agate, the University's Energy Manager, who talked about our own energy management programme.

The students were "totally excited," Lesley reports. "It was all new to them."

They also applied their knowledge in a very focused way, working in groups far into the night to prepare for their final 20-minute presentations.

Encouraging nuclear non-proliferation

With continuing nuclear crises in the Middle East and East Asia, the question of how to promote nonproliferation and disarmament is more important than ever. Fortunately, recent social psychology research highlights multiple ways to encourage this.

The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) and associated agreements provide the normative foundation for saying “civilised states don’t seek nuclear weapons”. Before the NPT, acquiring nuclear weapons was an act of national pride; after, it became an “act of international outlawry”, as noted by US Ambassador Thomas Graham.

But the NPT does more than just draw a line in the sand. It also creates social mechanisms that can influence how policy-makers think about the value of nuclear weapons. For example, social psychology has found that the need to appear consistent is a powerful motivator of human behaviour. States that have signed and ratified the NPT, as well as participated in treaty review conferences and other associated activities, are less likely to later withdraw from the NPT and/or covertly seek nuclear weapons. This is true not only because individuals feel a need to act consistently but also because, over time, a bureaucracy dedicated to the goals of the NPT grows within the state, gaining influence and leverage.

Another social mechanism is what psychologists call a “descriptive norm” – that is, people notice what we do at least as much as what we say. The more people who do X, the more everyone else thinks that X is the right thing to do. In this way, the NPT creates a clear descriptive norm that shapes how policymakers view those who do and do not adhere to it. Almost every state in the world is a member of the NPT, and almost all of those states adhere to their treaty commitments. So the NPT is about more than words and lectures – it’s also about overwhelming global compliance, which helps to influence how elites conceptualise nuclear weapons.

Social psychology also helps us understand how the NPT changes the social cost-benefit equation of nuclear decision-making. Some states support nuclear nonproliferation because they are persuaded that nuclear weapons are not in their best interest. Others refrain because they consider the social costs too high. Without the NPT, the cost-benefit equation changes dramatically for these states, and not in favour of nuclear nonproliferation.

Another relevant lesson from social psychology is from the “in-group vs out-group” literature. People are more likely to accept normative pressure from those they like, while normative pressure from the “disliked” tends to backfire. A rogue state is unlikely to respond well to lectures from the country benefiting most from the status quo, which is why

normative pressure from the US may simply add fuel to the fire.

A better way to approach problem states is through countries and experts considered neutral. Libya, which gave up its nuclear weapons programme in 2003, would be an especially good choice. The Libyans can argue from experience about the benefits of abiding by the NPT, including increased global economic integration and greatly reduced concerns about state security. Other neutral states that will not be seen as mouthpieces of Washington are also better positioned to make effective normative arguments.

Social psychology also tells us that if norms are “activated” or made focal, policymakers have a harder time dismissing them. A recent study showed that in three different democracies, peace nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) helped keep the countries non-nuclear by making the political costs of going nuclear prohibitive.

While peace NGOs perform many tasks, activities that attract media attention are particularly helpful. By focusing public awareness on the nuclear issue, peace NGOs make it harder for governments to craft policy undermining either nuclear nonproliferation or disarmament.

Peace groups are also acting creatively and on shoe-string budgets. For example, the New Zealand-based Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) facilitates cooperation and information-sharing among anti-nuclear parliamentarians around the world.

Recent events have heartened supporters of nuclear disarmament – from US President Barack Obama’s recent speech in Prague to the Russian nod to further reduce nuclear stocks. What can we do to continue the momentum? Social psychology might advise “small, steady steps”. When asked to make big sacrifices, people often refuse. But people will often agree to make small sacrifices, which makes them much more likely to consent to larger sacrifices for the same cause later on.

So instead of pressuring nuclear weapons states to move toward disarmament immediately, a better method is to ask for small but sure steps in that direction, such as ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, negotiations for a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty and, of course, further reductions in nuclear stocks. By getting the ball rolling, these incremental efforts will likely lead to internalised commitment to nuclear disarmament, making the ultimate goal more likely.

Dr Maria Rost Rublee (Political Studies)



Dr Ulrich Bornwasser, Environmental Adviser to Bayer, tree-planting to help offset carbon emissions.

Among New Zealand’s five delegates were two from The University of Auckland. Daniel Scott, an honours student in Civil and Environmental Engineering, has throughout his studies been involved in design issues surrounding power generation and is part of a project implementing a solar energy supply system to a school in Tonga. Melissa Wong, with a Bachelor of Technology and a Postgraduate Diploma in Bioscience Enterprise, is currently studying for an MSc, for which her main project will be biofuels.

Female engineers needed

High school girls took over the Faculty of Engineering on 2 July for a day of activities designed to boost the numbers of female engineers.

More than 240 girls from 38 secondary schools from all over the North Island took part in Enginuity Day. Activities ranged from learning how to programme a robot; how to cut a diamond; how to track underground pollutants; and how to test the strength of artificial bones.

This year’s theme was on “how engineering will make a difference to our lives in the future”. The girls met female graduates who are making a difference, such as Priscilla Chung, a water infrastructure planning engineer at Manukau Water Limited.

“With global issues of climate change, population growth, and scarcity of resources, a big challenge will be how water engineering can provide for health, sanitation, and disaster prevention. I am proud to be a water engineer who can make a difference,” she says.

Women in Engineering Equity Adviser Robyn MacLeod says the faculty hopes to increase its number of female students to 50 percent. Currently, 22 percent of Engineering undergraduates are women.



Tomorrowland

"Reading [Lisa] Samuels is a little like chasing a phantom lover through a maze..." wrote Ian Seed in *Exultations and Difficulties*.

"Each time you turn a corner she is turning the next. You are convinced that if you could catch her you would finally understand the great secret of the universe. Although you know that this is impossible, you keep chasing, desire intensified by each glimpse of her you have. Paradise promised is always just out of reach.

"The whole is pervaded by a haunting



fragmentary lyricism, which contains a plea for us to see the beauty and worth of those parts of ourselves that we would rather disown."

Though these words were written in response to an earlier volume called *Paradise for Everyone*, they apply just as well to *Tomorrowland*, the latest work from Associate Professor Lisa Samuels (English), published by Shearsman Books, Exeter.

More an exploration of cultural psychology than a documentary history, *Tomorrowland*, the eighth volume of poetry by Lisa Samuels and her first book-length poem, tells of migration and colonial immersion, of repeated arrivals in a new world. Its

central character Eula (named, says Lisa, after a computer user licensing agreement) moves among real and imagined places and times, sometimes with other symbolic named and unnamed figures.

Writers on Lisa Samuels use words and phrases such as "new realities", "encounters", "ambiguities" and "the play of shadows". Her poetry, utterly individual, invites and rewards both immersion and analysis.

Lisa wrote *Tomorrowland* while on her first research leave after her PhD, as a visiting scholar at Brown University in 2008.

In view of her recent transfer to New Zealand, she was in a state of reflection about "immigrations and arrivals in distant lands".

"*Tomorrowland*," she says, involves "crossing history with present and imagined landscapes.

"It is about what it means to travel, to arrive, to be somewhere, to have an identity.

"I was very much imagining not only New Zealand and the arrivals there, including the arrival of Māori, but also my people coming from England and Scotland to America. I am what they call 'a Daughter of the Mayflower'."

For Lisa, this was "a very powerful writing experience - it just kept spilling over". And in fact it has spilled over into a follow-up, now in progress, which combined with *Tomorrowland* will comprise her "New Zealand epic". She at first thought to give this volume the title of *Metropolis* but is now leaning towards *Body City* - "like a metropolis made flesh".

"New Zealand," says Lisa, "is very literary. It sells more books per head of population than anywhere else in the world. I would like to engage with this fact of life here, and my writing is part of that engagement."



Mirabile Dictu

A journey from light into darkness and back again is at the centre of a new collection by Associate Professor Michele Leggott (English), New Zealand's inaugural Poet Laureate.

Mirabile Dictu, published by Auckland University Press, was written over the course of Michele's tenure as Poet Laureate (December 2007-June 2009).

During this period, Michele's own journey changed course as the laureate tokotoko (talking sticks) shaped a pathway for picking up the white stick that ensures independence in a slowly darkening world. But failing sight is not the focus of the poems which are intent on reading the world by means of the connections we can make between its parts and our own desire for stories that come and go, appear and disappear.

The poems begin in high summer with Hone Tuwhare's funeral and range the places and occasions poetry makes for itself in the world. They also attend to the making and naming of gifts present and to come, of people living and dead. They look for what is lost and sometimes they make visible what has disappeared. They are work for the living, relating wonders (*mirabile dictu*) and closely related to the moment when light and darkness define each other in the camera of the human eye.

As Michele writes: "Something strange happens every day sometimes up close, sometimes further away. If you can't see the whole story in one place, you may find it in

another. If you know part of it now, you may recognise more of it later though it will have changed in the interim. And then there is the singular moment where we plunge in among particulars of language and say 'this is the poem, this is the event. I was looking (I was listening) for this'."

"In this exciting collection, Michele Leggott amply demonstrates why she was chosen as the inaugural Poet Laureate. Her words are themselves part of the wonder of which they speak," says Professor Tom Bishop, HOD of English.

"Michele has taken poetry to communities and people across the country and has been instrumental in broadening its appeal through the digital world. The forthcoming launch of *Mirabile Dictu* is just one of the many successful outcomes of her time as Laureate," says Penny Carnaby, National Librarian and Chief Executive of the National Library of New Zealand.

Michele has published six previous collections of poems and edited several influential anthologies and collections of essays. She is the founding director of the nz electronic poetry centre (www.nzepc.auckland.ac.nz). In 2009 she was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) for her services to poetry.

From the collection



Charlotte Fisher (b.1959) *Fathom* 2002, marine grade mirror finish stainless steel plate, 4600mm x 1750mm x 1600mm

The design for this sculpture, originally titled *She Shore*, was an entry in the competition for a sculpture to be sited at the back of the newly opened Kenneth Myers Centre in 2001.

Many of Charlotte Fisher's other works – like her name itself – carry a marine reference, sometimes deploying the imagery of moons, bowls and eggs to conjure femaleness as well. Relating to Shortland Street's pre-reclamation shoreline status, the shape of this sculpture was based on the form of an ancient fossil, the graptolite. Floaters in primordial seas, graptolites are extinct relatives of hemichordates – and therefore distantly related to the chordates, including humans.

Fisher explains the utility of this prehistoric referent: "My sculpture deals with the organic, the elemental, abstract and associative form. I feel part of the chain of human endeavour – work made by both women and men – whereby signs, symbols and objects from people long dead speak to us today."

From its inception, the Kenneth Myers Centre embraced the performing arts, and Fisher's design also alludes to the structure of the human body and the graceful lines formed when a dancer raises limbs in movement. Denticles, an ornamental architectural detail along the top of the parapet that edges the former 1YA building's flat roof, inspired the spikes that serrate the sculpture's upswept curves.

For its new site at Tamaki, Fisher upscaled both the concept and the form and retitled the work *Fathom*. It stretches to the same height as the portico of the nearby lecture theatre (4600mm) and still reaches for the sea, but more distantly. Now the form is striving, rather than dancing, marking a gathering place between Buildings 722 and 723. As *Fathom*, it now takes on meanings associated with inquiry, and the figuring out of answers. Significantly, a fathom is also an imperial unit of measurement for water depth (six feet) deriving from the Old English "faethm", meaning to encircle with outstretched arms.

Fisher says that her sculptures are associative and symbolic: "The stories I think they're telling are not always what people get from them. It's open. I enjoy words and titles. I indicate association through title. Everyone brings their own experience into it."

Made by a North Shore engineering company accustomed to making milk holding tanks for the dairy industry, the mirror finish stainless steel was cut to the sculptor's pattern, then shaped and welded into its evocative form. Appropriately enough, *Fathom* is polished biannually to maintain its lustre using marine cleaning techniques.

Linda Tyler

Te Ara Putaiao



Produced in the Tihei Oreore Series, *Te Ara Putaiao: Māori Insights in Science* is a compilation of papers presented by four Māori scientists as part of the Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga Policy Seminar series, held in Wellington in 2005.

The first paper, by environmental toxicologist Dr James Ātaria, opens with a summary of two research projects, both investigating situations where environmental issues are of immediate concern to local Māori communities. The body of the paper looks at the second project, centred on the Ahuriri/Napier estuary. Entitled "He Moemoeā mo Ahuriri: A vision plan and health assessment for the Ahuriri estuary" the study incorporates both a biophysical inquiry and cultural research.

James details how he went about this complex project, which included the practical research, building relationships with the tangata whenua and other parties with interests in the estuary, fostering communication between the groups, supporting policy that takes into account tangata whenua and their concerns, and setting in place mechanisms so the project would be of ongoing benefit to the people in the area.

Associate Professor Elizabeth McKinley's paper, entitled "Māori in science and mathematics education", gives feedback on two research projects funded by Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, the first looking at Māori knowledge, language and participation in secondary school science and mathematics education, and the second based on the question: "Can collaborative partnerships between science and iwi/hapu inform school science? And if so, in what ways?"

Professor Michael Walker (Biological Sciences) reflects on the significance of identity to the Māori scientist and shares understandings gained from his own scientific research. He also considers some

of the obstacles to Māori participation in science and outlines measures for advancing Māori involvement in and contribution to science.

Dr Shane Wright (Biological Sciences) has carried out ground-breaking research leading to a re-thinking of some long-held assumptions about evolution. His paper, entitled "Energy and evolution", traces the development of his research over 20 years, giving insight into his work in tropical and temperate forests, his formulation of theory and his development of experimental design to test it. Like Michael Walker, Shane believes his Māori identity has kept him open to different ways of approaching the questions and issues of his discipline.

In the words of the editors, Dr Joseph Te Rito and Dr Susan Healy, in the introduction: "[The papers] contain an interesting mix of personal reflection, detail concerning the research [the authors] have carried out, and insight into policy that could lead to the involvement and advancement of Māori in science and environmental management."

Darwin's legacy

This year the Liggins Institute's public lecture series, *Seasons of life*, takes an eclectic look at evolution.

Five distinguished speakers discuss aspects of human evolution – from the origins of the human

body plan to our instinctive love of art. The lectures are designed for non-scientific audiences and questions are welcomed. They are free and open to the public but bookings are essential. All the lectures will take place in the Robb Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, 85 Park Road at 6pm. Email to friends@liggins.auckland.ac.nz; or telephone 09 303 5972 or ext 83372.

On 22 July Dr John Long, Head

of Sciences at Museum Victoria, Melbourne, Australia, will speak on "Death, sex and evolution – 380-million-year-old fishes and the origins of the human body plan".

On 29 July Professor Hamish Spencer, Head of the Department of Zoology at the University of Otago, will speak on "The cousin marriage controversy – from Darwin to the US and Modern Britain".

On 19 August Professor Brian Boyd, Department of English, The

University of Auckland will speak on "Evolution, art, science and purpose".

On 16 September Professor Peter Gluckman FRS, Liggins Institute, The University of Auckland, will speak on "Darwin and medicine".

On 7 October Professor Denis Dutton, Department of Philosophy, The University of Canterbury, will speak on "The art instinct: Why we evolved to love beauty".

What's on

FRIDAY 10 JULY

NZ Asia Institute seminar

Prof Jeffrey Winters, Northwestern University: *A political and economic interpretation of Indonesia's election*. 2.30-3.30pm Rm 325, Level 3, Owen G. Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Queries to Dr Xin Chen, ext 86936 or email x.chen@auckland.ac.nz

NZSO National Youth Orchestra

7pm Auckland Town Hall. Featuring pianist John Chen, University of Auckland's 2008 Young Alumnus of the Year. Tickets from \$20. Book at The Edge, phone 0800 289 842.

SATURDAY 11 JULY

Public lecture

Barbara Haselbach, Professor of Dance Didactic at the Orff-Institute, Mozarteum University in Salzburg: *Integrating the arts*. 3pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 13 JULY

Writers on Monday: An hour with C. K. Stead

Hosted by Steve Braunias. 12noon Art Lounge, New Auckland Art Gallery, corner of Wellesley St and Lorne St, Auckland. Bring your lunch.

TUESDAY 14 JULY

Becoming an emotionally intelligent leader

Explore key leadership skills that are particularly associated with being emotionally intelligent. For managers. Enrol via PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (code HREIL). For queries phone ext 89630.

WEDNESDAY 15 JULY

New staff orientation

9am-12.30pm, Fale Pasifika, Wynyard St. Gain an overview of the University and meet other new staff. Enrol via PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (Code HROUA). For queries phone ext 89630.

First Aid Certificate course

9am-4.30pm. This two-day course for staff meets the first aider requirements of the Health and Safety in Employment Act. Part two will be held tomorrow. Enrol via PeopleSoft HR Employee Self Service (Code HRFAC). For queries phone ext 85070.

THURSDAY 16 JULY

Symposium 2009: Tax, saving, welfare and retirement: Have we lost our way?

8.30am-5.45pm Rm OGGB5, Owen G.

Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. Presented by the Retirement Policy and Research Centre. \$105/\$50 students. Queries to Tressy Menezes, contact 923 2628 or t.menezes@auckland.ac.nz

Doctoral morning tea

10-11am iSpace, 4th Floor, Kate Edger Information Commons.

A chance for all doctoral students to mingle, talk and share common issues.

FRIDAY 17 JULY

Cities, memories and the challenges of the future: An interdisciplinary symposium on Latin America

9am-5pm Room 619, Level 6, School of Architecture and Planning.

Prof Segre will deliver two keynote addresses. He will be joined by academics from different NZ universities, researchers on Latin American studies. Registration is essential. Queries to r.tenorio@auckland.ac.nz

Latin American recital: Voice and piano

With singer and songwriter Alda Rezende. 5.15-6.30pm Music Theatre, 6 Symonds St. Queries to r.tenorio@auckland.ac.nz

SATURDAY 18 JULY

Talk and guided tour

1pm Gus Fisher Gallery, 74 Shortland St. Director of the Centre for NZ Art Research and Discovery, Linda Tyler, will give an illustrated talk on the architecture of the YA building, which is now the Gus Fisher Gallery, followed by a guided tour through all four levels of the building. Queries to gusfishergallery@auckland.ac.nz

MONDAY 20 JULY

Writers on Monday: New voices

Featuring three Centre for Modern Writing, Masters of Creative Writing students, AUT and three Master in Creative Writing students, The University of Auckland. Hosted by John Cranna and Lisa Samuels. 12noon Art Lounge, New Auckland Art Gallery, corner of Wellesley and Lorne St, Auckland. Bring your lunch.

TUESDAY 21 JULY

First Winter Lecture

Assoc-Prof Caroline Daley, Dept of History, UoA: *Writing NZ history in the twenty-first century: Taking off the black singlet*. 1-2pm Maidment Theatre, 8 Alfred St. Queries to ext 87698. View www.auckland.ac.nz/winter

Public lecture

Prof Matthew Sanders, Parenting Studies and Family Psychology, Faculty of Education, UoA: *Positive parenting and the wellbeing of children: What*

works and what needs to be done? 5pm J1 McGhie Lecture Theatre, Faculty of Education, Gate 3, 74 Epsom Ave, Epsom. RSVP by 17 July to d.johnson@auckland.ac.nz Queries to c.dittman@auckland.ac.nz

THURSDAY 23 JULY

Dept of Electrical and Computer Engineering seminar

Dr Tony Price, UoA: *The role of industry and universities in developing successful technology industries*. 3-4pm Lecture Theatre 3.401, School of Engineering, 20 Symonds St. Queries to Dr Patrick Hu, ext 88435 or a.hu@auckland.ac.nz

Department of Anthropology seminar

Prof Robert J. Foster, University of Rochester: *A cultural biography of the P.G. Black Collection of Pacific Islands artifacts*. 4pm HSB 704.

Queries to p.knight@auckland.ac.nz

Inaugural Robert C. Solomon Philosophy Lecture

Prof Kathleen Higgins: *Love and death*. 6.30pm Lecture Theatre OGGB5, Owen G. Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd.

Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Glendowie - St Heliers: Fully furnished house available in an attractive location. All-day sun and a park at the end of the street. The house has three bdrms, or two with a study. Recently redecorated with polished rimu floors and carpeted bdrms. Near excellent schools and public transport. Just 15-20 minutes from the city and University, and a 10-minute walk to St Heliers beach and village. Suit couple or small family on sabbatical. Available from 1 July - 31 December 2009, or longer if required. No pets or smokers. \$550 pw includes lawn-mowing. Contact (021) 072 8701 or email nautikos07@yahoo.com.au

Short-term accommodation available. Large furnished room (queen-sized bed) with shared use of all the facilities of the home. Well equipped kitchen and two bthrms, large deck and garden. Perfect for someone settling into Auckland as everything is provided – available for stays of three weeks to two months. Share with one busy professional person – happy to help new people find their way in our beautiful city. \$200 pw (or \$300 pw for a couple) includes water, gas, power and Broadband. Location is Balmoral (two section bus ride to University), parking in driveway, and good shopping/eating within a short walk. Phone Christine on 0272 061 007.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

Do you need a house sitter? Responsible, n/s UoA staff member available to care for your home and pets from 12 July. References available. Contact Kathryn.joyrider@gmail.com

Swiss-NZ family with three young children requires accommodation for six-month UoA sabbatical from February 2010. The ideal home would be child-friendly and close to Hutchinsons Rd/ Macleans Primary, Bucklands Beach. Phone Allan or Louise on (09) 534 9349 to discuss rental, house-sit, or house-swap possibilities (in exchange a three-four bdrm townhouse, Münchenstein, Basel).

OVERSEAS ACCOMMODATION

Greek apartment: Study leave or holiday. An Auckland academic's retreat is available to rent anytime. Located within three hours of Athens Airport, Tyros is an ideal base for study leave in Europe. It is well served by buses to Athens. The Tyros apartment is brand new within a classic Peleponnese village with its bay and beach-front tavernas. Visit the website www.tyrosapartment.com Email t.fookes@auckland.ac.nz

MISCELLANEOUS

For a limited time: \$20 hearing tests available for children aged from six months to five years. Please call the Hearing and Tinnitus Clinic, Tamaki Campus for an appointment. Phone 373 8791 (ample free parking).

Speight's Podiatry can take care of your feet. Walking around campus, or a runner, and your feet are killing you? We can help. No doctor's referral is required. Podiatrists are the masters of non-surgical treatment for all foot pain. 2nd Floor, 43 High St, Auckland. Phone 306-4006. Students and staff discount (new and existing patients) for general consultation \$65 instead of \$80 for 2009. Must quote 'University News' for special rate. Visit www.speightspodiatry.co.nz or email info@speightspodiatry.co.nz

Travel. I have 12 years experience in booking all aspects of personal travel for university staff and lecturers. I pride myself in ensuring that your travel plans are sourced at the lowest possible costs and are tailor-made to your requirements. For more information contact Karen on karen.emberton@mondotravel.co.nz or phone 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.

Year 13 student requires tutoring in chemistry first and foremost with scope to also cover biology at Y13. Tutoring required for remainder of 2009. If you have passion for these subjects and commitment to help others achieve, please contact me to discuss further. Phone Jocelyn on (027) 256 0220 or during business hours 373 0100.

For a full list of The University of Auckland events see: www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/events

Please email classified ads to m.playfair@auckland.ac.nz nine days before publication. Cost \$20 (incl GST).