

Atomic structure now crystal clear

When you catch a virus, a cold or flu, the chances are it's floating in the air and you breathe it in.

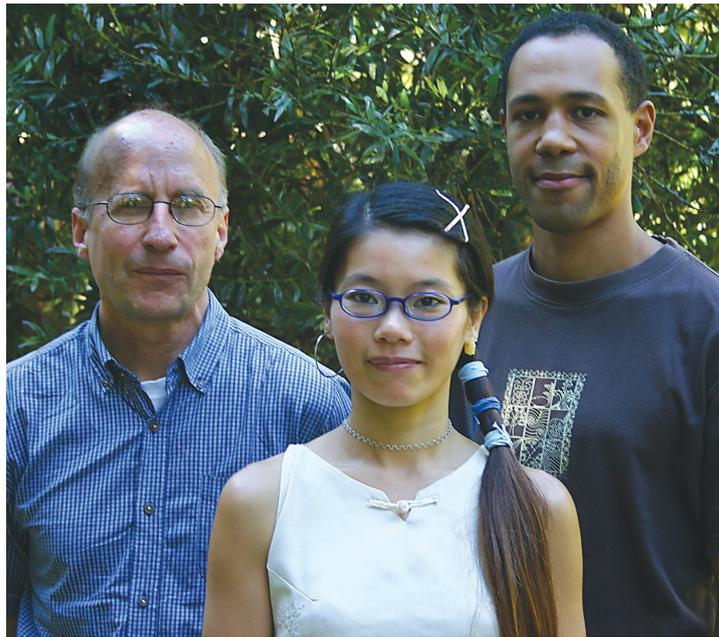
However there is a range of insect viruses that enter their hosts in a rather different way – and a paper related to their mode of transport (which also has the biological function of protecting them) has proved important enough to be published in *Nature* (“The molecular organization of cypovirus polyhedra”, Vol 446, 1 March 2007).

Associate Professor Peter Metcalf (Biological Sciences), who leads this international project, describes the study of the polyhedral viruses that are the subject of the paper as an “apparently esoteric field that has turned out to be very interesting both for fundamental research and in terms of applications in biotechnology”.

The particular virus he has been studying attacks the silk-worm at its larval stage. What is special about this virus and others of its type is that they are carried into their hosts encased in microscopic protective crystals. The crystals, left behind on leaves after their larval host dies, are then eaten by other larvae which contract the disease in their turn.

The study of these viruses and the tiny crystals which protect them is not new. Peter in fact has a copy of a paper published in 1911 in *Naturwissenschaftliche Zeitschrift für Forst und Landwirtschaft* (a German forest and agriculture journal) describing crystals found in the larvae of Nonne (“Nuns” – a type of moth) after their death from Wipfelkrankheit, named for the symptoms of its sufferers, which set out to crawl to the tops of trees they would normally just feed in. The researchers guessed correctly that the crystals were infectious but did not understand what made them so.

What Peter and his team have been able to achieve – first in the



Left to right are Peter Metcalf, Elaine Chiu and Fasseli Coulibaly. Photo by Libby Hitchings

world despite strong international competition – is to solve the atomic structure of an intracellular crystal, learning in detail why cypovirus polyhedra are so stable and so effective in protecting the viral particles within.

These crystal habitats are extremely strong, says Peter. Impervious both to strong acids and to high temperatures – though not to the alkaline environment of the insect larvae midgut – they are capable of protecting the virus for years.

The project – a collaboration between researchers in Japan and Switzerland as well as Auckland – had its true origins in 1977 when Peter worked on his PhD in cell biology at The University of Auckland alongside Yukio Sigmura, a PhD student from Japan.

When visiting Japan in 2002 he looked up his former fellow student,

who introduced him to a colleague who was “doing interesting work with insect viruses”. From there the collaboration developed.

The team at Auckland comprises Peter, as principal investigator, together with a doctoral student, Elaine Chiu, and a postdoctoral fellow, Dr Fasseli Coulibaly. The three-way collaboration also includes researchers from the Kyoto Institute of Technology in Japan and from the Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland.

The work would not have been possible without regular visits to Switzerland to use the micro-focus synchrotron beam, one of only two of its type in the world. The Swiss collaborators have provided the expertise on the use of this machine.

Though this research is fundamentally interesting for its own

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Key events

No Chinatown winners announced

Judges will declare the winners of the No Chinatown architecture competition – a part of the Long March project – at 1pm on 14 April at the Gus Fisher Gallery. Judges include Graham Burgess from Burgess and Treep Architects, Natasha Conland from the Auckland Art Gallery, and Albert Refiti from AUT's School of Art and Design.

Health and safety

The New Zealand Tertiary Institutions Health and Safety Conference, “Being part of the solution”, will be held at the School of Engineering from 18 to 20 April. Experts will focus on strengths and weaknesses of current legislation, HSNO Code of Practice, occupational health monitoring, dealing with stress in the workplace and gradual process claims. For further information see <http://www.hsconference2007.auckland.ac.nz>

TEC Investment Plan staff forum

A forum for staff will give a chance to discuss the new requirement that the University develop and negotiate an Investment Plan with the Tertiary Education Commission. Professor Raewyn Dalziel, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), will host the forum from 1 to 2pm on 23 April in 502-B41, Grafton Campus. For further information contact Heather Kirkwood, 89553.

Genre, genre, who's got the genre?

Musical genres have as much to do with the construction of difference and with ideology as with musical sound. A Department of Anthropology seminar by Dr Greg Booth (Ethnomusicology) will examine the distinction between stylistic features and the development or maintenance of ideological frameworks in the music of the Hindi cinema. The seminar will take place in the Human Sciences Building, Room 704, 4-5.30pm, 26 April. For more information contact Veronica Strang on v.strang@auckland.ac.nz, ext 82458.

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From the Vice-Chancellor

Recruiting, retaining and supporting the development of outstanding staff is critical to the Strategic Plan of The University of Auckland. In an organisation of this size – one of the largest employers in New Zealand and one with staff who are employed on a great diversity of employment agreements – top quality human resource systems are something we simply cannot afford to do without. That need is also reinforced by a number of recent legislative changes – for example, to do with leave and with fixed term agreements – with which we must comply.

I am therefore delighted to advise that the University is about to embark on a major undertaking in the form of an upgrade of its Peoplesoft Human Resource system. The first stage of this multi-million dollar development, commencing in July of this year, will involve an extensive review of our HR practices and the consequent redesign of our systems. The second phase will then see the Peoplesoft system upgraded to meet our requirements as defined by the prior analysis, with the objective of having the whole process completed by late 2008.

This will be a significant commitment to improving our HR processes and reporting capability across the University. It will be the highest priority for the HR Team for 2007 and 2008, and will also involve staff from across the University – from the Vice-Chancellor's Office, ITS, the faculties and a dedicated communications team to keep everyone informed of progress. Overall responsibility for the project will rest with the sponsor, Kath Clarke, and the HR Systems Programme Steering Committee convened by Adrienne Cleland.

Through this project we have a great opportunity to transform the way many of our HR processes are managed, to make them more efficient and transparent, and to give managers and the University reliable and comprehensive reporting tools to support decision-making. It is a process that will benefit all, but also require engagement and input from many. I look forward to your support for this very important project.

Valuable scholarships for brightest PhD scholars

Twenty-two of the 50 Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarships to be awarded nationwide have gone to University of Auckland students.

The scholarships, worth more than \$4.7 million in total for this latest round, are awarded to New Zealand's brightest scholars conducting doctoral research that is underpinning this country's transformation into a knowledge economy.

Eleven of the successful applicants from The University of Auckland are from the Faculty of Engineering, four from Science, four from Arts and three from Medical and Health Sciences. Their research topics range from green roof technology and using robots for long bone realignment to automated image retrieval and the dietary habits and body image of New Zealand migrant women.

Announcing the scholarships today the Minister for Tertiary Education, the Hon Dr Michael Cullen, said he was pleased to see the rich variety of research that will be supported by the new scholarships. "It is the

creative and imaginative ideas of our researchers that are providing New Zealand with the opportunity to become an innovation-led country."

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Tom Barnes, expressed delight that nearly half the scholarships had been awarded to Auckland students. "It confirms yet again our research strength at the postgraduate level.

"The work of these outstanding young scholars bodes well for the contribution they will make to New Zealand as both academics and innovators of the future, driving economic and social development. We are proud to have such high quality scholars at our university."

The Top Achiever Doctoral Scholarships are funded by the government. Scholars each receive an annual stipend of \$25,000 for up to three years towards their PhD study, course fees and conference funding.

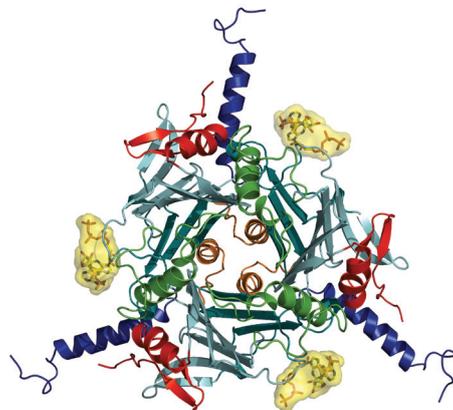
Nominations invited for excellence awards

The University is now inviting nominations for its Awards for Excellence in Equal Opportunities 2006.

The awards are to encourage and reward outstanding efforts and achievements in supporting the University's equity objectives in the Strategic Plan, and to promote good practice and innovation in implementing equity.

The closing date for nominations is 27 April. Nominations should be submitted on the official form to Margaret Freeman on ms.freeman@auckland.ac.nz. For further information, see www.eo.auckland.ac.nz

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A representation of the atomic structure of cytopovirus polyhedra



A cartoon by Keiko Ikeda, one of the Japanese team members, relating to a comment by the editorial team from *Nature* which suggested that the word "fruitcake" was a more descriptive term for the crystals than "Gruyere".

sake, it also has much wider implications, says Peter, who takes delight in the unexpected opportunities that basic research can sometimes open up.

"Protein molecules are complex nano-devices that form the basic machinery of all living things. We understand many such molecules in atomic detail, and have begun to make engineered proteins, but progress is limited because they are so fragile. Here at last we have a stable protein framework that we can modify for real-world applications."

He points to a clump of crystals on his computer screen – each embedded with the tiny virus particles that have led them to be nicknamed "Gruyere cheese".

"Already the members of the Japanese team have figured out how to manipulate a cell into putting a green fluorescent protein into these crystals," says Peter.

It is not a large step from there to start thinking that the crystals might be used to stabilise a range of proteins, or that the crystals could be chemically modified to carry drugs or probes.

Quoted in a commentary about the result in *Chemical and Engineering News*, published by the American Chemical Society, is the leading member of the competing team attempting to solve the structure of these crystals – Professor David Stuart from the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics at Oxford.

"Here evolution has done a big part of the design to produce a fantastically tough crystal lattice, designed to specifically incorporate larger objects and protect them for years," he says. "If we can't think of a useful adaption for that type of system, we're not being very innovative."

Judy Wilford

First time national awards for Māori academic achievement

Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, the Māori Centre of Research Excellence, celebrated the success of key Māori academics with the Tohu o te Māramatanga Research Excellence Awards.



Left to right are Professor Sidney Moko Mead and Emeritus Professor Ranginui Walker.



Right to left are Professor Linda Smith, daughter of Professor Sidney Moko Mead, and Professor Michael Walker, son of Professor Ranginui Walker. Linda and Michael are co-directors of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga.

The awards were presented on 23 March with co-hosts, the Hon Parekura Horomia, Minister of Māori Affairs, and Dr Pita Sharples, co-leader of the Māori party.

The four awardees at the Te Puāwaitanga event were all past staff and students at the University: Professor Sidney Moko Mead (founding professor of Māori at Victoria University of Wellington), Emeritus Professor Ranginui Walker and the late Emeritus Professors Bruce Biggs and Sir Hugh Kāwharu.

The Tohu o te Māramatanga awards celebrated their lifetime contributions to Māori research and their role in the foundation of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga.

An independent panel including Professor

Margaret Mutu (Auckland), Dr Rawiri Taonui (Christchurch) and Rauru Kirikiri (Wellington) selected the winners on the basis of how their contribution added to Māori scholarship and the betterment of all Māori, and how they are role models for future Māori researchers.

The ongoing research awards programme for 2008, including fellowships, was also launched at the awards evening to recognise excellence in advancing knowledge, building Māori research capability and improving knowledge exchange and transformation of New Zealand society.

Parekura Horomia said: "The Tohu o te Māramatanga Research Awards is a great example of what can be done to bring more and more

Māori into tertiary education and to encourage those already studying and training towards higher achievement."

Fifteen recent PhD graduates from The University of Auckland received National Māori Academic Excellence Awards for 2006 at Tūrangawaewae Marae on 2 March. They were: Rodney Barnet, Rachel Carley, Kaa-Sandra Chee, Diana Connor, Jared Gribben, Mei-Lin Hansen, Jennifer Hauraki, Carla Houkamau, Sara Minster, Tane Mokena, Te Tuhi Robust, Nicolette Sheridan, Rawiri Taonui, Nin Tomas and Jarrod Walker.

Closer ties with prestigious Chinese institution

In November 2006, Professor Lu Yongxiang, President of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, visited The University of Auckland to be awarded an honorary doctorate of Engineering.

On 20 March 2007 a delegation from the Graduate University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (GUCAS) visited the University for the purpose of exploring research collaborations, exchange of postdoctoral fellows and recruitment of PhD students. A memorandum of understanding for academic cooperation between the two institutions was signed during the visit.

Led by Professor Deng Yong, who chairs the University Council, the delegation also included Professor Wang Yanfen, Executive Associate Dean of the College of Resources and Environment, Professor Wang Ying, Executive Associate Dean in the College of Computer and Communication Engineering, Professor Gao Peng, Executive Associate Dean in the Management School, and Professor Zhu Xiangbin, Director of the International Affairs Office.

The group was hosted by the Vice-Chancellor, and senior management

and academic staff from The University of Auckland.

After formally signing the agreement the delegates visited the Faculty of Engineering, UniServices, the Bioengineering Institute, the Confucius Institute and the New Zealand Asia Institute. A working lunch in the Graduate Centre Meeting Room was hosted by Professor Yongjin Zhang, director of the New Zealand Asia Institute.

Founded in 1978, GUCAS was the first graduate school in China with the approval of the State Council. It graduated China's first doctoral student in science and in engineering, its first female doctoral student, and its first student with double doctoral degrees. By 2002 more than 20,000 PhD students and 40,000 masters students had graduated from GUCAS.

University staff comprises 300 members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and more than 4,500 teachers and research fellows.

NEW ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

Neil Campbell (Law)

I obtained undergraduate degrees in Commerce and Law from The University of Auckland in the early 1990s.

After a short period as a solicitor in a downtown Auckland law firm, I studied law at Cambridge University. I completed an LLM at Cambridge, after which I began my academic career at the Faculty of Law in the University of Nottingham.

I returned to the University of Auckland as a lecturer in 1995. My main teaching and supervision interests have been in company law and insurance law, though I have also taught land law, contract law, and the law of international sale of goods.

My research has focused on company law (particularly its intersection with the law of obligations) and insurance law (particularly remedies available to insureds against insurers). I was for some years co-editor of the *New Zealand Law Review*, and have recently been appointed co-editor of the *New Zealand Business Law Quarterly*.

Since 2002 I have held a fractional appointment at the University. This has allowed me to practise part-time as a barrister, from Shortland Chambers. My practice there largely reflects, and informs, my



Associate Professor Neil Campbell

teaching and research at the University.

My partner, Celia, and I have three children, all under five. When I get the opportunity, I enjoy a competitive game of golf.

Peter Adams (Population Health)

I initially graduated from The University of Auckland in the early 1980s with postgraduate training in philosophy and psychology.

I practised as a clinical psychologist for 13 years, during which I developed specialist expertise in addictive behaviour and violence. This led me into playing an active and often leadership role in community initiatives that included forming a violence collective, establishing innovations in mental health and addiction services, chairing the Problem Gambling Foundation and fostering a variety of workforce initiatives with a community focus.

From 1991 on I brought this enthusiasm for community development into the University. In 2000, restructuring of our faculty provided the opportunity to establish a new section focused

specifically on the application of community strength-building approaches to health. Over the next six years I led the growth of Social and Community Health in its development of teaching programmes in alcohol and drug studies, mental health and health promotion and in its research initiatives in violence, Asian health, addictive behaviour, gambling and community development.

Study leave during 2006 enabled completion of books on the impact of commercial gambling on democracy, social approaches to addiction and my current focus on the rhetoric of mystical communications.



Associate Professor Peter Adams

Poul Nielsen (Bioengineering Institute and Department of Engineering Science)

Bioengineering has been one of the passions of my life.

I stumbled upon this discipline (after wandering through a BSc in Physics and Mathematics and then a BE in Engineering Science) when I met Peter Hunter and Bruce Smail, friends who have inspired and supported me for many years.

Under their guidance I completed a PhD characterising the geometry and muscle structure of the heart. In this thesis I devised nonlinear optimisation methods to fit finite element meshes to measurements of surface geometry and myocardial fibre orientation.

After completing my PhD, I spent 30 months at McGill University, Montreal, working with Ian Hunter (now at MIT) in his bioinstrumentation laboratory. During this time I gained skills in instrumentation development – the design and construction of electronic, optical, and mechanical equipment for experimentation on biological systems.

Since returning to Auckland, I have continued work in combining computational modelling with bioinstrumentation to enable better understanding of the mechanics and energetics of soft tissue. My current focus, using such techniques, is the breast (using models to better interpret mammographic and MRI images), skin (mechanical and optical properties), and muscle (mechanics and energetics). I have also instigated and lead the CellML project – a worldwide collaborative effort to develop open markup languages and tools to describe and exchange biological models. CellML includes mathematics and metadata by leveraging existing languages, including MathML and RDF (www.cellml.org).

The other passion of my life is my family – my wife Bronwyn and three lovely daughters Hanne, Leah and Ruth. I love playing soccer with my daughters and neighbours, cooking for my family and friends, and enjoying our bush and beaches.



Associate Professor Poul Nielsen

Waitangi backdrop for Māori business graduates

The historic Waitangi Treaty grounds provided the setting for the graduation celebration of Maori business leaders from the Northland region.

Twenty Te Tai Tokerau graduates from the Business School's Huanga Māori Masters Programme, including Te Tohu Huanga Māori – Postgraduate Diploma in Business (Maori Development) – and the Master of Management, took part.

The celebration took place at Te Whare Runanga Waitangi National Reserve, Bay of Islands, on 16 March.

Dr Manuka Henare, the Business School's Associate Dean, Māori and Pacific Development, says the regional gathering brings together the talent of the people of Te Tai Tokerau.

"Every generation has the task of replenishing and revitalising the strengths of Maoritanga," Dr Henare says. "This includes learning about wealth creation, people development, innovation and productivity and how to combine our new knowledge of technology ideas and practice with the strengths of the past."

Auckland is New Zealand's only university to offer a specialist degree in Māori business.

As well as covering the essentials of a postgraduate business qualification, students are exposed to the elements of matauranga and mohiotanga (Māori world view); tikanga and ritenga (values and customs); and the relevance of Māori philosophy and ethics to the contemporary world of business.

The theme of the celebration dinner held in the evening at Waitaha Bay of Islands Conference Centre was "Partners in business" – emphasising the importance of connecting Māori business graduates with organisations in the region. The keynote address was by Rob McLeod (Ngati Porou), a barrister and taxation consultant and the Business School's Outstanding Maori Business Leader for 2006.



Angela Smith from the University's Māori Business Development Unit, who graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma in Business (Māori Development), thanks staff of the Business School, family and friends for their support.

A FAIR GO IN EMPLOYMENT

The media have focused recently on the difficulties that new migrants face in gaining employment and settling in to New Zealand society. These workplace difficulties persist for both migrants and others who are "different". Research has repeatedly demonstrated that ethnic differences – including accented speech, distinctively ethnic names, and qualifications and experience from non-Anglo-Saxon countries of origin – create an obstacle to employment in New Zealand enterprise. Limited access is not just a matter for minority groups. New Zealand and Australian research continues to highlight that both age and gender still have a significant impact on hiring decisions. These difficulties persist despite broad legislation in both countries, because the decision-making processes are internal, "invisible" and difficult to challenge at the level of the individual. In other countries, systemic employment discrimination has been addressed by assessing patterns of employment, rather than merely investigating individual experiences. With the increasing use of electronic recruiting systems, it may be time to start requiring employers to maintain and monitor records of the composition of their applicant pools for positions, against the profile of those short-listed and offered jobs. We may be able in any one situation to explain a hiring decision. If, however, it becomes apparent that some types of applicants (male or female, old or young, immigrant or local) have far less chance of being short-listed or hired than others, the organisation will need to rethink its entry policies and practices. To address faulty practices the employer needs structures to highlight patterns over time. Data monitoring structures – for the applicant pool and employed workforce in larger employers – are an internationally recognised means of doing this. The objective of hiring is to source and secure the best possible people, not to bar them on irrelevant characteristics. In the context of the shortage of talent in New Zealand industry, and the predicted doubling of economic migration over the next decade, employers need to rethink their recruitment and selection strategies to seek out talent rather than similarity. New Zealand has a legislative and best practice framework to encourage and support a diverse workforce; next steps for employers require reducing barriers to entry and engagement of diversity in the workplace.

*Professor Marie Wilson
Management and Employment Relations*

Minds made over at Girls' Day Out



The University of Auckland seized the opportunity to have a visible presence at Girls' Day Out from 23-25 March at ASB Showgrounds.

The theme of the University's participation was "Mind makeover". Staff and student ambassadors from Women in Science and Engineering (WISE), Equal Educational Opportunities (EEO), Student Recruitment, and the Faculty of Education promoted the University by providing mind games, puzzles and giveaways for all ages; competitions and prizes for registering interest in studying at The University of Auckland; and course information for prospective undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Lorraine Evening, Manager, Equal Educational Opportunities, said it was encouraging to see the wide range of interest in University of Auckland programmes. Most encouraging were the postgraduate queries from mature women in particular.

About 2000 people entered the main competition to win a bright pink iPod or cellphone. More than 400 of these registered their interest in studying at the University in the near future.

STAFF BOOKS

Speaking Truth to Power

Eggheads... the chattering classes... the ivory tower. *Speaking Truth to Power: Public Intellectuals in New Zealand*, edited by Associate Professor Laurence Simmons (Film, Television and Media Studies) and published by Auckland University Press, takes a contentious subject: intellectual life in New Zealand.

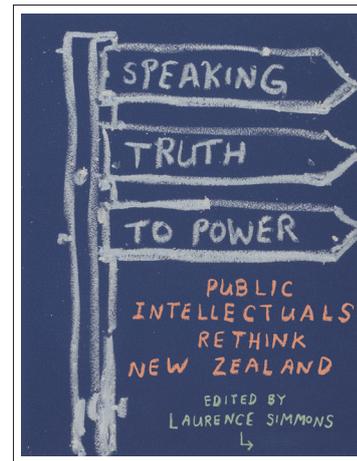
It is centred on 11 interviews with leading intellectuals, including Professor Jane Kelsey (Law), Brian Easton, Nicky Hager, Professor James Belich (History), Lloyd Geering, Marilyn Waring and the late Michael King.

The book begins with an extended introduction by Laurence Simmons, followed by three reflective essays, by Emeritus Professor Roger Horrocks (Film, Television and Media Studies), Emeritus Professor Andrew Sharp (formerly from Political Studies at Auckland) on the late Bruce Jesson, and Dr Stephen Turner (English).

However much ideas and thinking are the subject of public scorn in a land of pragmatists and pioneers, these thinkers, writers, talkers and teachers have a huge impact on the sort of country we live in and the way we treat each other.

In their commitment to understanding and improving the social world they have faced hostility, incomprehension and rejection but their lives are rich, complex and dramatic, as this book shows.

Speaking Truth to Power may annoy, excite, inspire and anger but it will also open up debate and invigorate discussion. It offers a vivid picture of how important our intellectuals are and how much we owe them.



Royal Society's gain



Di McCarthy

Professor Dianne McCarthy has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

She will take up her duties on 1 May after a distinguished career involving more than 20 years service to The University of Auckland.

Di is a "born and bred" Aucklander who attended Selwyn College and then came on to this University to undertake initially a BA in Mathematics and Music, and then a BSc in Applied Mathematics.

This solid foundation was then built upon when she completed an MSc with first

class honours and a PhD in Experimental Psychology. Di then went on to win a number of significant academic awards including the Sir Thomas Hunter Award for Research from the New Zealand Psychology Society and the Hamilton Memorial Prize of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

Di was appointed to a lectureship in the Psychology Department in 1986 and was promoted to associate professor in 1992. After a period as associate dean and professor in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Di returned to the Science Faculty in 1999 as professor and Head of the Department of Psychology. There she acted as HOD for five years and introduced many of the excellent academic and administrative structures upon which the department, one of the largest in the Science Faculty, now rests.

Over more than ten years Di has also applied her prodigious energy to a wide range of administrative functions. Amongst her service roles have been membership of the University Council (2003-), service on the Council of the Royal Society of New Zealand (2000-2004) and membership of the Board of AgResearch (1996-2002). From 1996 onwards, Di has been a member of board of governors of the Deafness Research Foundation and chair of its Scientific Advisory Committee.

From 2005 Di has been Pro Vice-Chancellor (Equal Opportunities) – a role that she has

performed with distinction. It is difficult to know how Di has found time to engage in this additional role, while at the same time also maintaining her scholarly involvement in the area of experimental analysis of behaviour – in collaboration with researchers at the Liggins Institute, in particular Professors Jane Harding and Peter Gluckman.

What is perhaps less well known by Di's colleagues and friends in the University is her keen interest in sport and her high level of performance. In 1971 Di was Auckland University Sportswoman of the Year and in the same year vice-captain of the New Zealand Universities Netball team. Indeed Di was an Auckland University Blue in both netball and indoor basketball.

Di's level of commitment to this University and her dedicated efforts on behalf of both the University and the Faculty of Science will be sorely missed. I am sure that all members of the University community will join me in wishing Di a very rewarding time in Wellington in her new role as CEO of the RSNZ – interspersed with periods with her husband Frank on their property in Marlborough. There, their mutual interests in gardening and cooking will no doubt be nurtured and consolidated in the weekends, along with visits to the premises of "Spy Valley" (down the road) and "Alan Scott Wines" (up the road).

Professor Dick Bellamy, Dean of Science

Hottest start-ups reside in ICEHOUSE

Two companies, both residents of the ICEHOUSE, shared this year's top award from Incubators New Zealand.

eBUS was recognised for providing a centralised and shared digital platform that enables agencies, broadcasters, TV regulators, media and production companies to reduce costs and generate more value from their video assets.

With all major post-production houses in New Zealand already secured as clients, eBUS opened an office in Singapore last October and already has two major broadcasters and several production houses trialling their product there.

OpenEye Displays is a leading New Zealand technology company specialising in strategy, development and integration of digital signage applications.

Digital signage is a breakthrough technology that shatters the barriers of conventional, static POP messaging. In the past year OpenEye's customer base has tripled with major client wins in New Zealand, Australia, the United States, UK and Ireland in sectors from banking, finance and retail to major supermarket chains and convenience stores. Staff numbers have doubled to 20 and revenue has grown by about 500 percent.

Gareth Croy was awarded Start-Up Entrepreneur of the Year for his role in turning OpenEye Displays into a success story.



Left to right are Education Minister Trevor Mallard, Carmine Masiello from eBus, Gareth Croy from OpenEye Displays, and Paul Wilson from Gen-I.

From the collection

Born in Sydney in 1951, Auckland-based artist John Lyall became a New Zealand resident in 1983 after a three-year period in the late 1970s working on archaeological digs in the UK.

After studying sound and performance as part of a Fine Arts degree at Sydney College of the Arts in the early 1980s, he moved to Auckland and became a secondary school teacher, often recruiting pupils into his performances.

He completed an MFA in sculpture at Elam in 1993 but with such a multi-disciplinary background, Lyall continues to work in many media. He has presented performances in the UK, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, including at the opening of the Aotea Centre, and his cyber opera *Requiem for Electronic Moa* was presented at the Auckland Sound/Culture Festival in 1999. But he is perhaps best known for his exquisite, large-format photographs featuring strange depictions of nature.

During a major renovation of the Auckland War Memorial Museum's animal displays in the 1990s, Lyall was given open access to document this fascinating transition.

The stuffed contents of carefully constructed pictorial narratives of natural history soon merged into strange new ecologies, which Lyall captured in his *The Naming of the Parts* series. Works from this series were shown in "Bright Paradise", the

inaugural Auckland Triennial (curated by present Elam lecturer Allan Smith) in 2001 and later that year one of the photographs was purchased for The University of Auckland art collection.

Lyall's interest in the bizarre ways nature can become culture is also evident in a range of books that bear his name. *Putting Our Town on the Map* (1995), which inspired a set of postage stamps and a TV documentary, focused on New Zealand's culture of giant roadside carrots, cows and gumboots, and was co-authored with Dr Claudia Bell (Sociology).

Although much of Lyall's practice seems to respond to the iconography of New Zealand, and increasingly more exotic places, Australia still features prominently in his work. Recent work has used stuffed animals to re-enact the birdlife he remembers from his mother's back yard in Sydney.

Readers may have noticed Lyall working in the window of Whitcoulls on Queen Street, sharing the space with a menagerie of stuffed pets of varied cultural origins as part of the AK07 Auckland Festival Windows project.

Andrew Clifford



JOHN LYALL *The Naming of the Parts* (the Auckland War Memorial Museum): a Natural History, 1987-2000, colour photograph, 750 x 580, The University of Auckland Art Collection

OBITUARY

Robert Dick (Tom) Hutchins 1921-2007

Pioneer New Zealand photojournalist and art teacher, Robert Dick (Tom) Hutchins (85) died on 15 March at his home in Auckland, where he was recuperating from a heart operation.



Tom Hutchins in China 1956.

Tom Hutchins is best known as an internationally respected photojournalist and teacher of film and photography. He was the first lecturer in Photography and Film at the Elam School of Fine Arts, where he taught practical, historical and theoretical aspects of the camera arts from 1965 to 1980.

As a photojournalist he worked for the *New Zealand Herald* and the *Auckland Star* where he became chief photographer in 1952. In 1955 his controversial photo essay on substandard Māori housing in central Auckland caused heated debate in Parliament.

He was long interested in Chinese history, and when the opportunity to photograph in China came in 1956, he was quick to take it. With the New Zealand government discouraging contact with the People's Republic of China, and US photographers forbidden by their own government to enter China, he became one of the few Western photojournalists to work there.

His China essay, of which a book and exhibition organised by John Turner (Elam School of Fine Arts) are in preparation, was the most comprehensive and significant of his career. In four months he covered east China from Canton (now Guangzhou), and Shanghai in the south, to Peking (Beijing), Shenyang, Anshan, and Changchun in the north. He also travelled northwest from Sian (Xian) to Wuhan, and across the Gobi desert to far west



Tien Shan ranges, south-west of Drumchi 1956

Urumchi and Tunhuang (Dunhuang).

Life magazine published 23 of Hutchins' photographs in a ten-page spread, titled "Red China on the March" in January 1957.

In the 1960s while tutoring in sociology at the University of New England in New South Wales, Tom persuaded Professor Paul Beadle, head of Elam School of Fine Arts, to add photography to the curriculum as an independent discipline. He was then appointed in 1965 as the first full-time university lecturer in photography and film in the Commonwealth.

Tom was educated at Auckland Grammar School and The University of Auckland. He is survived by his wife Florence, three sons, a daughter, and three grandchildren.

WHAT'S ON

WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL

Health and Safety in Tertiary Institutions Conference 2007
Runs until 20 April. Information from www.hsconference2007.auckland.ac.nz
CAD seminar
Goodteachinginbigclasses.10am-12noon
Fisher & Paykel Appliances Auditorium (FPAA), Owen G. Glenn Bldg. Queries/bookings to CAD reception, ext 88140 or email cadreception@auckland.ac.nz
Bioengineering research seminar
Dr Ron Germain, Director, Programme in Systems Immunology and Infectious Disease Modelling, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health: New software for complex multiscale spatially-resolved modelling and simulation: A focus on the biology, not the maths. 1-2pm Fifth Floor Seminar Rm, Bioengineering Institute.

THURSDAY 19 APRIL

Department of Political Studies seminar
Dr Sandra J. Grey, Victoria University of Wellington: Out of sight, out of mind: The NZ women's movement in abeyance. 3.30-4.30pm Upstairs Dining Rm, OGH.

MONDAY 23 APRIL

TEC Investment Plan staff forum
1-2pm 502-B41, Grafton Campus.
Host: Prof Raewyn Dalziel. Queries to Heather Kirkwood, ext 89553.
Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/about/uoa/publications/investment-plan-2008-2010.cfm

TUESDAY 24 APRIL

TEC Investment Plan staff forum
1-2pm Lecture Theatre Arts 209, City Campus. Host: Prof Raewyn Dalziel. Queries to Heather Kirkwood, ext 89553. Visit www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/about/uoa/publications/investment-plan-2008-2010.cfm
Bioengineering research seminar
Prof Bruce van Vliet, Memorial University, St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador: How salt affects our blood pressure: Another inconvenient truth? 4-5pm Fifth Floor Seminar Rm, Bioengineering Institute.

THURSDAY 26 APRIL

Dept of Anthropology seminar
Greg Booth, UoA: Genre, genre, who's got the genre? Ideology, style and 'situation' in the music of Hindi cinema. 4-5.30pm HSB 704. Queries to ext 82458 or v.strang@auckland.ac.nz

For a full list of The University of Auckland events see Next Week Online: www.auckland.ac.nz/nextweekonline

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