



## PLAYING TOGETHER

The Trinity Trio, comprising two students from the School of Music and one from high school, has won the 8th Annual Pettman/ROSL Arts International Scholarship valued at over \$50,000.

The chamber ensemble, made up of sisters Stella Kim (21) and Sally Kim (18) and friend Tina Kim (21), beat ten other groups to scoop the prestigious award.

The three musicians, who were all born in Korea before shifting to New Zealand as children, describe

themselves as “friends who love to play together”.

Stella Kim (violin) is a third-year Bachelor of Music student studying under senior lecturer Elizabeth Holowell and Tina Kim (piano) is a final-year Bachelor of Music (Honours) student studying under senior lecturer Rae de Lisle. Sally Kim (cello), is a student at Westlake Girls High School, and plans to start her degree at the School of Music next year.

The Pettman/ROSL Arts International Scholarship,

awarded annually to a New Zealand chamber group studying at a New Zealand institution, provides an all-expenses paid trip to the United Kingdom with multiple concert performances in London and Edinburgh as well as coaching opportunities with leading UK teachers, participation in an International Summer School and tickets to major cultural events. The group will embark on their tour of the UK next year.

## Changes to UniNews

As a result of the readership survey of *UniNews* and the Staff Intranet News earlier this year, we will be changing *UniNews* to a monthly publication from February 2014.

The majority of those who responded to the survey said they get their news from the Staff Intranet. User data shows that in 2013 consumption of news on the Staff Intranet has increased to more than 150 hours a month, and this number continues to grow.

Many staff also expressed environmental concerns about the University continuing to regularly print the *News* in large numbers.

As a result, the Communications Department will publish ten issues of the *UniNews* monthly next year with the first out on 27 February. The new publication will be re-designed with 12 pages and include a news roundup, a focus on research, and both academic and professional staff profiles. It will continue to present key events for the month ahead

and some classifieds. At the same time the Communications Department will be putting more resource into the Staff Intranet to produce fresh and lively stories.

If you have any ideas or story suggestions for either the *UniNews* or Staff Intranet, please contact Tess Redgrave [t.redgrave@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:t.redgrave@auckland.ac.nz) or Judy Wilford [j.wilford@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:j.wilford@auckland.ac.nz)

# High praise for professionals

One of the most welcome gifts for most staff members is an affirmation of the value of their work.

This mark of strong approval was provided for ten groups or individuals from the professional staff who received the University's Professional Staff Excellence Awards for 2013 at an event organised by the Professional Staff Excellence Committee and HR/SODU, held on 28 November at the Owen G Glenn Building.

Laura Shepherd, Student and Clubs Communications Manager and winner of the award for excellence in student and alumni engagement, said she was very pleased to gain the award. "It was great to be recognised for an on-going project because often those projects don't receive recognition because they don't have an end date to celebrate. I've been with the University for two years and it's lovely to feel my work is appreciated."

Dr Jose Derraik, Senior Research Associate in the Liggins Institute, who received an award for excellence in advancing research, said it was "very pleasing to get recognition for the effort we put into our jobs. I have received outstanding support from my manager [Professor] Wayne Cutfield. The award was a direct result of his support. Without it I could never have achieved so much."

Jarrold Shearer, Director of Faculty Operations, Faculty of Arts, who received the award for excellence in leadership and staff engagement, was cited as a leader who "has created a strong culture of trust, built on openness, accessibility and putting people first, thus enabling staff to realise their potential".

The awards carry a cash prize and are designed to encourage, recognise and reward members of the professional staff who display excellence in managerial, technical, professional and administrative activities.

The winners were selected from among 25 nominees who, as the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon acknowledged, were all worthy of congratulations: "Being nominated for [this] award recognises the value that your colleagues place on your contribution to your department and the University as a whole."



The winners and "highly commended" staff are listed below. For the winners' citations, which were read out at the presentation by Registrar Tim Greville, see the story entitled "An excellent team" on the Staff Intranet.

**Excellence in innovation:** CLear's Web Team: Wen-Chen Hoi, Craig Housley and Tony Chung, Centre for Learning and Research in Higher Education, Faculty of Education

**Excellence in customer service:** Ann-Maree Duxfield, Immigration Advisor, Human Resources

**Excellence in teamwork:** The Staff Intranet Publishers Team: Joe Ramos, Maggie Kjestrup, Rose Graham, Angie Kim, Penny Collins, Mark Taylor.

**Excellence in leadership and staff engagement:** Jarrold Shearer, Director of Faculty Operations, Faculty of Arts

**Excellence in student and alumni engagement:** Laura Shepherd, Student and Clubs Communication Manager, Student Engagement, Campus Life

**Excellence in advancing research:** José Derraik, Senior Research Associate, Liggins Institute

**Excellence in Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ The Treaty of Waitangi Partnerships:** Cherie Tautolo, Matakerepo Tuākana Postgraduate

Mentor/Tai Tokerau Librarian, He Tuākana, Business School, Faculty of Business and Economics/Libraries and Learning Services

**Excellence in community engagement:**

O'Rorke Hall Residential Assistants: Tama Carr, Felicia De Haan, Kathleen McConchie, Thomas Fisher, Grace Wright, Rory Lynch, Emma Crowe, Dillon Manuirirangi, Emma Rennie, Shelby McRoberts, Accommodation Services, Campus Life

**Excellence in sustainability:** University Strategic Programme Office Team: Organisational Performance and CIO, Nicola Faithfull, Jacqui Metcalf, Tim Lip, Antionette Keshu, Tom Donaldson, Louise Nicol, Rakesh Lal

**Excellence in contributing to global standing:** Certificate in Academic Preparation Programme Team: Angela Etimani, Walter Fraser, Nina Herriman, Michael Savelio, Michelle Staff

Highly commended for excellence in innovation were James Brown and Sinead Johnston, Senior Recruitment Consultants, Human Resources. Highly commended for excellence in customer service were Lyn Collie, Digital Media Producer, Innovative Learning Team, Faculty of Business and Economics and Margo Athy and Gary Barker, Maidment Theatre, Event Services, Campus Life.

## Around the tree

The ClockTower atrium is the place to be on 19 December when the University Christmas carollers give a lunch-time performance for staff and children from the University crèche. For those with a sweet tooth, there are mince pies and biscuit treats to enjoy. And there is an opportunity to donate to the Auckland City Mission.

*Holiday greetings from the Uninews team: Tess Redgrave, Judy Wilford, Sonia Tenreiro and photographers Godfrey Boehnke and Lydia Arnold.*



# Patient outcomes at heart of new alliance



Patient care will benefit from a closer relationship between the University of Auckland and the Auckland District Health Board that officially commenced on 29 November.

The new Auckland Academic Health Alliance, officially launched by the Minister of Health the Hon Tony Ryall, will help to establish a closer relationship between University and hospital-based research – ensuring a faster translation of clinical research into patient care.

The alliance strengthens a 40-year relationship between the University of Auckland and the Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) to inform research, invigorate clinical teaching and ensure scientific breakthroughs and advances in medical care reach patients faster.

“This is a very positive development which will see hospitals and universities pool their knowledge and expertise to return public health and research dollars to patients,” says ADHB Chairman Lester Levy, describing it as “an important key to ensure New Zealand has the health workforce needed in the future”.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon says, “The alliance’s integrated healthcare and research environment will play an integral part in the recruitment, growth and retention of valuable health professionals, teachers and students.”

He says the alliance approach has been adopted in the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Singapore and is considered best practice for the 21st Century. The vision for the future is to be joined by other healthcare and research organisations to focus on major illnesses facing New Zealanders.

The alliance will focus on conducting research into diseases and conditions that directly affect New Zealanders, using knowledge, resources and personnel from both organisations.

As well as strong links with the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences the alliance signals a collaboration that will include innovations and breakthroughs achieved in other faculties, such as Engineering, Science or even Business or Law as well as the Auckland Bioengineering Institute.

As part of the launch of the alliance, three new honorary professors were the first academics to present inaugural lectures at evening events for the new grouping.

The three new honorary professors – world renowned hepatologist Ed Gane and two of New Zealand’s leading cardiologists, Ralph Stewart and Peter Ruygrok – are recognised as leaders in their clinical fields and their lectures were well attended by supporters from both the ADHB and the University.

For more information see [www.aaha.org.nz](http://www.aaha.org.nz)

## From the Vice-Chancellor



In my last VC column for 2013, it is appropriate to reflect on what has been a challenging but successful year for the University of Auckland.

Across the country, the going has been tough for the universities as the impact of government restrictions on our revenues has continued to bite. Each university must now take many millions of dollars of cost out annually, simply to sustain our current operations, and all are seeing our international rankings decline. The on-going effects of the earthquakes have added to the pressure on those universities with campuses in and around Christchurch, and it was pleasing to see the government finally deliver much-needed support to sustain Canterbury University. Meanwhile, the Minister is engaging in a review of University governance that, if it proceeds, will constitute a significant threat to the autonomy of New Zealand’s universities.

While subject to much the same external environment as other universities (earthquakes aside), we are comparatively resilient and have been able to continue our focus on creating a university of truly international quality. Our size and location in Auckland are factors in this, of course, but it is mostly to do with our people. Demand for places at the University continues to be strong from high achieving students both domestic and international. As the results of the Performance Based Research Fund, released in April, demonstrate, we have at this University 35% of the top academic researchers in the entire country. Our staff won the majority of the awards in the Prime Minister’s Science Prizes and at the Royal Society Research Honours dinner, as well as three National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards. Our Staff Survey results were generally positive, particularly in respect of communication with and between staff. The Faculty Administration Review has been difficult for many staff, and will continue to be so in 2014, but once we complete it we will have achieved something few other universities world-wide have: a consistent, efficient structure for administration in faculties; clear pathways for advancement of professional staff; and communities of practice operating across the faculties and central service divisions in ways that give the best possible service to our “customers”, both external and internal.

I am grateful, as always, to our Council, staff, students, alumni and friends for all that they - you - have done to support the advancement of this wonderful institution. Deborah and I wish you and your families a safe and relaxing Christmas break.

## High-profile scientist visits Auckland

A Nobel Prize winner from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa comes to Auckland with two strong messages.

Distinguished Professor Daniel Shechtman, Nobel Prize Laureate in Chemistry in 2011, says the main message he has learned over time is that a good scientist is a humble and listening scientist, not one that is 100 percent sure of what he reads in the textbooks. His other message, borne out strongly by his own experience, is about the importance of holding fast to an idea in the face of opposition.

Professor Shechtman met with scepticism from many other scientists when he made a discovery that appeared to violate a fundamental law of crystallography.

Crystals comprise arrays of molecules or atoms, usually stacked in a very ordered way. This ordering gives them their familiar properties, like smooth faces, sharp edges, and the ability for some of them to sparkle when they interact with light. For many years, scientists assumed that

periodic ordering was a fundamental requirement of crystalline materials, and of the science of crystallography, which investigates their structures.

However, Daniel Shechtman, in 1984, discovered a kind of three-dimensional stacking pattern that was ordered but not periodic. This appeared to violate a fundamental law of crystallography – that one, two, three, four or six-fold symmetry were allowed, but not five-fold symmetry. However, his discovery withstood rigorous investigation: the new materials he discovered are now known as quasicrystals, and the crystallography textbooks have been rewritten.

Daniel Shechtman will be in Auckland until 14 December on a Hood Fellowship sponsored by the Lion Foundation. He will be hosted by the Faculty of Science and his visit will provide opportunities for interaction with academics across a number of disciplines, especially those in the University’s materials science and engineering research groups.

# Impact of BEAMS

A life-changing event that helps inspire students not just to succeed in high school but to excel.

This describes the impact that BEAMS can have on Māori and Pacific secondary students.

Hosted by the University's Equity Office – Te Ara Tautika, BEAMS (Business, Engineering, Architecture, Medicine and Science) is a five-day event that aims to encourage Year 10 Māori and Pacific students to continue to study science and maths through to Year 13 to ensure they meet the prerequisites to successfully enrol in a BEAMS degree.

This year's 12th annual event brought to the City Campus more than 500 Māori and Pacific students from 60 schools around Aotearoa New Zealand, from as far north as Kaitiaki and as far south as Dunedin.

BEAMS students gain hands-on experiences that highlight the many career paths a BEAMS degree can offer. For many schools, the success of BEAMS is due to the workshops being run by Māori and Pacific university students for Māori and Pacific secondary students. Most of the workshops were led by Tuākana mentors, who are based in each of the faculties as part of the University-wide Tuākana Learning Community.

John Janssen, who flew up with six students from St Hilda's Collegiate in Dunedin, said he



*Caption: Students from Francis Douglas College (New Plymouth) and St Hilda's Collegiate (Dunedin).*

particularly enjoyed watching students who started the day as strangers leave as friends.

"I also enjoyed the cultural aspect of the programme, the inclusiveness, the fun and humour and the role-modelling by Māori and Pacific university students. BEAMS helps create self-belief in our students, which is good for them and our country."

Nadeen Papal'i earned her Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) and Master of Engineering at the University. Now working as a maths teacher at south Auckland's Tangarua College, Nadeen brought seven students to BEAMS. She credits the programme for inspiring her to achieve in higher education.

"At BEAMS I learned that engineers use maths and science to solve problems that help people and I became intrigued by the fact that there were very few Pacific women in the field. I became inspired to fill a need and help people, and when I think back to how the spark began – it was because of BEAMS."

BEAMS coordinator Jason Tutara (Kaitakawaenga Māori, Māori Liaison officer) says he was pleased with this year's programme. He acknowledged the efforts of the BEAMS Team – student ambassadors and faculty coordinators – whose enthusiasm and knowledge helped make BEAMS a huge success.

Natalie McGrinder

# Liggins celebrates relocation

A large audience gathered at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences on 29 November for the official opening of the Liggins Institute in its new premises, and for community health panel discussions with invited speakers.

A plaque was unveiled by Hon Steven Joyce in his capacity as Minister of Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment.

The Liggins Institute moved into new offices in the faculty building last year, bringing it under the same roof as many of the University's other medical research collaborations.

The institute's founding director Professor Sir Peter Gluckman outlined progress since it began in 2001, to become the leading institution in the world for research into the developmental origins of health and disease.

The institute, he said "is unique because it takes a multi-disciplinary approach to how things that happen in early life – from as early as conception – impact on the fetus, during childhood, adolescence and later in life." He said it engaged in collaborations across the sciences from mathematics to biology, and from economics to philosophy, to look at the different dimensions of



*Professor Wayne Cutfield, Hon. Steven Joyce, Chandar Dewan Professional Teaching Fellow with the LENSscience programme.*

this question. Its researchers had always worked with other scientists around the world and it was at the centre of investigation into the interplay of genes, environment and the developmental component, he said.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stuart McCutcheon, said the Liggins was the one of two large scale research institutes the University had established with the intention of creating world-class research

centres of the highest international standing.

Despite the often precarious funding environment, the institute had shown itself to be a survivor and added considerably to the University's reputation.

The new location on the redeveloped Grafton Campus enhances collaborations between the institute, the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences and hospital staff.



Front Row: Vice President Hong Peng, Vice-Chancellor Stuart McCutcheon.

Back Row: Nora Yao (Asian Studies), Xu Lei, Professor Zhang Xin, Professor Jin Hao, Professor Diane Brand (Dean of NICAI), Professor Lu Yisheng, Associate Professor Nicholas Rowe, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Strategic Engagement Professor Jenny Dixon, Associate Professor Ralph Buck.

The University welcomed five leading academics from the Beijing Dance Academy for a formal visit, culminating in the signing of a statement of intent towards a dual masters degree.

Vice President Hong Peng of the Beijing Dance Academy and the Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon signed the document on 26 November at Alfred Nathan House; this will lead to ten students from the Beijing Dance Academy enrolling annually in the University of Auckland for a research masters degree.

The Beijing Dance Academy is the preeminent institute for dance teaching and research in China. It has fostered the growth of artists that have been celebrated across the world, and has developed a tertiary research programme that is leading dance education within China. The University of Auckland Dance Studies programme has similarly gained international recognition for its global leadership in the fields of community dance and dance in education. Their dual masters programme will be the first such collaboration on a postgraduate dance degree for both China and Australasia, and marks a new beginning within international arts education.

As part of a three-year dual masters in Community Dance and Dance Education, the year spent in Auckland within the Dance Studies Programme will allow students from the Beijing Dance Academy to advance research that connects community dance and dance education practices in China with global theory and practices.

Associate Professor Nicholas Rowe, Acting Head of the University's Dance Studies Programme, explains that the dual masters will also provide local students with an opportunity to gain a greater sense not only of the cultural context of dance in China but also of the historical traditions that inform Chinese education.

"We anticipate that the dual masters will also become a very attractive qualification for domestic students. Over the next decade more and more students from all over the world will seek postgraduate degrees that provide experiences of different cultures. This sort of programme will greatly enhance the employment prospects of graduates within an increasingly globalised workplace."

The dual masters programme will require students to enroll in their first and third year at the Beijing Dance Academy and their second year at the University of Auckland. This will incorporate a Beijing Dance Academy Masters in Dance Education and a University of Auckland Masters in Community Dance, fulfilling the requirements for admission and completion of both degrees.

The programme will be supported by regular staff and student exchanges, to support student learning, advance the profile of the programme in China and New Zealand and foster international research partnerships. Nicholas Rowe left for China a few days after the signing to extend consultation with academics from the Beijing Dance Academy on the three-year curriculum.

### RSNZ elected Fellow

Congratulations to Rod Ellis, Distinguished Professor in the Department of Applied Language Studies and Linguistics, for recently being elected a fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand. Rod is a world-renowned expert in the field of second language acquisition and language teacher education.

### US Office of Naval Research visits

Lt Cdr Chris Steele, Program Manager for Basic Biomedical Research at the US Office of Naval Research, visited the University for a week at the end of November. He was hosted by Dr Guy Warman and Dr James Cheeseman of the Department of Anaesthesiology, who are recipients of ONR funding for their work investigating anaesthesia induced jet-lag in mammals. The trip was funded by the Research Office, the Department of Anaesthesiology, and the School of Biological Sciences.

Dr Warman outlined progress on his project, arranged a programme of visits to labs and meetings with researchers from the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences and Faculty of Science, and the Research Office arranged a day of presentations for interested researchers to "showcase" relevant health research. The visit ended with a reception at Old Government House. This visit from Lt Cdr Steele follows two others this year from other ONR officials who have been keen to understand the University's capabilities in naval relevant areas.

### New University award launched

The University is launching a new award, the Research Excellence Award (REA), to recognise and promote excellence among researchers for single projects/programmes which have made outstanding contribution to one or more academic disciplines and / or fields of study. There are three prizes annually and awardees are presented with a medal and \$5000. The Calls for applications for REA and Early Career Research Excellence Award (ECREA) have been announced on the Staff Intranet and applications are expected at the Research Office (ro-submission@auckland.ac.nz) by 11 February 2014.

# From the art collection

Academies used to rule what subjects were acceptable for artists to paint, and even ranked them in order of priority. Top of the hierarchy of the genres was history painting, then portraiture, everyday life, landscape, animal paintings and finally, at the bottom of the list was Still Life. Domestic objects piled up with fruit or flowers were considered easy to portray because they contained nothing that was alive and could move, and therefore required the least expertise. Because still life was the lowliest form of painting, it was also the cheapest. Women often became expert in this genre, as they were denied access to life drawing studios where it was feared that they would have their morality corrupted by gazing upon the form of the male nude. This circumscription of their artistic education inhibited their development as history painters, but meant that the fruit and flowers that they excelled at depicting were often laden with symbolism.

Throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when the new Dutch republic was the most prosperous nation in Europe, still life painting flourished, in Holland. The Golden Age of Dutch painting, as it is known, was when still life flourished with banquet pieces and breakfast pieces bought in quantity by the prosperous middle classes, who liked to display their wealth in the form of portable pictures, hung on domestic walls. Yet every still life contained a moralistic message about the uselessness of worldly possessions in saving the soul, and functioned as reminders of the brevity of life – the vanitas theme was often expressed by showing how quickly fruit spoils.

Saskia Leek, whose father is Dutch, has revisited this heritage of imagery with its gendered associations, removing the religious symbolism and replacing it with a commentary on the function of a painting itself as an object in the world. Her *Fruit Subject* painting reveals only the vaguest hint of something spherical in the



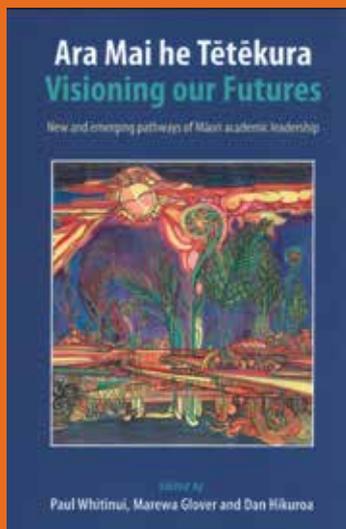
Saskia Leek, *Fruit Subject*, 2012, oil on board, 470 x 370mm

foreground. Whether it is an apple or orange is unspecified since it is just a geometric form in the mix of a quasi-Cubist composition where the play of colour is the most striking element. Rather than the traditional primary-secondary complementary colour pair of blue-orange, turquoise and apricot predominate with purple and pink jostling in the background accompanied by hints of green. This emphasises the flat layers of the work while at the same time dislocating the areas of colour from the flat surface and letting them float freely in front and behind each other. Her patchy technique, painting over the frame as well as the rectangular surface of the picture plane demonstrates the handmade nature of the object, and its relationship to the gestures of its fabrication with hand and paintbrush.

Perhaps there is also a leaning book in there, its blue cover closed over pink pages, defining the table top and the wall behind. This functions as a token of the source of the tradition invoked and also might refer to the artist's long history of working in bookshops before she returned to postgraduate study at the Elam School of Fine Arts in 2009. Her first public gallery retrospective, *Desk Painting*, toured by The Dowse Art Museum, is on show at the Gus Fisher Gallery until 14 December.

Linda Tyler

Book



## Ara Mai he Tētēkura

In *Ara Mai he Tētēkura/Visioning Our Futures* Māori academics draw on their personal experience to help others, providing inspiration and down-to-earth advice for young Māori in the early stages of their academic careers.

Edited by Associate Professor Paul Whitinui (University of Otago), Dr Marewa Glover (Senior Research Fellow in Social and Community Health, University of Auckland) and Dr Dan Hikuroa (Research Director, Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga) this book will be a valuable guide for the up-and-coming generation of Māori academics.

Lead editor Paul Whitinui says there is an urgent need for Māori leadership planning in academia, and this book offers a comprehensive view of the “challenges, issues and experiences of new and emerging Māori academic leaders in their current and varied roles”.

# APRU forums at Auckland

## What does a researcher really need from IT?

This was one of the questions addressed by Professor Mark Gahegan (Computer Science) in his keynote address to delegates from the Asia-Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) at the Grafton Campus during the last semester break. Members came from 26 universities in ten countries to attend two-day CIO (Chief Information Officer) and ERT (Education and Research Technology) Forums.

Mark had three main messages for the visiting IT specialists, who are responsible for supporting the IT infrastructure of their universities.

The first was not to assume they knew what researchers needed but to work in collaboration with the researchers in order to understand their requirements and find the most effective ways of fulfilling them.

The second was that the nature of research is radically changing, with high-performance computing and simulations pervading all of the sciences, engineering and even the social sciences, and that these changes require IT support to evolve along with them and in response to them.

The third was that the way we think about research – and publish it – is “woefully out of date. We need to get better at publishing and sharing our findings,” says Mark, “which means building better containers for knowledge. Now the standard container is a journal paper that sits in a library, and contains artefacts, data, methods and conclusions that are not readily actionable or reusable. This needs to change.”

The delegates were welcomed by Stephen Whiteside, Director Organisational Performance and CIO at the University of Auckland.

Sessions at the CIO Forum covered: positioning IT as a catalyst and using analytics to transform the business functions of the institution; creating effective governance structures that align IT with the strategic direction of the university; IT strategy, transformation and change; and information management and the information age.

ERT sessions including supporting and enabling research, connecting in new ways and with new partners in an evolving higher education environment, supporting and enabling learning and teaching, research publication management and IT support for language teaching and learning.



Mark Gahegan

## What's on

### FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER

#### Commercial Law seminar

Victoria Plekhanova, UoA: *International co-operation on taxation of revenues from internet advertising*. 11am-12noon, Room 317, Level 3, Owen Glenn Bldg, 12 Grafton Rd. RSVP to Zoe Farmer at z.farmer@auckland.ac.nz

### MONDAY 16 DECEMBER

#### Faculty of Science seminar

Paul S. Weiss, Director of California NanoSystems Institute, UCLA: *Cooperative function in atomically precise nanoscale assemblies*. 2-3pm, Lecture Theatre 423-342, Conference Centre, 22 Symonds St.

## Classifieds

### ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

#### Accommodation suitable for visiting academic/postdoc with family.

Lovely fully furnished family home in Te Atatu Peninsula. Available February 2014 - January 2015. Three bdrms, one bthrm, gourmet kitchen, heat pump, solar water heating, fully fenced private section, huge decks, large sunny garden and fruit trees galore. Easy bus/motorway access to city. \$480pw negotiable. Email s.lott@auckland.ac.nz

**Apartments for rent.** Call us for your rental requirements; we offer city apartments furnished/unfurnished, all sizes and prices; great rental deals for long-term leases; call David Feng (09) 303 0601 or (021) 246 6710 at City Sales or rentals@citysales.co.nz or log on to www.citysales.co.nz/rentals

**Charming two bedroom bungalow,** fully furnished, ideal for visiting academic. Central heating, wireless internet. Use of car (VW Golf) possible. Rambling private garden. Close to all amenities. Ten minutes to University by bus. Available from 9 March until 28 June 2014. Rent negotiable. Contact anita@rood.co.nz or +64 (0)2167717

### Large, furnished, executive home

**Waiheke Island**, above beautiful beach. Stunning sea views. Available 1 July 2014 to 31 October 2014. Close to village, ferry and all amenities. Primary schools and excellent high school. 35 minute ferry ride to Downtown Auckland, walk to University. \$NZ 700 pw. Email b.barton@auckland.ac.nz

**St Mary's Bay** one bedroom apartment available from 14 December. This very comfortable apartment has access to a private shared garden and is near the waterfront and the numerous amenities offered in St Mary's Bay and Three Lamps. It is also close to a good public transport route, and within walking distance of the CBD. \$370pw. Email Terry O'Neill t.oneill@auckland.ac.nz or phone (021) 944 584.

**Unfurnished two-bedroom apartment** (65sqm) in upmarket building only five-minutes walk from University. Pleasant views to Auckland Domain and tree-lined Parliament Street. Rent includes whiteware + one secure carpark. Building amenities include swimming pool, gym and spa. \$550pw. Phone Stephan on (021) 232 5195 or email stephan\_resch@gmx.de

### ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

**Mature woman moving temporarily to Auckland** with study scholarship needs accommodation for the 2014 academic year excluding intermittent study leave weeks. Prefer private board or small attached studio/self contained unit. Promise immaculate and discreet living. Contact details of personal and professional referees supplied. Please phone Judy on (027) 205 7008 or (06) 359 4692.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**City Legal Services.** Rainey Collins Wright is a small law firm centrally located at L1 Princes Court, 2 Princes Street. We are near the University, with good parking. We can assist with property transactions, trusts, wills, administration of estates, enduring powers of attorney and relationship property matters. Please phone our senior solicitor Nichola Christie on 379 5828 to discuss your needs, or email nchristie@rainey.co.nz Visit www.rainey.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. Contact Karen on Karen.embleton@mondotravel.co.nz or 940 0064 (wk) or (021) 188 7781.

# How do staff spend their Christmas?

Uninews asked a few of them and got some wonderful answers that were not unexpected in a glorious Auckland summer, and also some that couldn't possibly have been predicted anywhere.



## Camping with luxuries

This summer's "Great Escape" includes a family holiday in Mangowhai with my 10 nieces and nephews, my two brothers and their wives. My parents are moving there after a decade living in Kohi to a lifestyle block complete with black-faced sheep and hens. I'll also be spending some time on Great Barrier Island with my best friend Petra (whom I've known since I was five) and her family. It's camping but with luxuries and a 30-second walk to arguably the best beach on the island. Finally I'm toying with the idea of attending a CCE "Creative Week on Campus" writing course in January. The workshops look awesome (little plug), are really affordable and my writing skills could do with a refresher.

**Amanda Lyne,**  
Alumni Relations Manager



## Extended family gathering

Working at the Tai Tokerau Campus and living in Whāngārei, I am spoilt for choice in the many beautiful

Northland spots to enjoy during Christmas break. And Auckland beckons too, to visit other family and friends. Though I have no fixed plans about Christmas break, I know that they will include special times with my Birkenstock fanau in Whāngārei and Auckland fanau. My nephew turns two on 2 January, followed the next day by my father's 70th birthday. A scaled-down extended family gathering of a few hundred people is planned in Auckland, which will celebrate with plentiful Samoan cuisine and colourful fanfare and entertainment. Such occasions are wonderful for catching up with cousins, aunts and uncles and sharing family stories and memories. Manuia le Kerisimasi ma le Tausaga Fou!

**R. Cherie Tautolo,**  
Matakerepo Tuākana Postgraduate Mentor  
Tai Tokerau Librarian



## Soaking in sunshine

Our plans for summer probably rest on a single element more than anything else – Water! How much falls from the sky to keep our garden growing and looking healthy will determine how much time we spend nurturing as opposed to culling flowers, seedlings and vegetables; how much of those same downpours we can capture in our tanks to keep our animals happy so we can, well, keep our animals! And whether the weather co-operates so we can get out floating on all that water called the Hauraki Gulf to go fishing as often as possible. And gin and tonic too! The occasional one in the shade right about 5:15pm!

**Tim Biggs,**  
Secretary Manager, Staff Common Room Club,  
Old Government House

## Bob guards his present

Where did it go the Christmas of my youth salt hot sun cicadas tank water tinged pohutukawa pink mosquito wriggler game boy entertainment with every glass beach cricket can't go out first ball bullrush stolen salt kisses by moonlight with long legged girls whose names disappeared with the sunburn now it's a micro-managed military manoeuvre in madness let's do my relatives for lunch so yours can do dinner but if your brother's coming I don't want to go be nice to Aunt Jane cause she's just had her op we're not giving presents to adults this year but just in case there's a truck and trailer unit parked outside have you seen the price of strawberries and make sure you check the best before date on the cream should we get asparagus spears to throw at your mother if she turns feral and do we really need to have your father surely he would be happy with a sausage roll in the village I wonder if Edna will send us a cake or should I make one don't get drunk again why is your nose red you can't wear that it makes you look fat I am going to Gordon Ramsey the turkey and Jamie Oliver the salad god if only it were a fifteen minute Christmas I don't dare put icing sugar on Nigella's tarts now because of her problems who would have thought does a twenty one year old really need stocking fillers

where is the Christmas CD what do we do with Jenny and Tom's present from D'vice now that they're divorced hold your stomach in talk about road rage in the twelve items or less why are you drinking at breakfast oh god the cake is dry and the pavlova is wet take two bottles but leave the expensive one in the car oh socks thank you shouldn't have oh you've read it already since when did you become a vegan we must remember the Queen's message at six don't steal all the soft-centered ones didn't we get this joke last year I am not wearing antlers oh god we forgot to get the dog a present hey why don't we go away for Christmas next year Somalia looks nice

**Richard Smith,**  
Television Producer  
Organisational Performance and CIO



## Taste of adventure

It's going to be a lively Christmas in our household with seven of my husband's relatives arriving from Northern Ireland on 17 December. Several of them haven't been to New Zealand before, so we are planning to give them a truly authentic Kiwi Christmas experience. There will be day trips to the beach, Coromandel, Waiheke, Waitomo and Goat Island for starters. And we will encourage them to not only taste New Zealand's amazing cuisine, but also develop a taste for adventure – zorbing, jet boating, caving, mountain biking and maybe even a bungee or two. There promises to be lots of laughter as the family reminisces and stories "from home" are shared. I've not met these relatives before – nor been to Northern Ireland – so I'm sure I'll learn a thing or two. Then it will be back to work for a rest!

**Christina Pollock,**  
Editor, Marketing and Communications