



## AWARDS HAT-TRICK

### JOINT CENTRE FOR BIOMEDICINE

An exciting new agreement in medical research with the Chinese Academy of Sciences was signed in early November, marking a new stage in an exciting and forward-looking partnership that will generate significant medical and economic benefits for both countries,” says Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon.

### FORMER ATTORNEY-GENERAL SPEAKS

Margaret Wilson, a University alumna, former President of the Labour Party, NZ Attorney-General, Minister of Labour and Minister responsible for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, was the 2015 Women in Leadership guest speaker at the University recently.

### HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

Members of the Publications Team, Miranda Playfair, Tess Redgrave and Judy Wilford, join designers Daniel Holt, Justin Marshall and photographer Godfrey Boehnke to wish all *UniNews* readers a merry Christmas and happy holiday season. As we look to 2016 we are keen to get any feedback on *UniNews* and what you would like to see in upcoming issues. Email: [t.redgrave@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:t.redgrave@auckland.ac.nz) or [j.wilford@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:j.wilford@auckland.ac.nz)

## CELEBRATING CERAMICS

Forming part of the Auckland Festival of Ceramics is an exhibition of works by contemporary artist Paul Hartigan, now on at the Gus Fisher Gallery until 19 December. This is a large-scale retrospective of his work, curated by Don Abbott, which includes his ceramic tableware ranges: Borneo, Erotica and Tattooware. The show is open from Tuesday to Friday 10am-5pm, and Saturdays from 12Noon to 4pm. The festival features ceramics-focused events across Auckland.



## POET TO MENTON

Auckland University Press Poet Anna Jackson has been awarded the 2015 Katherine Mansfield Menton Fellowship. Anna has published poetry collections with AUP, most recently *I, Clodia* (2014). *Thicket* (2011) was shortlisted for the New Zealand Post Book Awards in 2012. She has an MA from the University of Auckland and a DPhil from Oxford and now teaches English Literature at Victoria University of Wellington. AUP senior editor Anna Hodge says Anna has an vivid, appealing and distinctive poetic voice.



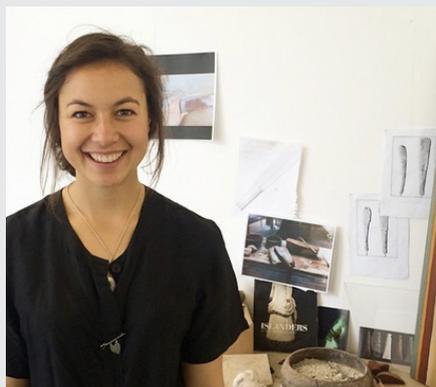
## STUFF OF DREAMS

Next March AUSA's Outdoor Summer Shakespeare leaves its regular location at the University Arts Quad to take over the Pop-up Globe for their 2016 season of the *Tempest*. The Pop-up Globe Auckland is a full-scale working temporary replica of the second Globe Theatre originally built by Shakespeare and his company in 1614, the result of ground-breaking international academic research. The *Tempest* will be directed by Benjamin Henson, starring internationally acclaimed actress Lisa Harrow as Prospero. On from 3 March to 13 March.



## REVIVING ANCIENT CRAFT

Elam School of Fine Arts student Nikau Hindin, of Te Rarawa and Ngāpuhi descent, is reviving the Māori practice of aute or tapa-making. Nikau's fascination with aute began following a student exchange at the University of Hawai'i. There she learnt the practice of beating kapa – the Hawaiian term for aute/tapa. As part of her studio practice at Elam, she recreated the traditional tools used by her ancestors to make aute based on the historic examples held in the Auckland Museum.



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COVER PHOTO: From right front: Ian Reid, Mark Bolland and Andrew Grey. Photo by Godfrey Boehnke

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## WHAT'S NEW

“Francis’ appointment to the AACR Associate Member Council is an outstanding achievement for him at this early stage of his career and is also a great opportunity,” says Co-director of the ACSRC, Professor Bill Denny.

Francis Hunter (30), graduated from the University of Auckland with a BSc and Honours in Biomedical Science. He completed his PhD at the University in December last year and officially graduated in May.



### ELAM REUNION

Elam School of Fine Arts turns 125 this year and an Anniversary Reunion of students from the 50s-70s coincides with the annual Elam Grad Show. It includes tours, a mix and mingle with former class mates, and historic films and videos of Elam staff and students. Highlights include a screening of a TVNZ documentary about Elam from 1965.

The renowned art school, established in 1889 following a bequest from arts patron Dr John Edward Elam, opened in 1890 in rooms located under the bell tower of what is now the Auckland Art Gallery. During the 1950s Elam was housed at two sites, one in Symonds Street and one in Grey Lynn. In 1962 the school moved to its current site in Whitaker Place.



### JOINT BIOMEDICINE CENTRE

**A joint centre for medical research established between China and New Zealand is the first of its kind and will focus on leading-edge medical science to seek new treatments for diseases such as cancer.**

The Joint Centre for Biomedicine is a collaboration between the University of Auckland-hosted Maurice Wilkins Centre for Molecular Biodiscovery and the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ Guangzhou Institutes of Biomedicine and Health.

“This new agreement in medical research marks a new stage in an exciting and forward-looking partnership that not only underlines the strong relationship between China and New Zealand in medical research but will generate significant medical and economic benefits for both countries,” says Vice-Chancellor Professor Stuart McCutcheon.

A signing event at the University, involving a delegation led by Professor Yaping Zhang, Vice President of Chinese Academy of Sciences, (pictured above with the University’s Vice-Chancellor) and which included the unveiling of a plaque, builds on the Strategic Research Alliance Joint Research Programme, established and funded by the Government in 2013. It is jointly funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and China’s Ministry of Science and Technology.

The signing formally recognises the ongoing collaboration between Professor Ke Ding from the Guangzhou Institutes of Biomedicine and Health and New Zealand researchers Dr Jeff Smail and Associate Professor Adam Patterson.

Jeff Smail, of the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre and an associate Investigator at the Maurice Wilkins Centre, leads a research group in drug development targeted towards treatments for lung cancer.

Adam Patterson, also from the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre and the Maurice Wilkins Centre, works in drug development which has resulted in clinical trials for the treatment of lung cancer and head and neck cancer.

Professor Rod Dunbar, Director of the Maurice Wilkins Centre, welcomed Professor Yaping Zhang and Professor Duanqing Pei from the Chinese Academy of Sciences to New Zealand.

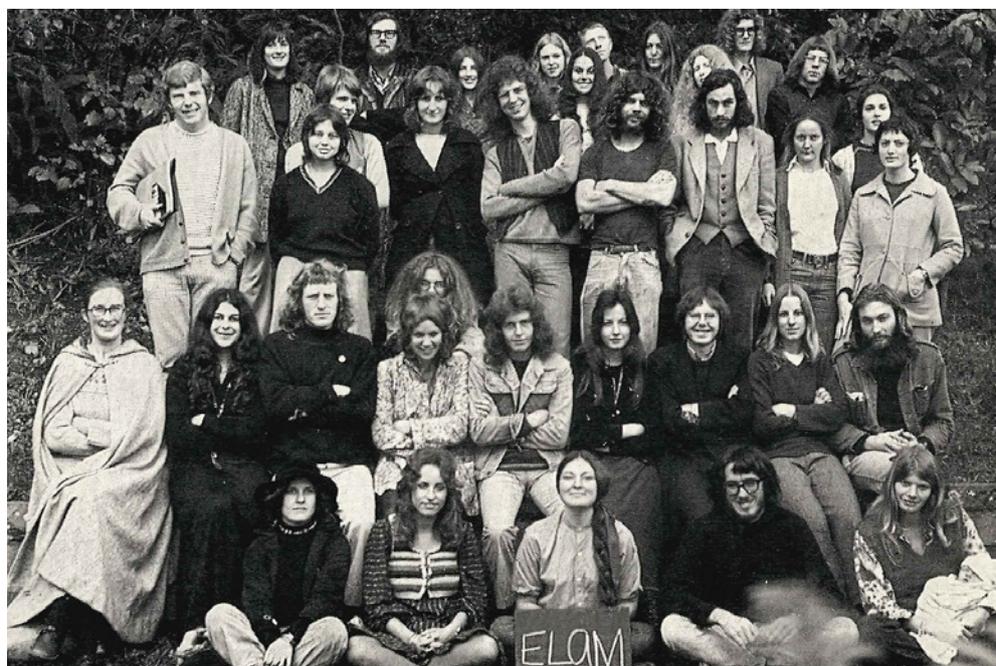
“We are very excited about the new opportunities that this agreement will generate and we are glad that the Maurice Wilkins Centre has been able to foster this relationship.”

### OUTSTANDING HONOUR

**A young researcher from the University has gained one of four annual places on a leading global cancer research council.**

Dr Francis Hunter (pictured right), a scientist at the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre, is the first New Zealand scientist to be selected for a three-year term on the Associate Member Council of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR).

The AACR is the largest organisation for cancer research in the world, with a global membership of 37,000 clinicians and scientists. Of those, more than 14,000 are represented by the Associate Member Council (AMC) – a group established to provide training support and leadership for early career cancer researchers.





## LEADING WOMAN

**Margaret Wilson, a University alumna, former President of the Labour Party and NZ Attorney General was the 2015 Women in Leadership guest speaker at the University recently.**

Discussing her own career path and issues affecting women in leadership Margaret told her audience: "This University was the site of many of the experiences that shaped my future. It was this institution that set me on my political path." "A law student here in the early 70s, Margaret said she was told by the Dean at the time "that we don't invest in women academics because they

leave and have children".

That early encounter inspired her interest in issues relating to women. And her experience in politics, she said, was "a research project on the nature of power. The Labour Party became my site for political engagement." The reason for joining politics was that she realised structural change was needed in society before the situation of women would be changed.

## CRITICAL THINKING

**One of the University of Auckland's most popular undergraduate courses is about to become the first offered online, meaning students have no excuse for missing a lecture.**

The Faculty of Arts Stage One Philosophy paper, Critical Thinking, already attracts about 2,500 students over two semesters. It is popular not just with Arts students but also those taking degrees in Law, Engineering and Medicine.

But from 2016, students will have the choice between attending traditional lectures in a lecture theatre with weekly tutorials, and taking the course online. It will become the University's

first LOC or "Large Online Course".

Online students will still have to sit the end-of-course exam in person on campus, or at a location out of Auckland in agreement with the University.

The in-person and online courses count equally toward students' degrees, and both versions of the paper will be run by Associate Professor Tim Dare (pictured front below) and Dr Patrick Girard in Philosophy.



## PLAN ON A PAGE

The University's Strategic Plan is now available as a summary page. The Plan on a Page sets out our priorities and aspirations on one page and is designed to ensure staff are working towards the same goals. All staff should be able to see themselves in it and how they contribute towards the University's success.

This clear summary will facilitate better communications internally between our staff about our strategic objectives; the simple format means the Plan on a Page can be easily referenced and used in decision-making. For more information see the Staff Intranet.

## FUNDING SUCCESS

As well as winning Royal Society medals and the PM's Science Prizes (see page 5) many of our researchers were successful in the Marsden Funding round. Some 28 University researchers and research groups won \$17 million from the Funding round, amounting to close to one-third of the total awarded this year.



## INGENIO VIDEO

Have you seen the video on the University website created to complement a feature story about Dr Aroha Harris, published in the latest issue of *Ingenio*?

Aroha is a senior lecturer in History and co-author of the acclaimed book, *Tangata Whenua: An Illustrated History*, winner of the Royal Society of New Zealand Science Book Prize for 2015.

The video, featuring Aroha in conversation with artist Gordon Toi Hatfield, was filmed by the University's Media Productions Department at Gordon's studio and gallery in Mangere Bridge and at the University's Waipapa Marae.

Gordon created Aroha's tā moko, which are the focus of the film. He was also one of the carvers who, in his youth, worked as part of a team led by the late Pakāriki Harrison to create the carvings for the Marae.

## OUR WINNERS

It has been an outstanding month for our researchers. Most notably, **Distinguished Professor Ian Reid FRSNZ**, who has won three of New Zealand's top Science awards.

In early November Ian was awarded the Royal Society of New Zealand's top honour - the Rutherford Medal - for his research to understand and treat metabolic bone diseases, such as osteoporosis and Paget's disease. He was also awarded the Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) Liley Medal which recognises an individual who has had research published in the previous calendar year that has made an outstanding contribution to health and medical sciences.

And if that wasn't enough, Ian Reid's team, which includes Mark Bolland and Andrew Grey from the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, has won the \$500,000 Prime Minister's Science prize for research on calcium and Vitamin D supplements in the management of osteoporosis. This work revealed the ineffectiveness of treating osteoporosis with calcium and Vitamin D, while their other studies have also shown calcium



supplements increase the risk of heart attacks in older people, at times by as much as 30 percent.

On receiving the Rutherford Medal, Ian, who is currently Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, said it was "an enormous



accolade" for himself and his research group.

"It brings with it the recognition of other scientists in this country and an acknowledgement of our contribution to scientific advancement in New Zealand.

"This also represents an acknowledgement of the importance of clinical research in advancing the welfare of New Zealanders."

Among other University of Auckland researchers who won Royal Society medals this year was **Professor Margaret Hyland**, Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Engineering, who is the first woman to have been awarded the Royal Society's Pickering Medal for her pioneering research to reduce fluoride emissions from the aluminium industry.

Margaret and her research team developed new technologies that are now used by the aluminium industry around the world to cost-effectively reduce gaseous and particulate emissions from aluminium smelting including fluorides.

These emissions are harmful to human health and the environment, with fluoride emissions in particular a focus for engineers because of its effects on human health and the environment.

Margaret, who is a passionate advocate for the University's Light Metals Research Centre, says she was thrilled to receive the Pickering Medal. "It feels very special, particularly as I am the first woman to get this award and because it has been given for work which I feel very passionately about."

The Mason Durie Medal was awarded to **Professor Keith Petrie FRSNZ** for his research into patients' perceptions of illness and how these perceptions impact on recovery and coping.

Dedication to Māori and indigenous research rewarded **Professor of Māori Studies Margaret Mutu**, who won the Royal Society's Pou Aronui Award for her sustained contribution to indigenous rights and scholarship in New Zealand.

A familiar face in the media and passionate advocate for science **Dr Michelle Dickinson**

received this year's Callaghan Medal from the Royal Society, completing a clean sweep of national awards for the Engineering lecturer and science communicator.

This latest award follows her Queen's Birthday Honour in June this year when Michelle was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit. In December last year she was awarded the Prime Minister's Science Prize for Science Communication and a month earlier named Science Communicator of the Year at the annual New Zealand Association of Scientists.

One of New Zealand's leading paediatricians, **Professor Ed Mitchell**, was awarded the Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC)'s Beaven Medal at the Royal Society awards for his research into preventing cot death or sudden infant death syndrome.

As well as the Royal Society Awards, the other University winner of a 2015 Prime Minister's Science Prize was **senior lecturer Alex Taylor** who won this year's Prime Minister's MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist Prize for research that gives new insights into the evolution of intelligence.

Alex investigates and compares intelligence across different species, including human and birds, through theoretical and experimental approaches from biology and psychology.

His study of New Caledonian crows in particular has explored the drivers of intelligence in a species that has demonstrated problem solving abilities comparable to that of a five-year-old child yet is separated from humans by 300 million years of evolution. Alex's research showed crows could successfully complete an eight-stage puzzle in order to access food. One crow, dubbed "007", took just under three minutes to complete the test. Video of 007's extraordinary achievement and Alex's experiments has featured on the BBC and been viewed more than 60 million times globally.

Above: Margaret Hyland. Left: Alex Taylor

# MY STORY

## STAFF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



### NORA YAO

**Nora Yao Joined the University in 1988 teaching at the School of Asian Studies, and has been the inaugural director of the Confucius Institute since 2007.**

#### WHERE WERE YOU BORN AND WHERE DID YOU GROW UP?

I was **born in Shanghai in China and grew up there. I did my first degree at Shanghai University of International Studies (SUIS).**

#### WHAT DID YOU LOVE DOING WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD?

When I was little I loved dancing and I loved to perform. Right from Kindergarten I had lessons in traditional Chinese dance - though now, as an adult, I don't do that any more. I'm too shy. (She smiles). In China, they have after-school lessons in which selected students are trained in singing or dancing or crafts. For training in dance, you have to put your name down and pass an audition. Then you are given a very professional training at a school called "The Children's Palace". The professional dance companies go there to recruit dancers, and some of the children who train there go on to become professional dancers.

#### WHAT DID YOU ENJOY LEARNING ABOUT AS A CHILD?

Things that were totally different from what I'm

doing now. I loved science. I loved experiments because I enjoyed seeing things change. I kept insects in jars and plants in pots so I could watch them change and grow! I had frogs in a small pond in our garden - I enjoyed seeing the stages, as they turned from tadpoles to frogs. I also liked to open things up and see how they worked - like pens or clocks or radios, anything I could find a way to open. I didn't think I'd be a teacher. What I wanted was to learn.

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRST JOB EVER?

When I finished high school there was no chance to go to university because the universities didn't accept students straight from school at that time. They only accepted people with work experience. That was the rule. So when I left school I was assigned to teach in a kindergarten, with very little training. After three years I was able to go to university because the policy changed and the universities began allowing people to apply and sit an entrance exam.

#### CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR BEST TEACHER?

All of my teachers were good in some ways, but I had one teacher at university that I respected very much and still keep in touch with. What she taught us was English literature but she was like a mother to us all: very caring but very strict academically. Her way of teaching was interesting and flexible. The teaching methods in China were usually very traditional, but she never even asked us to open our books. And then when we did finally open the book, we would discover we already knew what was in it. She hadn't been allowed to teach for ten years because of the

regulations at the time in China, and we were her first class after the break. I think that was why we were special to her and she put a lot of passion into teaching us. We thought of her as a role model. I think my way of teaching has been influenced by her.

#### WHEN DID YOU DECIDE TO COME TO NEW ZEALAND?

I came as one of the early international students from China to study at the University. And after Graduation, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to teach here until the present.

#### IN JUST ONE SENTENCE DESCRIBE THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PRESENT POSITION?

We are helping the local people in New Zealand to be equipped to function well in the relationship between New Zealand and China.

#### WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT THE JOB?

I love the fact that it's changing all the time. Our job is to meet the demand, so we have to evaluate and keep adjusting our service to make sure it meets the needs. We can't be lazy. That's what I like. We can't just relax and keep doing what we've done before. That's a challenge and it's also fun. I love the variety.

#### DO YOU THINK WHAT YOU DO CHANGES PEOPLE'S LIVES?

We are all part of a community and what we are doing every day influences the people around us. We don't expect to change people's lives overnight but what we put in place will change our society gradually.

#### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING WHEN YOU ARE NOT WORKING?

I like travelling. I enjoy reading and always have a pile of books by my bed, but after work I try not to read job-related books. I enjoy gardening (I still like seeing things grow.) But most of all I love to spend time with my husband and two daughters, aged 22 and 25: just doing simple things, sitting and talking, enjoying each other's company. Sometimes we have the chance to travel together, but the activities are not so important as who you do them with. I also like to spend time with my elderly parents. This for me is a blessing and a privilege.

*Above left: Yao with her family: From left daughters Lynnette, Elianna and husband Dingyi Xu.*

# DID YOU KNOW

... descendants of the first rose grown in New Zealand are now safely flourishing in the Old Government House rose garden.

In 1990 a cutting of the historic *Rosa rubiginosa* or sweet Briar Rose was planted behind the History Department in memory of Senior Research Fellow Ruth Ross.

When the old History Department buildings were demolished earlier this year, there was concern that the rose might have gone with them. But our Grounds and Precinct Manager, Stanley Jones knew better. He carefully transplanted two specimens and the original plaque to their new home. He even set up a special irrigation system for the roses and already they are thriving. "And they'll be flowering soon too," says Stanley (pictured).

The *Rosa rubiginosa* was planted in New Zealand by missionaries when the first Church mission was founded at Rangihoua (Marsden Cross) in 1814. It was still growing there long after the mission station was abandoned in 1832 and is reported as such by the Reverend Richard Taylor in 1841.

In 1965 Ruth Ross was researching the early mission sites when she recognised the rose as an



important relic of New Zealand's earliest history and took a very fortuitous cutting of it. Soon after, it was declared a noxious weed and destroyed. At the same time former historian and Emeritus Professor of History Judith Binney also sighted the rose while researching a biography of Thomas Kendall, one of the three original missionaries in New Zealand who founded the Rangihoua Station.

Perhaps also fortuitously, Ken Nobbs, a former President of Heritage Roses New Zealand who lived at "The Rosery" in Te Kauwhata, had obtained a cutting of the *Rosa rubiginosa* from Ruth Ross. To his disgust the Bay of Islands Maritime and Historic

Park Board wouldn't allow the plant to be re-planted on the Marsden Cross Memorial Reserve and so he sought to get it as close as possible by planting it on the adjacent property of Mr W Subritsky.

In a nice twist of fate, as a result of the removal of sheep and the killing of opossum, the *Rosa rubiginosa* is now flourishing again at the Marsden Memorial in a neat row of plants in front of where the missionary houses stood.

But staff don't need to go that far to see a truly historic plant. Wait a few weeks and then wander down for a peek at the sweet pink flowers by OGH.



## CREATIVITY, ARTS AND CULTURE: A BLUEPRINT FOR ENRICHING LIVES

7 DECEMBER, 6pm, Owen G. Glenn Building, Grafton Road.

Professor Jonothan Neelands from the University of Warwick, an expert on the future of cultural value, gives this public lecture. He is the Director of Study for the Warwick Commission on the Future of Cultural Value and is the Creative Thinking Project's sixth Creative Fellow. He will speak to Auckland audiences about the topics covered in the Warwick Commission's recently released report, *Enriching Britain: Culture, Creativity and Growth*.

## THE 2015 ELAM GRAD SHOW

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 NOVEMBER, 10am-4pm, Elam School of Fine Arts: 20 Whitaker Place, 5 Symonds Street (Elam B) and 25a Princes Street (George Fraser Gallery), the University of Auckland.

Glimpse the future of contemporary art at Elam's annual exhibition. For more information visit [www.creative.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.creative.auckland.ac.nz)

Right: Holly Houpapa with her installation "Striped of Sight"



# SIMPLER ACCESS TO EQUIPMENT FOR RESEARCHERS

The work of Auckland Science Analytical Services (ASAS), established last year in the Faculty of Science, leaped recently into the public eye with media reports on the successful conservation of a painting by celebrated artist Frances Hodgkins.

The conservation of this 1925 artwork, *Still Life: Anemones and Hyacinths*, from the collection of the Auckland Art Gallery, depended on technical analysis to identify the substances in the paint. This was done with the help of the University's new Sciex TripleTOF mass spectrometer and the expertise of Martin Middleditch, Mass Spectrometry Manager.

The mass spectrometer is the most sensitive of its type in New Zealand, capable of identifying tiny amounts of different proteins in highly complex materials. Within the University, one of the ways in which it is used, is to identify proteins present in brain diseases such as Alzheimer's Disease and stroke. It is used also by hospitals around the country to help diagnose Amyloidosis, a rare disease that occurs when a substance called amyloid builds up in organs. However, in this case it enabled the University to play a significant role in restoring a painting by one of New Zealand's best-known artists.

This is just one story among many for ASAS, which comprises a cluster of six "virtual" centres created to bring valuable specialised University equipment under the same administrative umbrella, in order to enhance its "visibility" to scientists and researchers and to ensure its maximum usage.

Dr Kevin Daish, Business Development Manager in the Faculty of Science Administration, who took a central part in planning and developing ASAS, says the logic behind the establishment of the service was compelling. It

makes sense, he says, to "get full utilisation out of a piece of equipment and when it is time to upgrade, replace or replicate, the University has the usage information to put together a strong business case".

Each centre comprises sets of similar or complementary pieces of analytical equipment and their expert operators. Services range from nuclear magnetic resonance imaging, X-ray and mass spectrometry through to bioinformatics, genomics and DNA sequencing.

Evaluating software to run the booking system was an important part of the planning for the centre, Kevin says. The software that was chosen, iLab Solutions, handles service requests, project reporting, invoices and usage patterns. It compiles a daily report which is sent overnight and is available each morning to the University's Peoplesoft programme.

"You can get a very clear view of users on a daily basis," says Kevin. "It gives you complete transparency."

Though operating from Boston, the iLab Solutions booking system is immediately available from their desktops to staff who are registered users. Researchers have the choice of booking a machine with an operator or of undergoing training so they can use the machines themselves (with some exceptions). In addition there is the option to have the samples run as a service.

It also gives Principal Investigators and researchers the advantage of easily accessible and up-to-date records of their expenditure on particular projects.

While the primary focus for ASAS will always be on academic research and teaching, excess capacity is made available for external use. Kevin

says external clients bring the prospect of new research initiatives and funding opportunities. "These commercial collaborations will hopefully keep growing and offer the opportunity for the academic and commercial partners to seek external funding."

Among the external clients is Tonkin + Taylor, an environmental and engineering consultancy, which ordered mineralogy tests to confirm whether clay at a Pukekohe construction site may have "shrink-swell" issues which would have required stronger foundations. T+T Geotechnical Engineer, Shirz Soysa, says specialised equipment was needed because mineralogy tests are not widely used in the commercial field, and the University's X-Ray Diffraction analysis ultimately confirmed that there was no problem.

Another commercial client is Rocket Lab, which wanted quality tests conducted on the composition of an alloy used in engine construction. Rocket Lab needed to have 100 percent confidence that the alloy in question would behave in the way it was intended to in an extreme operating environment, so it was subjected to inductively-coupled mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) to determine that its constituent elements were in the right ratio.

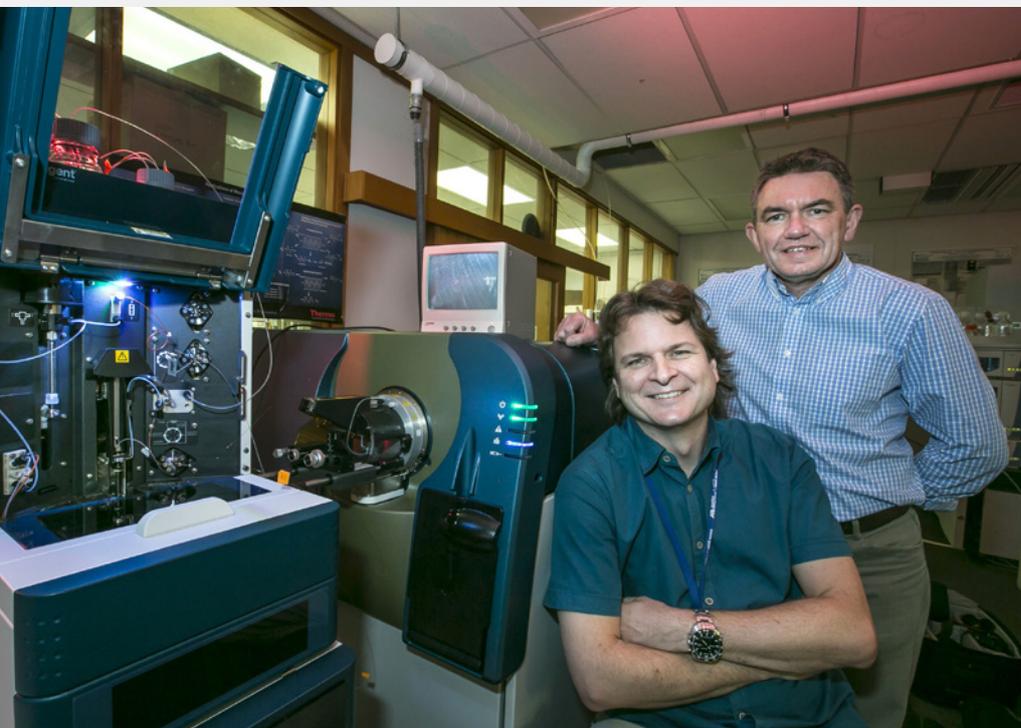
External work currently represents around ten percent of ASAS revenue, generated mostly through word of mouth, though Kevin is quick to point out that it is not offering itself as a full contract lab, so care needs to be taken about how it is promoted.

Within the University, main usage is spread across three faculties: Science, Engineering and Medical and Health Sciences. Each month Kevin organises a seminar focusing on one of the centres; invitations are sent to around 1600 staff and researchers.

"The value of the system," he says, "is in making people across the University aware of what's available and how to gain access to it. The idea is for the equipment to be of use to as many people as possible and to be fully utilised."

For further information on the available resources, see [www.asas.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.asas.auckland.ac.nz)

*Photo: Martin Middleditch (left) and Kevin Daish beside the Sciex TripleTOF mass spectrometer.*



## UNIVERSITY AS FAMILY



Reverend Uesifili Unasa joined University staff as the Maclaurin Chapel Chaplain in October 2004. At the end of this year he leaves us to become the Minister of St Paul's Methodist Church in Remuera. Here he talks about what he has discovered in 11 years working at the University.

In a general sense there is a tension between the spiritual priorities of the church and the secular inclination of universities. I came here 11 years ago with some anxiety and trepidation about the role of the chaplain and representing the church's faith in a secular institution that tended to be quite suspicious and dismissive of its religious components. And it didn't take long for that to become a reality. Soon after I arrived I was invited to bless the new Careers Centre and discovered later that a senior academic had made a comment to other colleagues that the chaplain shouldn't be at these sorts of events because it imposes a religious perspective on University things.

But while I discovered there was that tendency to be anti-religious, the University is actually a community that needs the spiritual dimension just as much as any local church congregation. This was evident in the gatherings following the tsunami in Samoa, the Christchurch earthquake, the tragic death of students at the Business School. And not just in these circumstances. I have seen it when there were thanksgiving and funeral services or wedding services for staff and students as well as the joyous occasions of Graduation ceremonies. The University needs opportunities for its community to gather to

support its members and affirm its work. In my experience the Chaplain and Chapel can do this well.

So over the years I have become more optimistic there is a place in our University for a spiritual perspective of the chaplaincy and ministry of the Chapel. There is always room, I believe, to look beyond our own humanity and hope in a better future.... even embracing the "impossible" thought that there is more than we can ever know or do for ourselves.

The University is a family. Its members need each other. Our individual wellbeing and future are dependent on the wellbeing and future of other members of the university family. The University is not an institution of separate parts but rather of many parts that cannot do without the other.

I have really enjoyed the intellectual rigour of the University and grappling with new things. I'll miss the thinking and enquiry. The University of Auckland has opened my horizons to a dynamic New Zealand society which is way beyond what I had experienced before. It is a very diverse, vibrant, young, cutting edge place that signals the possibilities and challenges of the future. There have been great learnings from here and I go into my new role better informed and with a real feeling of privilege to have been part of this unique, dynamic community.

**Note: Uesifili did an MA in Political Studies at the University and his wife Susan studied sociology and anthropology. His two sons have also studied here: Uesiliana has a Business degree and Hanson is finishing his third year at Medical School.**

UNINEWS highlights some of the University research milestones that have hit the headlines in the past month.

### AGING WELL

Professor Ngaire Kerse (Population Health) discussed the new LILACs study about the kinds of help elderly people require when they get past 80 years on RadioLive (News) and Newstalk ZB (News). The LILACs study also featured in the latest *Ingenio* with two long-term participants in the study talking about how they are aging.

### TOP COMMUNICATOR

Senior Lecturer Dr Michelle Dickinson (Chemical & Materials Engineering) who won the Royal Society Callaghan Medal for Science Communication (see page 5) has been in the media recently discussing the science of lying on TV 3 (Paul Henry); talking about concussion and the effects of playing a contact sport such as rugby in the wake of New Zealand's win at the Rugby World Cup in the *Weekend Herald*; and discussing tomato plants and nanotechnology. RadioLIVE (Sunday Morning with Mark Sainsbury).



### HUNTLY

Dr Elizabeth Aitken-Rose (Head, Architecture & Planning) commented on the possible development of Huntly in the *Waikato Times*. She said "essentially, urban change occurs over time when people cannot afford to buy in the most sought after areas, so they look at areas they can afford to live in and once you start getting a critical mass, then those places change."

### CHRIS CAIRNS

Professional Teaching Fellow Dr Bill Hodge commented on the Chris Cairns court case, saying that the style of questioning by the prosecution would "very rarely" happen in NZ. He noted that the ferocity of the questioning could be down to Cairns allegedly committing perjury, which is a "crime against justice". Radio NZ (The Panel with Jim Mora). 05/11/2015



ARTWORK: Ian Scott, *New Zealand Sunset*, 1990

Jarring red and canary yellow burst forth from this painting by Ian Scott, a palette of primary hues offset by inky black and a patch of green.

With equal density and import, the colour blocks dispel a hierarchical reading of the artwork by reducing its elements to technical, formal properties; instead of a formal narrative we initially see only shapes and colours. These blocks are collaged together on the canvas

without any obvious logic, unlike Scott's lattice paintings which use similarly coloured bands to create an obvious over-and-under pattern. On closer inspection however we see that *New Zealand Sunset* is a melange of art historical references using appropriated imagery and Scott's typically crisp rendering. By doing so Scott emulates the way in which American pop painter Robert Rauschenberg encouraged his

viewers to draw out the connections between seemingly unrelated imagery, in the same way the Impressionist's painted daubs of colour, placed side by side, allowed the eye to mix them together.

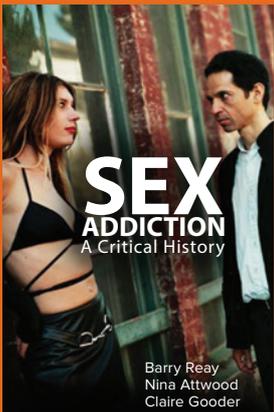
A double-portrait of Colin McCahon looms beside Scott's rendition of the 1962 painting *Northland*, reiterating the modern master's domination of the landscape genre. A grove of punga ferns sits atop the abstracted landscape, a tacky reminder of New Zealand's "clean, green" image or a signpost for the confused viewer. McCahon had recently returned from a trip to the United States when he painted *Northland*. During his travels he had seen paintings by Abstract Expressionist artists including Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning and Mark Rothko, and on returning to New Zealand McCahon's own brushwork became much looser and more expressive and he made use of a large format style of working. McCahon completed a suite of paintings based around the area north of Wellsford, an homage to the American countryside, and this marked a pivotal moment in his oeuvre. Scott distils these influences through the appropriation of a northland work and strengthens the connection by incorporating printed silkscreens which are closely associated

## WHAT'S COMING OUT

### SEX ADDICTION?

Celebrities and sports stars be warned: new research has poured cold water on the notion people suffer from "sex addiction".

At the end of their research University of Auckland historian Professor Barry Reay, along with Dr Nina Attwood and Dr Claire Gooder in their book *Sex Addiction: A Critical History* found sex addiction to be more of a modern invention rather than a real affliction and they say it's used as a convenient term to describe sex that society does not approve of. "The sex addict did not exist before the second half of the twentieth century. Now the notion of perceived, out-of-control, sexual behaviour is a cultural



commonplace," Barry says. "We dispute the claim that the concept of sex addiction has a long history. Sex addiction begins in the twentieth century. What came before bears little relation to modern notions of sexual excess."

The book discusses how the notion of sex addiction is handled by the press, Internet, TV, film and literature and the manner in which it has become the unthinking default explanation for any kind of promiscuous or obsessive sexual interaction. It is critical of celebrities who use their autobiographies to outline their "struggles" with sex addiction, which really just provides fodder to the therapy industry. Barry says despite the growing number of people claiming sex addiction, there is little peer-reviewed evidence their treatments for sex addiction have been effective. "Ironically, for those offering hope and release from the disorder of sexual excess, some of these memoirs contain prose almost as explicit as offerings on the pornographic market."

### ETHICS AND CLIMATE CHANGE: A STUDY OF NATIONAL COMMITMENTS

Climate change is the most significant moral and environmental issue of our time.

The critical 2015 Paris negotiations will again put the actions and inactions of states squarely before the world's peoples. To use the jargon of the negotiations, what will it take to get states to lift the level of moral and legal ambition and deliver a result that meets the criteria required by the Inter-governmental panel on climate change

The IUCN's (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) conservation mission and work programmes have included climate



change for many years across a number of Commissions. The World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL), for example, has a Specialist Working Group on Energy Law and Climate

with American pop artist Andy Warhol's practice. Here McCahon becomes the "celebrity", surveying a copy of his own work.

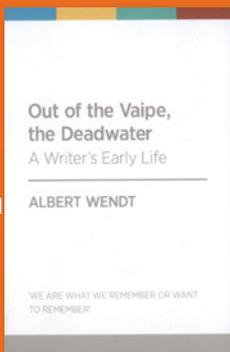
Whilst invoking a high point in McCahon's career this painting is also a memorialisation of New Zealand art history and one of its most significant figures. The recently deceased McCahon presides over the New Zealand landscape, his signature rendered in scrawled text in the centre of the painting. What greater compliment is there than to copy someone else's work? What better way to acknowledge the finale of an artist's life and work than to re-create its highpoints? At the same time it is a statement about the New Zealand landscape tradition generally, which was considered a redundant art form by the 1990s and a genre in which McCahon excelled. Scott's sunset invokes the shifting time between day and night, light and dark, paying tribute to an illustrious past whilst ushering in an unknown future.

Alice Tyler, Assistant Curator, Gus Fisher Gallery

Change and the Environmental Law Programme works with a number of partner organisations on climate change issues. This publication continues the important task of specifically relating considerations of ethics and justice to climate change.

## VAIPE

Emeritus Professor Albert Wendt (English) crosses into new and deeply personal territory in this stirring BWB Text. Returning to his boyhood in the Vaipe, a suburb of Apia in Samoa, Albert confronts elemental questions: Is the Vaipe he has created in his stories, poetry and novels really the Vaipe that existed and exists in real life? Or is it real only in his books? Is there a difference between the two? And does it matter? The responses form a vivid narrative that draws on a life of award-winning writing, and returns full circle to the symbolic world of the Deadwater.



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# RESPONSE TO CRISIS

**The world is now witnessing movements and numbers of forced migrants unprecedented since World War II, totalling more than 60 million people.**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees notes that in 2014 approximately 42,500 people were displaced each day, and more than a million Syrian refugees have come to Turkey in the last year alone. More than 218,000 forced migrants crossed the Mediterranean to Europe in the month of October, eclipsing the estimated total for all of 2014. Germany is preparing for an estimated 800,000 asylum seekers this year. Numerous countries are now laying out hundreds of kilometres of razor wire trying to stem the flow. And it is estimated that more than 10,000 people entered Croatia on a recent Wednesday – nearly the equivalent of the total number of quota refugees that New Zealand has resettled in the last 15 years.

Whilst these numbers capture the sheer scale of the conflict, it was the image of one Syrian boy washed ashore on the Turkish coastline that galvanised a stronger international debate about a coordinated response. In September, the New Zealand Government agreed to take an additional 600 Syrians above the usual 750 annual refugee intake over the next 2.5 years. Whilst this commitment is welcome, it is also relatively underwhelming. New Zealand lags behind many other countries in terms of the number of refugees it resettles on a per capita basis at less than one person per 1000, placing us about 90th in the world. The first Syrians from this extra group are not scheduled to arrive until January and will be settled over the next 30 months. The crisis, unfortunately, is now.

With the exception of the last several months, the issues around asylum and refugee settlement have largely been excluded from public and political debate. Few people can distinguish what the differences between a migrant, refugee and asylum seeker might be (along with other terms such as statelessness, internally displaced, trafficking, etc). The fact that New Zealand has no land-based borders and is surrounded by the Tasman Sea means that it is “insulated” from mass arrivals of asylum seekers by boat (note that a boat has never arrived) or other means. Such geography illustrates how our country can even afford to debate whether we increase our annual refugee quota by several hundred people or not.

Recent law changes in New Zealand allowing for the detention of a “mass arrival” of asylum seekers reflect a concerning international rhetoric and associated policy trend towards those seeking asylum from being at risk of persecution and in need of protection to becoming a risk to our borders, security and way of life. Several New Zealand politicians have spoken to the media about accepting the additional 600 Syrians as “already stretching the system” and have made frequent reference to the short-term economic costs of settling them. The power of such language is that it can have a substantial influence on people’s experience of meaningful settlement and the host society’s receptiveness to welcoming them. Having a sense of belonging is central for refugees’ experiences of meaningful settlement and opportunities for wider civic participation.

The New Zealand-based media currently present the plight of asylum seekers coming

to Europe on a daily basis and these global issues have even become part of the country’s political imagination and debate. Every political party now officially endorses an increase of our annual refugee quota, with the exception of the governing National Party (though this number will be reviewed next year). It seems for the first time in a number of years that the lived experiences of and adversities faced by forced migrants have entered the public consciousness. How long this will continue, however, remains unclear.

New Zealand is celebrated and recognised internationally as doing refugee settlement very well. As a country we are well placed to welcome refugees and provide an opportunity for them to meaningfully contribute to our society and to live their lives with a relative sense of peace, security and belonging that otherwise would not be possible. But it is also about establishing priorities and ensuring that agencies tasked with supporting refugees are adequately resourced to work alongside individuals, families, communities and the wider society. Our annual refugee quota has not been increased from 750 people for nearly 30 years. It is time New Zealand increased its annual refugee quota to show leadership and solidarity as an international player and global partner in addressing people’s lived experiences of persecution and injustice.

- Dr Jay Marlowe is a senior lecturer in the School of Counselling, Human Services and Social Work. His research is on refugee settlement and he is a recent recipient of Marsden Fast Start, which focuses on how resettled refugees practise transnational family and friendship through digital media.